

Partners Praying Together

March 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 Port Moresby, London or Seoul, 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

- ✠ Almighty God, we give You thanks for Your great love towards us and the whole world, love revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ who by His death destroyed death and who for us has opened the gate of glory. We pray that, sharing in the fellowship of the suffering of our Lord, we may come to know the power of His resurrection.
- ✠ Pray that both omicron BA1 and its cousin BA2 can be held in check; for yet more vaccinations to be donated to developing countries; for more rapid antigen tests to be made available; for those nursing homes where infection of both residents and staff is still high; for medical and ambulance staff stretched beyond their means; for children suffering from infections; for farmers unable to get pickers and transport for their produce; that people resist the urge to panic buy so that groceries are available for all; for help to reach any affected by natural disasters wherever they are; for any Christians unable to worship without persecution; for the people of Afghanistan, especially the country's women as they adjust to the political changes; for the people of Ukraine as they face hostility from their eastern neighbour.
- ✠ Give thanks that God is still in control, may we keep our faith strong even though we cannot comprehend what may be going on; give thanks for all medical and allied staff tending the sick under trying conditions; for the vaccines now available for children; for the opening of state borders, praying that all will stay vigilant; give thanks that we are able to worship together and partake at the Lord's Table in remembrance of all that He did for us.
- ✠ Father, we thank you for the knowledge that nothing is beyond Your forgiveness, and no one is beyond the limits of Your love.

– Compiled by Margaret Carter, Vic, 24.02.22

Prayer Points

from our

Overseas Partners

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

- ✦ We give thanks for the blessing of hope, peace, love and joy in the hearts of people as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted in Australia so that they are able to travel and be united once more with their loved ones, family members, friends and neighbours especially during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons. Lord give us the wisdom to know the deeper meaning of Jesus Christ's birth this Christmas and Epiphany.
- ✦ We give thanks to our Lord for the blessings of good weather patterns that bring rain clouds and cooler breeze to stop potential bush fires from occurring and give your people the chance to build their homes and lives again with happiness and joy. Lord, you are the giver and sustainer of good life.
- ✦ We pray for those people who are lonely at this time for any reason, O Lord. May you strengthen them in their faith and let them feel your presence so that they may come to know your divine power and love, throw off the feeling of loneliness in their lives and rejoice.
- ✦ We pray for those who are working through the holiday period so that vital services are provided to meet the needs of all people to enjoy and live their new normal lives. Lord give them strength to do their work in serving others this holiday period.
- ✦ We pray for priests, pastors and ministers who are put in charge as good shepherds to lead the Epiphany services to preach the message of Christ's birth and manifestation to the Gentiles. May they meaningfully touch the minds of those who hear them so that those hearers are enabled to live Jesus-shaped lives as disciples.
- ✦ Continue to pray that the Nativity and Epiphany of our Lord will touch the lives of people with peace and joy in their hearts. To God be the glory - he gave his only begotten son to be the Saviour and Redeemer of humanity.
- ✦ Pray for effective leadership in the Governance of ACPNG in 2022.
- ✦ Pray for all bishops and priests in their various Church work in the five dioceses.
- ✦ Pray for ACPNG and its Church partners overseas for greater partnership, relationships and work in God's mission.

- ✦ Pray for Church institutions throughout ACPNG for good governance, performance and productivity.
- ✦ Pray for Church ministries to become more effective in their teaching, learning and proclaiming the Word through Bible reading, reflection and sharing with others.
- ✦ Pray for the Anglican Education Division - National Education Secretary, Percy Kaniniba and Diocesan Education Secretaries.

The Church of the Province of South East Asia

*And David built there an altar to the LORD and presented burnt offerings and peace offerings and called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him with fire from heaven upon the altar of burnt offering. Then the LORD commanded the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath.
(1 Chronicles 21:26-27)*

- ✦ To withdraw the sword of Covid-19 against us in the midst of rising concern of more infectious variants. Pray for healing and pray that the people will not suffer long Covid effect. Pray for children and teenagers, where the long term effects of vaccination are still unknown, as nations roll out vaccination for children below 12.
- ✦ To withdraw the sword and threat against the economy of our nations in the Province, livelihood of the people, and rising prices of goods.
- ✦ Withdraw the sword against the mission and ministry of the Church, restricting movement, travel, physical meetings, etc because of Covid-19. Pray for the mission works of the Church in South East Asia
- ✦ Withdraw the sword of emotional stress among the people especially the elderly and students, whose social life is adversely affected due to limitation in social interaction. Pray for students, especially those sitting for government exams.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✦ Pray in thanksgiving for the adaptability and resilience of so many in the churches of our complicated region.
- ✦ Pray for an improvement in relations between Iran and the Western powers and a better future for all Christians in Iran.
- ✦ Pray for the place of Christians to be actively respected in the Holy Land and especially in the city of Jerusalem.
- ✦ Pray for all to be enabled to be vaccinated against Covid-19 and for an end to absurd conspiracy theories and their promoters.

- ✠ Pray for Christians, Muslims, Jews, Druze, Yezidis, and followers of other religions and of none to have a sense of the common good of humanity and to act on it in these hard times.

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

- ✠ Give thanks for the decrease of the Covid-19 cases in the Philippines and the opening of the economy again.
- ✠ Give thanks for the ongoing vaccination of children against the Covid-19 virus.
- ✠ Pray for the upcoming national elections, for the wise discernment of voters so that we will be able to choose leaders who promote justice, liberty, peace, unity and the welfare of all people.
- ✠ Pray for the ongoing and upcoming annual conventions of the dioceses of the ECP.
- ✠ Pray for our farmers who are always affected by importation, causing huge losses because of low price of their produce.

日本聖公会

The *Nippon Sei Ko Kai* The Anglican Communion in Japan

- ✠ Give thanks for the ministry of all clergy in the NSKK, especially for those who will be retiring this month. Pray for an increase in vocations and also for those who will be graduating from theological college and starting their ministry
- ✠ As the academic and business year comes to an end (in March), please pray for all those who are finishing one stage and starting a new one in their lives
- ✠ Give thanks for the constant toil of essential workers throughout Japan and the world; and pray for all countries as they continue to battle against increasing Omicron infections whilst slowly returning to face-to-face life
- ✠ Please pray for all people dealing with trauma and depression following recent natural disasters throughout the country; and especially for the people of Tohoku on the anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami
- ✠ Give thanks for the lessening of restrictions and re-opening of international borders, and pray for the Japanese people to be understanding and compassionate as foreigners start to re-enter the country
- ✠ As we enter Spring and the weather gets warmer, please pray that all may enjoy the beauty of God's created world



A postage stamp from Wales featuring St David. Feast day 1 March. For details about him, see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_David.

YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION

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Mar	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	<p>David, Bishop of Menevia, Wales († 601)</p> <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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Discrimination Day
Wed 2	<p>Ash Wednesday</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> 	
Thu 3	<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><i>See p. 4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Wildlife Day
Fri 4	<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> 	

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Sat 5	<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	Lent I <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> <p><i>See p. 6</i></p>	
Mon 7	Perpetua and her companions, martyrs at Carthage († 203) <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	John of God, worker among the sick and poor, Spain († 1550) <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>Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI</i>) <i>VIMROD – the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Women’s Day

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Wed 9	<p>Sister Emma SSA, Superior of the Society of the Sacred Advent, Queensland († 1939)</p> <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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Women Judges
Fri 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Gippsland – Bishop Richard Treloar, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Anglican Church of Hong Kong (<i>Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui</i> 香港聖公會) 	
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) <i>See p. 6</i> 	
Sun 13	<p>Lent 2</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 	

Mar	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
Mon 14	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	<p>Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland († 461)</p> <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	<p>Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and teacher († 386)</p> <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	Joseph, husband of the BVM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy; Bishops Jeremy James TSSF, Kate Wilmot, the clergy and people 	<p>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)</p> <p>See p. 5</p>	
Sun 20	Lent 3 <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"> International Day of Happiness French Language Day
Mon 21	Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr and liturgist († 1556) <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 Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination World Poetry Day International Day of Nowruz World Down Syndrome Day International Day of Forests

Mar	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 22	<p>Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, teacher († 1711)</p> <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Water Day
Wed 23	<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"> Nungalinya College, Darwin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Meteorological Day
Thu 24	<p>Paul Couturier, ecumenist († 1953) Óscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador († 1980)</p> <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Tuberculosis Day International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
Fri 25	<p>The Annunciation to the BVM</p> <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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing UN Staff Members

Mar	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
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	Lent 4 <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 	
Tue 29	John Keble, priest († 1866) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theological Colleges and Church Schools of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life 	
Wed 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa 	
Thu 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mothers’ Union 	

Displacements and Omissions this year

2 Mar: Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, missionary († 672)

20 Mar: Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary († 687)

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 11,088,682 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are South Africa (3,640,162), Morocco (1,155,165), Tunisia (967,052), Libya (473,114) and Ethiopia (467,498).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE AMERICAS, where there have been 143,934,487 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are the United States (77,739,880), Brazil (27,538,503), Argentina (8,747,500), Colombia (6,023,257) and Mexico (5,300,537).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN ASIA, where there have been 93,186,246 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are India (42,665,534), Iran (6,806,265), Indonesia (4,844,79), Japan (3,901,544) and the Philippines (3,637,280).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN EUROPE, where there have been 160,539,407 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are France (21,671,447), the United Kingdom (18,348,029), Russia (14,133,509), Turkey (12,833,643) and Germany (12,476,502).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

AND WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OUR OWN REGION, OCEANIA, where there have been 2,803,613 cases; the five countries reporting most cases are Australia (2,527,112), Fiji (63,476), French Polynesia (56,658), Guam (39,985) and Papua New Guinea (38,481).

Spare your people, O Lord,
And heal them by your mighty power.

** Figures are the latest available from the European Centre for Disease Control and accurate as of 17 February 2022.*