

Partners Praying Together



February 2022 – Covid-19 Special Edition

BECAUSE OF THE RAPID CHANGES brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe much of ABM's normal project work has been disrupted. Because of that, we have asked our Overseas Partners to supply us with prayer points that reflect the situation in their country. Included in this edition of *Partners Praying Together* are the prayer points that we have received. We have included these so that you can show prayerful concern for them as they, who like us are 'wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world' (as the prayer from Compline puts it), adjust to living in a time of global pandemic. You'll also find the usual things we would normally have: the feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, and commemorations from the United Nations calendar. All the material is designed to inform your prayers for our Overseas Partners, the bishops and dioceses of our Church and for wider global concerns. With the Psalmist let us pray, 'Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, Lord, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice' (141.2).

1. Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?
2. ABM prayer theme for each day this month
3. Prayer points s from our Overseas Partners
4. The feasts and commemorations from the lectionary, the Australian Cycle of Prayer, a cycle of our Overseas Partners, and commemorations from the UN calendar

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Who are ABM's Overseas Partners?

THIS MONTH WE ARE ASKING YOU not only to remember our each of our Australian dioceses as they grapple with the Covid-19 pandemic, but also each of our each of our Overseas Partners as they deal with it too. Our Overseas Partners consist of Activity Partners (with whom we currently have joint activities), Relational Partners (with whom we have historical relationships) and Networking Partners (with whom we work overseas, or with whom we share information). We have, as the well-used Anglican phrase describes it, strong *bonds of affection* for all of them. Because our overseas work involves both the Church, through our Church-to-Church Unit, and communities, through our Anglicans in Development Unit, we often relate to our partners both through the Church itself and through a particular Church's community development arm. So, as you pray, we ask you to remember each of our Partners (and their community development arms) some of whom are more able to weather through the coronavirus storm than others:

Activity Partners

1. The Anglican Church of Kenya (*ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services*)
2. The Anglican Church of Melanesia (*The Anglican Church of Melanesia's Board of Mission*)
3. The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (*Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea*)
4. The Church of the Province of Central Africa (*the Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program*)
5. The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma) (*the CPM's Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks*)
6. The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (*E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP*)
7. The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East (*the Diocese of Jerusalem's Development Desk*)
8. The Philippine Independent Church – *Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI (VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI)*

Relational Partners

9. The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China
10. The Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia (*Anglican Missions Board, AMB*)
11. The Anglican Church of Hong Kong, the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui* 香港聖公會
12. The Anglican Church of Japan, the *Nippon Sei Ko Kai* 日本聖公会
13. The Anglican Church of Korea
14. The Church of Bangladesh
15. The Church of Ceylon
16. The Church of North India
17. The Church of Pakistan

18. The Church of South India
19. The Church of the Province of South East Asia (covers Malaysia and Singapore)
20. The Episcopal Church of South Sudan (*the Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA*)
21. The Episcopal Church of Sudan

Networking Partners

22. Episcopal Relief and Development (USA)
23. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (Canada)
24. USPG (UK and Ireland)
25. Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy
26. Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life
27. CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa
28. The Mothers' Union

Please remember all our partners in your prayers. Whether they are in Honiara, New York or Manila, they need our prayers.

Information from our Partners regarding Covid-19 will be put up on our website as it comes to hand.

EACH DAY THIS MONTH

- ✠ Holy God, who by the leading of a star revealed Your Son Jesus to the nations of the world; lead us to a clearer vision of Your presence, and the nations into ways of unity and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- ✠ Pray for the world's people as the new Covid variant, omicron, sweeps the world paralysing services as workers are affected. In Australia, pray for ambulance services unable to keep up with the demand; for overstretched nursing services where stressed nurses are resigning, or are off duty because of Covid; for hospitals with staff shortages and greater demands; for nursing homes where infection of both residents and staff is rampant; for Aboriginal communities in northern Australia now becoming infected; for children and teachers as they return to face-to-face learning; for infected truck drivers, and the impact that has on supplies of food and other necessities; for farmers having to destroy crops because of the shortage of pickers or transport to market; for people not to panic buy further compounding the availability of goods issue; for shops to keep prices as low as possible so that the poor can put food on the table; for help to reach all people affected by fires, floods and cyclones; for people worldwide who depend on tourism and hospitality as they continue to face a severe downturn in business; pray for protection against further mutations of the virus; pray for all those in immigration detention in Australia, especially children. Give us strength and faith to live through the peak of the omicron infections, predicted for late January into February; pray for more rapid antigen testing kits to become available to the community; pray for the people of Tonga and all affected by the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano

- ✦ Give thanks that God is still in control and keep our faith strong although we can't understand what is going on; give thanks for all doctors, nurses, ambulance personnel and other medical and caregiving staff tending the sick under very trying and stressful conditions; for children's vaccines now available to protect them from Covid; give thanks that omicron appears to be less severe than the original and delta variants, albeit more transmissible; give thanks for the opening of State borders, praying that all will be vigilant in wearing masks, safe distancing and hygiene; give thanks that we are able to worship together and partake at the Lord's table in remembrance of all He did for us as he asked us.
- ✦ We praise and thank you, Father, for including us in Your plan of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus and pray that we may be worthy of our calling.

– Compiled by Margaret Carter, Vic, 15 January 2022

Prayer Points
from our
Overseas Partners

**The Anglican Church in
Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia**

- ✦ Pray for all clergy that they have had a restful and refreshing break and are ready for the new year.
- ✦ Pray for families who have been separated by boarder closures.
- ✦ Pray for children as they head back to school for a new year. May it be a year of learning and connecting.
- ✦ Pray for the Tongan families in New Zealand as they help their families recover from the volcanic eruption and tsunami.

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

- ✚ Pray for the coming national election in June and for those contesting it, that they must not use money to bribe people in return for their vote.
- ✚ Pray for God-fearing leaders to be elected to govern our nation.
- ✚ Pray that all churches work together in unity and oneness.
- ✚ Pray for those working tirelessly in our borders and for God to empower them with new strength each day.
- ✚ Pray for the teachers and children to work hard to make up for the lost lessons during the Covid pandemic lockdown.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✚ For Anglican churches in Iran and for all other Christians there, that they may have hope in hard times
- ✚ For an end to the intimidation of Christians in the Holy Land and to infringements of their rights
- ✚ For the State of Qatar as it prepares for the Football World Cup later in 2022 and for all workers and planners
- ✚ For all women in domestic service throughout the Middle East, that they may be treated justly and honourably
- ✚ For wisdom and farsightedness among the rulers of all nations in the region

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

- ✚ Give thanks for the 50 years of mission work of three dioceses of ECP (Episcopal Diocese of Central Philippines, Episcopal Diocese of Southern Philippines, and Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines).
- ✚ Give thanks for recoveries of those infected with the covid-19 virus and for the service of all medical and essential workers during these times of pandemic
- ✚ Pray that the Philippines will reach the 70% population quota for vaccinated population as soon as possible
- ✚ Pray for sustainable interventions in responding to communities devastated by Typhoon Odette (Typhoon Rai)
- ✚ Pray for all ECP dioceses as we prepare for the annual conventions in February and March

香港聖公會
The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
The Anglican Church of Hong Kong

- ✦ Pray for a better world in the New Year of Tiger, for peace and goodwill among all nations, and for the well-being of all people.
- ✦ Pray for the reunion of the family members who have been separated in different areas or countries due to the restriction of travel amidst the COVID pandemic.
- ✦ Pray for the spiritual lives of the faithful while public worship services are held on-line instead of face-to-face under the social gathering restriction.
- ✦ Pray for the preparation of Lent Program to be launched by the Church

日本聖公会
The Nippon Sei Ko Kai
The Anglican Communion in Japan

- ✦ Give thanks for the continuing rollout of vaccine boosters and the tireless work of nurses, doctors, and all in the medical profession as Japan deals with vastly increasing numbers of infections in a sixth wave of Covid-19
- ✦ Please pray for the NSKK's Leprosy Awareness Day on 13 February, remembering all those suffering with this condition and facilities dedicated for them
- ✦ Give thanks for the work of the NSKK's House of Bishops and pray for wisdom and inspiration as they meet this month
- ✦ Please pray for all foreigners who are unable to enter Japan to start courses of study or working positions as the government still does not issue visas for new entrants; pray for understanding on all sides
- ✦ Give thanks for the strong relationship between the Anglican Churches of Korea and Japan and their ongoing collaborative ministry; and pray for administrative meetings taking place this month
- ✦ Please pray for all those who are homeless during this cold time of year; and give thanks for the work of all organizations which care for them

For access to the electronic version of *Partners Praying Together*, go to www.abmission.org/partners-praying-together



A postage stamp from the Slovak Republic featuring St Cyril and St Methodius. Feast day 14 February. For details about the missionaries, see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saints_Cyril_and_Methodius

YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION

Your used and mint postage stamps are valuable to ABM because we can use them to help fund mission.

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Australia

| Feb | Lectionary and ABM Commemorations and the Australian Cycle of Prayer | ABM Partner + development arm – where appropriate | UN Days see www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks for more information about each |
|--------------|--|---|--|
| Tue 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Australia; The Primate – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; the General Secretary – Anne Hywood; the General Synod and the Standing Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Kenya <i>ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya’s Anglican Development Services</i> | |
| Wed 2 | <p>The Presentation of Christ in the Temple</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Adelaide – Archbishop Geoffrey Smith; Bishops Chris McLeod, Denise Ferguson and Tim Harris, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Melanesia <i>The ACOM Board of Mission</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Wetlands Day |
| Thu 3 | <p><i>Commemoration of the first Anglican service at Sydney Cove, conducted by the Rev Richard Johnson, Sydney 1788</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Armidale – Bishop Rod Chiswell, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea <i>Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea</i> <p>See p. 5</p> | |
| Fri 4 | <p>Anskar, missionary bishop in Sweden († 865)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Ballarat – Bishop Garry Weatherill, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of Central Africa <i>The Zambia Anglican Council’s Outreach Program</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Human Fraternity |

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|--------------|---|---|--|
| Sat 5 | <p>The Martyrs of Japan, crucified at Nagasaki († 1597)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bathurst – Bishop Mark Calder, the clergy and people. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of the Province of Myanmar <i>CPM’s Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks</i> | |
| Sun 6 | <p>Epiphany 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bendigo – Bishop Matt Brain, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church in the Philippines <i>E-CARE, a community development organization of the ECP</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation |
| Mon 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Brisbane – Archbishop Phillip Aspinall; Bishops Jeremy Greaves, John Roundhill and Cameron Venables, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East <i>The Diocese of Jerusalem’s Development Desk</i> <p><i>See p. 5</i></p> | |
| Tue 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Bunbury – Bishop Ian Coutts, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippine Independent Church – (<i>La Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI</i>) <i>VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI</i> | |

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| Wed 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – Bishop Mark Short; Bishops Carol Wagner and Stephen Pickard, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Amity Foundation – an expression of the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China | |
| Thu 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry to the Forces – Bishop Grant Dibden, chaplains and members of the Armed Forces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia <i>Anglican Missions Board, AMB</i> <p><i>See p. 4</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Pulses Day |
| Fri 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people | <p>The Anglican Church of Hong Kong (<i>Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui</i> 香港聖公會)</p> <p><i>See p. 6</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Women and Girls in Science |
| Sat 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Grafton – Bishop Murray Harvey, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Japan (<i>Nippon Sei Ko Kai</i> 日本聖公会) <p><i>See p. 6</i></p> | |
| Sun 13 | <p>Epiphany 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry with the Aboriginal People of Australia – Bishop Chris McLeod, Aboriginal clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Korea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Radio Day |

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| Mon 14 | Cyril († 869) and Methodius († 885), missionaries to the Slavs Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church of Bangladesh | |
| Tue 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier; Bishops Andrew Curnow, Paul Barker, Genieve Blackwell, Brad Billings, Kate Prowd, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church of Ceylon | |
| Wed 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Diocese of Newcastle – Bishop Peter Stuart; Bishops Charlie Murry and Sonia Roulston, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church of North India | |
| Thu 17 | Holy Innocents’ Day – if not observed on 28 December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Diocese of North Queensland – Bishop Keith Joseph, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church of Pakistan | |
| Fri 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Diocese of North West Australia – Bishop Garry Nelson, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Church of South India | |

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|---------------|---|---|--|
| Sat 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy; Bishops Jeremy James TSSF, Kate Wilmot, the clergy and people | The Church of the Province of South-East Asia (covers Malaysia and Singapore, with missionary congregations in Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand and some parts of Indo-China) | |
| Sun 20 | Epiphany 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Riverina – Bishop Donald Kirk, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of South Sudan <i>The Church's Health Commission, the Education Commission, and the Development and Relief Agency, SUDRA</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day of Social Justice |
| Mon 21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Rockhampton – Bishop Peter Grice, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Episcopal Church of Sudan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Mother Language Day |
| Tue 22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Sydney – Archbishop Kanishka Raffel; Bishops Peter Lin, Chris Edwards, Michael Stead, Gary Koo, Peter Hayward, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council | |
| Wed 23 | Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr († 155) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, Bishop Chris Jones, clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nungalinga College, Darwin | |

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| Thu 24 | Matthias, apostle and martyr – <i>may be observed on 14 May</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Murray – Bishop Keith Dalby, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Cairns | |
| Fri 25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of the Northern Territory – Bishop Greg Anderson, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Episcopal Relief and Development (USA) | |
| Sat 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Wangaratta – Bishop Clarence Bester, the clergy and people. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (Canada) | |
| Sun 27 | Epiphany 8 (Last Sunday after the Epiphany) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop John Stead, the clergy and people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPG (UK and Ireland) | |
| Mon 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglicare Australia: Chair, Bishop Chris Jones; Executive Director, Kasy Chambers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy | |

Displacements and Omissions this year

20 Feb: William Grant Broughton, first Bishop of Australia († 1853)

27 Feb: George Herbert, parish priest, poet († 1633)

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers throughout the world ...

Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the Lord; and I will heal them – Isaiah 57.19

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN AFRICA, where there have been 10,405,158 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (3,559,230), Morocco (1,048,653), Tunisia (791,917), Ethiopia (457,322) and Egypt (400,076).

Heal your people, Lord,
And comfort them in their distress.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE AMERICAS, where there have been 120,869,434 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United States (65,699,947), Brazil (23,000,657), Argentina (7,197,323), Colombia (5,568,068) and Mexico (4,385,415).

Heal your people, Lord,
And comfort them in their distress.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN ASIA, where there have been 77,925,213 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (37,380,253), Iran (6,221,033), Indonesia (4,271,649), the Philippines (3,242,374) and Malaysia (2,808,347).

Heal your people, Lord,
And comfort them in their distress.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN EUROPE, where there have been 117,779,154 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United Kingdom (15,217,280), France (13,991,180), Russia (10,834,260), Turkey (10,402,173) and Spain (8,424,206).

Heal your people, Lord,
And comfort them in their distress.

AND WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OUR OWN REGION, OCEANIA, where there have been 1,578,579 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (1,378,449), Fiji (59,785), French Polynesia (47,132), Papua New Guinea (36,446) and Guam (23,581).

Heal your people, Lord,
And comfort them in their distress.

** Figures are the latest available from the European Centre for Disease Control and accurate as of 20 January 2022.*