

Partners Praying Together

April 2023 – 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 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

Receive regular updates from ABM and our Partners.

You can also learn about ABM on these social networking sites

Subscribe [here](#)

Ctrl + click the icon



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* 日本聖公會
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 Seoul, Yangon or Nairobi, they need our prayers.

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

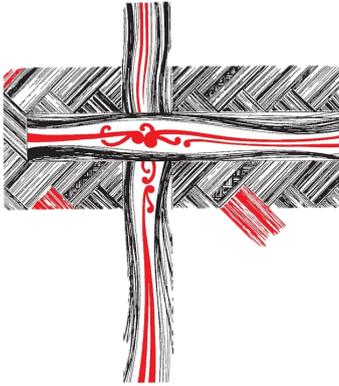
EACH DAY THIS MONTH

- ✠ *From Easter onwards:* Alleluia to our Father, praise and thanksgiving for life and life eternal. Alleluia to our Lord Jesus Christ, the gateway to life everlasting and the conqueror of death and hell. Alleluia to the Holy Spirit Who guides us through our earthly life. Alleluia to our triune God.
- ✠ **Pray for:** for all those who have been affected by natural disasters in Australia, especially those without permanent homes; for the 4000+ Ukrainian asylum seekers in Australia, here as a result of the Russian invasion; for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who represent 3% of the population but who are overrepresented at 29% of the adult prison population. Pray that the systemic issues that cause this may be addressed; for children's rights in Australia – that the minimum age of criminal responsibility be raised from 10 to 14, the internationally-accepted age; for Indigenous children who are 20 time more likely to be incarcerated than their non-Indigenous peers; that Australia will endorse the Safe Schools Declaration, an intergovernmental pledge now supported by 112 countries to protect education in times of conflict.
- ✠ **Give thanks for** the medical staff who have been working so tirelessly during the pandemic; for the development of vaccines; for the way in which people have been flexible and managed to cope despite the difficulties; for all those who have shown kindness to their neighbours throughout the course of the pandemic so far; for Australia's low unemployment rate; for the Federal Government's commitment to end violence against women and children within a generation; for the recent establishment of the national anti-corruption commission; for all those who volunteer in organisations to help Australia to become a better place.
- ✠ *From Easter onwards:* Lord God, we thank You for the precious gift of new life, may we never take it for granted, but live each moment in the fullness of life that Jesus has gained for us.

Prayer Points

from our

Overseas Partners



The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

- ✦ Please pray for families and communities that have lost loved ones and had houses and livelihoods destroyed as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle which devastated parts of the North Island last month. Waiapu Diocese and Te Pihopatanga o Te Tairāwhiti have been particularly impacted.
- ✦ We give thanks for the courage, skill and generosity of the first responders including the staff from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and churches and marae that responded immediately.
- ✦ Pray for clergy in the affected areas who are not only dealing with the loss of buildings and significant damage but are also providing pastoral support to grieving communities.
- ✦ Pray especially for Archbishop Don Tamihere, Te Pihopa (Bishop) o Te Tairāwhiti and Te Pihopa o Aotearoa, who oversees Te Pihopatanga o Aotearoa (the five Hui Amorangi for the Maori Anglican Church). He will be leading Tikanga Maori through some heartbreaking and difficult times ahead especially given the loss of and damage to taonga, or cultural treasures.
- ✦ Thank you for the generosity of people who have already donated money, time and much-needed items to the Cyclone Gabrielle Emergency Appeal launched by Anglican Missions on behalf of the Church.
- ✦ Pray for the Most Rev Sione Uluilakepa as he begins his episcopal ministry as Archbishop of Polynesia

**For access to the electronic version of *Partners Praying Together*, go to
<http://www.abmission.org/resources/missional-prayers>**

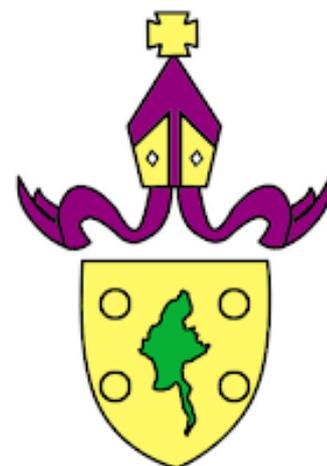
The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

- ✠ Pray for good leadership and governance in all cultural, ethnic, government and church leaders
- ✠ Pray for climate change, sea piracy and illegal fishing in our shores.
- ✠ Pray that the General Secretary's position and the Archbishop of ACPNG position will be filled by suitable candidates
- ✠ Pray for foreigners entering our countries without proper screening and documentation
- ✠ Pray for the younger generations to have respect for the elders and learn much from them, rather than being influenced by Western culture.
- ✠ Pray for our mothers and young girls not to keep quiet about the abuses they face each day (especially suspected witchcraft killings in the Highlands Region)



The Church of the Province of Myanmar

- ✠ Pray for the Anglican Training and Resource Centre building as we are working on the paper works to get the legal permit to use this building by June 2023.
- ✠ Pray for Holy Cross seminarians as we are operating classes both in person in online.
- ✠ Pray for our faculty and their families.
- ✠ Pray for our country.



The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✠ For all who are devastated by the earthquake that caused huge loss of life, injury, and extreme destruction in northern Syria and south-eastern Turkey, and for all who are trying to bring aid.
- ✠ For those in Palestine and Israel fearful at the escalation of aggression, violence, and illegality
- ✠ For the suffering nation of Iran and for Persians both inside and outside the country
- ✠ For an end to the several conflicts in the Yemen and for the work of Christ Church Aden in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf



- ✦ For all diplomats and for those whose influence and courage could alter things for the better in many places in our region
- ✦ For the Lebanon, a nation paralysed by corruption and self-interest, and for all Lebanese citizens



The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

- ✦ Give thanks for the 26 years of concordat relations between the Episcopal Church in the Philippines and the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*.
- ✦ Pray for families and communities affected by continuous rains and earthquakes in Visayas and Mindanao, and for the farmers whose agricultural calendar have been disrupted because of these extreme and unpredicted weather events.
- ✦ Pray for the clergy and laity of all the dioceses of ECP as they prepare for their annual conventions next month. Also pray for congregations that are working together in building their houses of prayer.
- ✦ We pray for a lasting and peaceful resolution of the continuing territorial dispute between the Philippines and China over the West Philippine Sea.



The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

- ✦ Currently there is heavy rain all over the country, many communities are affected by flooding. There is a lack of food because roads are not accessible.
- ✦ Pray for the transitional government of the Republic of South Sudan to speed up the implementation of the Peace process.
- ✦ Thank God for the Peace Pilgrimage to the Country recently which has united all the South Sudanese under Christ.

The Church of the Province of South-East Asia

- ✦ Thank the Lord for a fruitful Provincial Standing Committee meeting from 6-8 March 2023 in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia and the praise reports received from the dioceses of the Province.
- ✦ We thank God for the Clergy and Pastors Conference of the Diocese of Sabah from 28th February – 2nd March 2023, which witnessed a record 14 deacons added to the clergy body from a single ordination.

- ✦ Pray for all the educational institutions run by the respective dioceses in the Province, including those in the mission fields, that the Lord will bless the next generations through these institutions.
- ✦ Pray for the dioceses in our Province as we are moving towards creating area dioceses to be more effective in ministry, mission, discipleship and raising up the next generation of clergy, pastors and leaders in various context.
- ✦ Pray for the nations in our Province as the people combat against rising costs of living, food and fuel prices and economic hardship. Pray for a year of recovery in 2023.



香港聖公會

The Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui The Anglican Church of Hong Kong

- ✦ In this season of Lent, we pray and work according to the Benedictine tradition, in hopes that both our actions and our thoughts may be renewed in Christ.
- ✦ We praise God for his inspiring peace in us, and that the ecumenical retreat with both Anglican and Catholic clergy was well-received. May God continue to inspire us to work together in this fractious world for something beyond our own enclaves of comfort.
- ✦ We give thanks to God that COVID travel restrictions are finally fully lifted, such that that in the week of Ash Wednesday, our brothers and sisters in Macau could finally meet their archbishop for the first time since his installation.



日本聖公会

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai The Anglican Communion in Japan

- ✦ As a new working and academic year starts in Japan this month, please pray for all who are beginning new assignments or jobs; for students becoming workers, and for all the stress and anxiety they may face within those positions.



- ✠ Give thanks for the lives and achievements of all who have retired at the end of last month and pray for them in the challenges they may face in a slower-paced life in retirement.
- ✠ Please pray for all students at the NSKK's two Theological Colleges – Bishop Williams' Theological Seminary in Kyoto, and Anglican Theological Seminary in Tokyo – and also for the staff and teachers of both institutions.
- ✠ As the world around occasionally seems to be falling apart, give thanks for the relative peace which Japan enjoys and pray that the people here may never take that for granted; and also that the church may continue to lead efforts to foster a peaceful world for all to enjoy.
- ✠ With the consecration this month of a new bishop for the Diocese of Tohoku, please pray for Francis Kiyosumi Hasegawa as he takes on this new role; that he can be an inspiration for the people and clergy in an area still recovering from the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011.
- ✠ As Spring comes to the Japanese archipelago and Sakura trees blossom; give thanks that we can enjoy the beauty of God's creation and ask for inspiration and encouragement that we may truly respect and care for God's world .

**For access to the electronic version of the worldwide
Anglican Cycle of Prayer, go to
anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer/download-the-acp.aspx**

Apr	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 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> 	
Sun 2	<p>Lent 6 – Palm Sunday</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 Autism Awareness Day
Mon 3	<p>Holy Monday</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> See p. 5 	
Tue 4	<p>Holy Tuesday</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 for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

Apr	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
Wed 5	Holy Wednesday <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> See p. 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Conscience
Thu 6	Maunder Thursday <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> See p. 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
Fri 7	✠ Good Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Brisbane – 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> See p. 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda World Health Day
Sat 8	Holy Saturday <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> 	

Sun 9	Easter Day <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 	
Mon 10	Easter Monday <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> See p. 4 	
Tue 11	Easter Tuesday <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 (Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui 香港聖公會) See p. 7 	
Wed 12	Easter Wednesday <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 (Nippon Sei Ko Kai 日本聖公会) See p. 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Human Space Flight
Thu 13	Easter Thursday <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 	
Fri 14	Easter Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry with the Torres Strait Islander People of Australia – Torres Strait clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Bangladesh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Chagas Disease Day

Apr	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 15	<p>Easter Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Melbourne – Archbishop Philip Freier; Bishops Andrew Curnow, Paul Barker, Geneve Blackwell, Brad Billings, Kate Prowd, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church of Ceylon 	
Sun 16	<p>Easter 2</p> <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 	
Mon 17	<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 	
Tue 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 	
Wed 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Perth – Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy; Bishop Kate Wilmot, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>See p. 6</p>	

Thu 20	<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"> Chinese Language Day
Fri 21	<p>Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, teacher († 1109)</p> <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"> World Creativity and Innovation Day
Sat 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"> NATSAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Mother Earth Day
Sun 23	<p>Easter 3</p> <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 Book and Copyright Day English Language Day Spanish Language Day
Mon 24	<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 Immunization Week begins (till 30 April) International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

Apr	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 25	<p>Mark, Evangelist and Martyr <i>Anzac Day</i></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"> World Malaria Day International Delegate’s Day
Wed 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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day World Intellectual Property Day
Thu 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Willochra – Bishop-Elect Jeremy James ISSF, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPG (UK and Ireland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Girls in ICT Day
Fri 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Day for Safety and Health at Work
Sat 29	<p>Catherine of Siena, spiritual teacher († 1380)</p> <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 	
Sun 30	<p>Easter 4</p> <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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Jazz Day



A postage stamp from San Marino, an enclave on the Italian peninsula that features the Crucifixion by the Florentine painter, Cimabue (ca. 1240–1302). See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cimabue

YOUR STAMPS FUND MISSION

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

Please trim used stamps with a 1 cm border and separate Australian stamps from overseas ones.

Stamp collections are also gratefully received.

Please leave stamps in their albums.

Please send your stamps to –

The Anglican Board of Mission,
Locked Bag Q4005,
Queen Victoria Building,
New South Wales 1230.



Calendar Displacements and Omissions in April this year:

3 – Richard of Chichester

6 – Frederic Barker

8 – Georgiana Molloy

9 – William Law

9 – Dietrich Bonhoffer

11 – George Augustus Selwyn

23 – George

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

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you. – Psalm 5.11

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN AFRICA. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in the Chad, Senegal and Mali. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord:
Let them ever sing for joy.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE AMERICAS. No country has reported increases in new cases of 20% or greater compared to the previous 28-day period. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by the United States of America, Brazil and Mexico.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord:
Let them ever sing for joy.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS AROUND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Kuwait, Iran and Pakistan. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Lebanon.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord:
Let them ever sing for joy.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN EUROPE. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Kyrgyzstan, Poland and Armenia. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Russia, Germany and Austria.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord:
Let them ever sing for joy.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in India and the Maldives. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by India, Indonesia and Thailand.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord:
Let them ever sing for joy.

AND WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OUR OWN REGION, THE WESTERN PACIFIC. A large proportional increase in Covid case numbers has recently been seen in Nauru, Singapore and the Marshall Islands. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Japan, China and South Korea.

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice, O Lord:
Let them ever sing for joy.

** Statistics are the latest available from the WHO and are accurate as of 16 March 2023. Infection rates are now decreasing in most parts of the world., however, there is concern over new variants and over the effects of long covid. Death rates are continuing to fall in most parts of the world.*