

Partners Praying Together



January 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 Honiara, Juba or Vancouver, 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

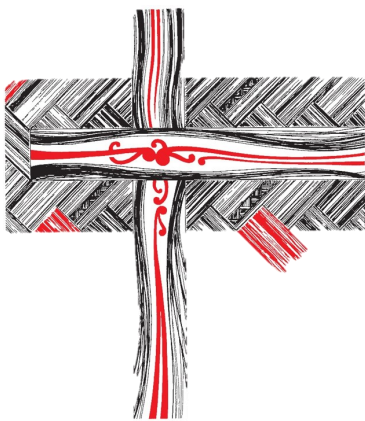
- ✦ Lord God, Who by the leading of the star revealed your Son to the nations of the world, lead us to a clearer vision of Your presence, and the nations into the ways of unity and peace.
- ✦ Pray for all those affected by Covid-19 worldwide, especially those who mourn the loss of loved ones; for those suffering from long Covid; for all those who are currently infected, especially children; for all whose businesses or employment has been affected by the pandemic; for all who have contracted influenza or monkeypox; for the people of the Ukraine, and for all like them who suffer the misery of conflict around the world; for all in Australia, Pakistan, Japan and elsewhere dealing with flooding; for those in Indonesia affected by November's earthquake; all who struggle with the rising cost of basic foodstuffs, rent or mortgage payments and fuel costs; all who are homeless, especially people living with disabilities; and for all children in detention centres in Australia.
- ✦ 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 the way that churches have been able to use technology to keep in touch with their communities; 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.
- ✦ Lord God, we offer our thanks and praise for the way You see us when we are still far off and run to welcome us home.

Prayer Points

from our

Overseas Partners

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia



- ✦ We give thanks for the appointment of Fr Sione Uluilakepa as Bishop Elect for the Diocese of Polynesia and for the wisdom and leadership he will bring to this role. We pray for his family and for those who are planning his installation next year. We thank you too for all the candidates who made themselves available.
- ✦ We pray for the Diocese of Polynesia as it stands ready to respond to cyclones and other severe weather events which are likely to impact the SW Pacific over the current annual cyclone season.
- ✦ We give thanks for the deacons and priests recently ordained across Aotearoa New Zealand and for their growing ministries.
- ✦ We pray for everyone who will struggle in some way over the holidays. We especially remember people who have lost loved ones in the past year, who are lonely or struggling to make ends meet. May they know the hope and comfort that Christ brings at this special time.
- ✦ We thank you for the practical ways that churches and church-funded agencies support people who are struggling and vulnerable over the holidays with food, accommodation and psycho-social support.
- ✦ We pray for families as they spend time together. May this be a time of fun and relaxation but also a time to reconnect and, if needed, to be reconciled.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia

- ✦ Continue to pray for big projects ahead: John Coleridge Patteson University (JCPU), the board members and the fundraising committee.
- ✦ Continue to pray for a replacement Southern Cross vessel to take the gospel between the islands.

- ✦ Pray for the proposed office complex of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.
- ✦ Pray for mission work in different areas of responsibility: Evangelism & Inter-discipleship; the Women's Desk; CANDO; and SAFE community as we begin 2023.
- ✦ Pray for the different ministries in the parishes and district churches as they begin 2023.
- ✦ Pray for all church schools students' safe travelling back home in the islands for school holidays.



The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East

- ✦ For the end of Advent and Christmastide to be peaceable in the many countries of our Province where peace is rare or partial.
- ✦ For our kings, emirs, sultans, presidents, and prime ministers to commit themselves to the common good of their peoples.
- ✦ For Christian believers to be given equal rights and treated with equal respect alongside those of other faiths.
- ✦ For the Holy Land in particular.
- ✦ For the Most Reverend Hosam Naoum, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, to be strengthened in his call and ministry.



The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

- ✦ Pray for Peace in Upper Nile, as fighting has resumed between the government and the rebels with many deaths and displacements.
- ✦ Pray for Jonglei and Lakes states, flooding is still an issue in these areas.
- ✦ Pray that during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons many will be encouraged and come to the knowledge of the truth.



The Church of the Province of South-East Asia



- ✠ Thank the Lord for the peaceful conclusion of the Malaysian 15th General Election with the formation of a unity government.
- ✠ Continue to pray for a stable government in Malaysia, both at the Federal level as well as the state levels. Pray against any form of racial and religious extremism from perpetuating in the nation.
- ✠ Pray for the churches in our Province in the midst of changing laws concerning same sex relationships and marriages. Pray that the Church will uphold the unfailing truth of the Scriptures without any compromise, yet do so with the compassion of Christ
- ✠ 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



- ✠ Give thanks for the successful annual clergy conference and the fellowship shared with the Rev Dr Duncan Dormor (General Secretary of USPG). May the message of being citizens of the kingdom of heaven be heard throughout the province.
- ✠ Give thanks for the graduating cohort of students at Ming Hua Theological College, and pray for the future of theological education in Hong Kong, that more would find intellectual nourishment in God's wisdom.
- ✠ Amidst growing financial strain, Hong Kong is seeing increasing fees across the board, from public transport to electricity. As Christmas draws to the Epiphany season, we pray that the homeless and those neglected by glamorous society could find warmth and shelter through this winter. May God move those who are able to help those who are not.

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

- ✦ Give thanks for all the opportunities for ministry of the NSKK presented by this new year, and ask God to inspire the NSKK's House of Bishops, and especially all new members of the episcopacy as they carry out that ministry
- ✦ At this coldest time of year, pray for the homeless and those who minister to, and care for them. May the Church never ignore those on the margins of society.
- ✦ Give thanks for the work of the province's Peace and Justice committee, and as diocesan representatives meet this month, pray that God guides their discussion so that they may continue working to promote the sanctity of life
- ✦ Also meeting this month is the Japanese Christian Churches ministry to foreigners' national meeting, with a focus on ecumenical work towards the care of foreign nationals and refugees. Pray that the Christian church in Japan may always be encouraged in its ministry to the 'stranger at the door.'
- ✦ As a new year starts, with all the challenges 2023 will bring – especially with increasing costs – give thanks for all charitable and voluntary organizations in Japan, and their supporters, often filling important roles in society caring for the marginalized
- ✦ Pray for the NSKK Provincial Office in Tokyo and all its staff, as they enter a period of reorganization and restructuring; pray for patience and strength during this time



God of all,
bless the Anglican Board of Mission
as it serves the Church in Australia
and our partner churches overseas.
Inspire its work and its vision
that all may come to know your justice,
your peace and your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for
ABM



A Greek postage stamp featuring St Basil the Great , whose Feast Day is on Monday 2 January. For more information, see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basil_of_Caesarea

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.



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

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

Jan	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
Sun 1	<p>The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</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 ADS-Eastern, a branch of the Anglican Church of Kenya's Anglican Development Services 	
Mon 2	<p>Basil of Caesarea († 379) and Gregory of Nazianzus († 389), bishops and teachers</p> <p>Eliza Hassall, pioneer of CMS (Australia) and missionary training († 1917)</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 The ACOM Board of Mission <p>See p. 4</p>	
Tue 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 Anglicare-PNG, a community development organization of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea 	
Wed 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 The Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Braille Day

Jan	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
Thu 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 CPM’s <i>Development Desk, and the diocesan Development Desks</i> 	
Fri 6	<p>The Epiphany of our Lord</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 E-CARE, a <i>community development organization of the ECP</i> 	
Sat 7	<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 <i>p. 5</i> 	
Sun 8	<p>The Baptism of our Lord [Ordinary Sunday I]</p> <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 (Iglesia Filipina Independiente, IFI) VIMROD – <i>the Visayas-Mindanao Regional Office for Development of the IFI</i> 	
Mon 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 	

Tue 10	<p>William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr († 1645)</p> <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>See p. 4</p>	
Wed 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) <p>See p. 6</p>	
Thu 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>See p. 7</p>	
Fri 13	<p>Hilary of Poitiers, bishop and teacher († 367)</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 	
Sat 14	<p>Sava, first Archbishop of the Serbian Church († 1235)</p> <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 	
Sun 15	<p>Epiphany 2 [OS 2]</p> <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 	

Jan	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 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 	
Tue 17	<p>Anthony of Egypt, abbot († 356)</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 	
Wed 18	<p>THE CONFESSION OF PETER</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 	
Thu 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) See p. 6 	
Fri 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> See p. 5 	

Sat 21	Agnes, martyr at Rome, virgin († 304) <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 	
Sun 22	Epiphany 3 [OS 3] <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 	
Mon 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Tasmania – Bishop Richard Conde, Bishop Chris Jones, the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nungalinga College, Darwin 	
Tue 24	The Companions of St Paul, including Timothy, Titus and Silas <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"> International Day of Education
Wed 25	THE CONVERSION OF PAUL THE APOSTLE <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) 	
Thu 26	AUSTRALIA DAY <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) 	
Fri 27	John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, teacher († 407) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Diocese of Willochra – the clergy and people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USPG (UK and Ireland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

Jan	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 28	Thomas Aquinas, theologian († 1274) <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 	
Sun 29	Epiphany 4 [OS 4] <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 	
Mon 30	Charles, King of England († 1649) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Agencies of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglican Discipleship – Jesus-Shaped Life 	
Sat 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Orders of the Anglican Church of Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAPA, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa 	

Displacements and Omissions in January this year:

22 January: Vincent, deacon and martyr († 304)

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

I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. – Jeremiah 33.6b

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN AFRICA. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Chad. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Réunion, Mauritius and Mayotte.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE AMERICAS. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by the United States of America, Brazil and Peru.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

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

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN EUROPE. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Romania, Gibraltar and Denmark. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by France, Germany and Italy.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA. A large proportional increase in Covid case numbers has recently been seen in Timor-Leste. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Indonesia, Thailand and India

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

AND WE PRAY FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN OUR OWN REGION, THE WESTERN PACIFIC. Large proportional increases in Covid case numbers have recently been seen in Niue, French Polynesia, and Cambodia. Large raw numbers of new cases have been reported recently by Japan, South Korea and China.

Spread your protection over them, O Lord:
So that those who love your name may exult in you.

** Statistics are the latest available from the WHO and are accurate as of 7 December 2022.*

Infection rates are now decreasing in most parts of the world., however, there is concern over new variants. Death rates are continuing to fall in most parts of the world.

