

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FROM
THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

25 July – 30 October 2021

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

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A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PRAYER

We are living in a world in which the Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare global divisions. As I write, the pandemic is rampant across India and Brazil, while at the same time the vaccine rollout seems to be one of the few successful operations of the British government during the crisis. Those of us reading this in Britain are enjoying a relaxing of restrictions and our lives are returning to some sense of normality.

We hear the cry of our sisters and brothers in churches and communities whose lives are continuing to be devastated by the pandemic and we reach out in our giving, our pledges of solidarity and our prayers. Thank you for your generous responses. In the light of all this, 'Pray with the World Church' takes on increasing urgency for the global USPG community. We need to pray for one another, in an informed and responsive way, and have those prayers inform our actions. In this Prayer Diary we will pray and reflect on International Literacy Day, the legacies of enslavement for young people, the International Day for People of African Descent, the anniversary of Hiroshima and so much more. We do all this against the backdrop of a global pandemic and pray daily for those who are suffering most.

Thank you for joining us in this most important act of prayer.

The Rev'd Canon Richard Bartlett, Director of Mission Engagement, USPG

25 JULY - 31 JULY

WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Brother Joseph Oseiyo, Dean of St Nicholas' Seminary, Ghana

This week we commemorate those who dedicated their lives to the abolition of the slave trade. In particular, we remember Olaudah Equiano, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce.

Olaudah Equiano was kidnapped at the age of 11 and taken to work as a slave, first in the West Indies and then in America. At the age of 21, he bought his freedom and moved to England. There he became an active figure in the struggle for the abolition of the slave trade, particularly through his involvement in the Sons of Africa.

Thomas Clarkson was the eldest son of the Rev'd John Clarkson, an Anglican priest. Thomas became involved in the abolitionist cause whilst at university and subsequently co-founded the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

William Wilberforce became an active member of the abolitionist movement after his conversion to evangelical Christianity. Between 1791 and 1806, Wilberforce repeatedly introduced anti-slavery bills in the House of Commons, until the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was passed in 1807.

We give thanks for the efforts of these abolitionists, and we pray for those working to end human trafficking today.

Sunday 25th July (Eighth Sunday after Trinity):

Almighty Lord,

May we rejoice in Your name.

Fill our mouths with laughter,

And our tongues with shouts of joy.

Monday 26th July (James the Apostle): Let us give thanks for the life of James the Apostle. May we follow Jesus with the same urgency and commitment that he did.

Tuesday 27th July: Let us pray for the victims of human trafficking. May we remember that we are all made in God's image.

Wednesday 28th July: Let us pray for the Church in the Province of West Africa, which comprises 17 dioceses across Cameroon, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

Thursday 29th July: We pray for those working to end human trafficking. May we add our voices to their calls for justice.

Friday 30th July (William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson): Let us give thanks for the lives and works of William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson. May we remember their efforts to abolish the slave trade and renew our commitment to ending modern slavery.

Saturday 31st July (International Day of Friendship): Let us give thanks for friendship and the many forms it takes. May we remember all of our friends across the world church.

1 AUGUST - 7 AUGUST

HIROSHIMA PEACE WORSHIP

The Rt Rev'd Augustine N. Kobayashi, Bishop of the Diocese of Kobe in the Nippon Sei Ko Kai

On August 6th 1945, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, instantly killing over 70,000 people. Many more died from their injuries and radiation poisoning caused by the bombing.

In 1950, the Anglican church in Hiroshima, which had been destroyed, was rebuilt and re-dedicated as the Church of the Resurrection.

In 1998, I was appointed as Priest at the Church of the Resurrection. To my surprise, there was no specific church service to commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima. The bombing had become a taboo subject.

On the 60th anniversary of the bombing, a group of church leaders from Hiroshima initiated the Hiroshima Peace Worship. This is an ecumenical initiative where we gather to remember the past and look to the future.

The Hiroshima Peace Worship is held every year on 6th August, with around 200 attendees. We believe that the initiative helps to communicate the reality of war to younger generations and emphasises the need for humankind to work together to achieve peace.

Sunday 1st August (Ninth Sunday after Trinity):

**Loving Lord Jesus,
We thank you for the gift of peace.
Fill us with that peace,
And help us learn to share it with others.**

Monday 2nd August: Let us pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai. May we work alongside them in partnership to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Tuesday 3rd August: “Let the little children come to me”, Jesus said. We pray that the Church may always be open to welcoming young people and helping them to understand the importance of peace.

Wednesday 4th August: May we remember the tragedy of the bombing of Hiroshima. Let it remind us of the devastating impact of nuclear weapons, and strengthen our resolve to work towards a world free of such weapons.

Thursday 5th August: We thank God for the gift of ecumenical collaboration in Hiroshima and around the world. May the church of Christ always seek to walk closer together, learning from one another.

Friday 6th August (Transfiguration of Jesus Christ): O Lord, we give thanks that You came into the world through Jesus. May we strive to be Christlike in all we do, using Jesus’ words as a guide for how we live.

Saturday 7th August: Let us pray for the Japanese Anglican Church in the UK.

8 AUGUST - 14 AUGUST

ABUNDANT LIFE PROGRAMME

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10)

USPG supports the Abundant Life Programme (ALP), an initiative run by the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) to support indigenous communities in the Caraga, Mindanao and Manila regions of the Philippines. The programme is designed to help groups such as the Lumad community, ensuring they have sufficient food and the knowledge to protect their rights as indigenous people.

In November 2020, the National Youth Executive Council of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente organised an online concert for Lumad communities as part of the Abundant Life Programme’s “Offering of Service” campaign, raising around £300 to fund further provision of medicine and Covid-19 safety kits. The National Women’s Network of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente provided the Lumad school in Manila with eight sacks of rice as their contribution to the campaign.

Due to the lack of in-person meetings during the Covid-19 pandemic, the IFI has run online webinars on the Indigenous People’s Rights Act for the Mindanao Bishops Conference and Young Iglesia Filipina Independiente groups in both Manila and Mindanao. The Abundant Life Programme hopes to increase its engagement with church leaders and congregations once people can gather together again.

Sunday 8th August (Tenth Sunday after Trinity):

“I wait for the Lord,

My soul waits, and in His word I hope”.

Loving God, grant us patience and forgiveness.

May we share our hope with the world.

Monday 9th August (International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples):

Today we pray for indigenous peoples across the world, as they fight to protect their ancestral lands from deforestation and extractive mining.

Tuesday 10th August: Let us pray for the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, and for the success of the Abundant Life Programme.

Wednesday 11th August: We pray for the people of Zambia as they vote in their General Election this week.

Thursday 12th August (International Youth Day): Let us pray for young people across the world. May we listen to their concerns and ideas, as they face an uncertain and challenging future.

Friday 13th August: We pray for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines and the work they do to spread the Gospel.

Saturday 14th August (Pakistan Independence Day): Let us pray for the people of Pakistan, as they celebrate their independence.

15 AUGUST - 21 AUGUST

SIGNS OF HOPE

The Rev'd Fr. Dennis Chiedu Obidiegwu, from the Diocese of Ho in Ghana, on secondment as Chaplain of St Andrew's Church in Tangier, Morocco, in the Diocese in Europe as part of USPG's Exchanging Places programme

The past year has been very challenging. Across the world, Covid-19 has had a devastating effect on people's lives and livelihoods. Morocco has suffered fewer fatalities than many other countries, with the number of Covid-19 deaths around 10,000. However, each death is a tragedy. By the grace of God, no one from St Andrew's Church has been seriously affected by Covid-19.

Within our church, I see signs of hope for the future. The church community has come together during the pandemic, supporting each other via the provision of food, medicine and other essential items. Since Easter 2020, St Andrews' has regularly uploaded Sunday services to YouTube, which we hope helps us to reach a wider audience. We also have a women's fellowship at the church, led by my wife Anthonia, which seeks to provide assistance and resources for new mothers.

At St Andrews', we plan to start conducting in-person services soon, with the hope of welcoming new members into our church.

Sunday 15th August (Eleventh Sunday After Trinity, Indian Independence Day):

**“For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
So the Lord God will cause righteousness
And praise to spring up before all nations”.**
**Creator God, may we care for your creation
And pray for justice worldwide.**

Monday 16th August (The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary):

O Lord, we give thanks for the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us magnify and rejoice in You, as she did.

Tuesday 17th August: Let us pray for the people of India, as they celebrate their independence this week.

Wednesday 18th August: We pray for St Andrew’s Church and the Diocese in Europe. May Your blessing be upon the church as it serves the people of Tangier.

Thursday 19th August (World Humanitarian Day): We give thanks for the work of humanitarian agencies across the world. May we remember those who lost their lives whilst working for humanitarian causes.

Friday 20th August: We pray for St Paul’s Church in the Diocese of Ho, in Ghana.

Saturday 21st August: Let us pray for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, comprising 29 dioceses across South Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and the island of St Helena.

22 AUGUST - 28 AUGUST

REMEMBERING SLAVERY

Young people from the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated every year on 23rd August. This year, we asked young people from the Church in the Province of the West Indies to provide their reflections on the history and legacy of the slave trade.

Michael*, a teenager from Jamaica, said that “Africans and Amerindians were stripped of their rights and treated brutally by their enslavers. It is important to commemorate the abolition of slavery, as we need to remember that no one should lose their freedoms or be treated as less than human”.

Gabrielle, from Kingston, said “The slave trade was a direct result of the racism that pervaded British and American society up until the 19th Century. White people thought they were better than black people. This is wrong, as everyone should be treated equally, regardless of their skin colour. In Christ, we are all free and equal”.

We pray for the young people of the Church in the Province of the West Indies as they continue their education.

*The names of the children have been changed

Sunday 22nd August (Twelfth Sunday After Trinity):

Welcoming God,

You make our hearts sing for joy.

May we be doorkeepers in the house of God,

Embracing all who enter.

Let us praise and worship You.

Monday 23rd August (International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition): Lord, today we remember the horrors of the slave trade, and the efforts it took to abolish slavery in Britain and across the world. May we continue to discuss the legacies of slavery in a sensitive manner, centring the experiences of the enslaved and their descendants.

Tuesday 24th August (Bartholomew the Apostle): Let us give thanks for the life and works of Saint Bartholomew. May we emulate his evangelism as we spread the Good News.

Wednesday 25th August: Let us pray for the Church in the Province of the West Indies, giving thanks for our partnership with them.

Thursday 26th August (Women's Equality Day): Let us pray for those working to make gender equality a reality. May we treat each other with respect and dignity, regardless of gender.

Friday 27th August: We pray for young people in the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, and across the Church in the Province of the West Indies. May they be respected and appreciated as part of the life of the church.

Saturday 28th August: Let us pray for the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines, as they rebuild their lives in the wake of the destruction caused by the eruption of the La Soufrière volcano.

29 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER

TOWARDS JUSTICE

The Rev'd Dr Lilian Conceição da Silva, Elder of the Black Embrace Chaplaincy in the Southern Diocese of the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

The United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent was launched in 2015, lasting until 2024. This event is a call for member states within the UN to work towards justice and recognition for people who have suffered as a result of racism and imperialism.

The Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion urge us to seek transformation of unjust structures in society, to confront each and every kind of violence and to promote peace and reconciliation. If we are to confront violence and promote peace, we must oppose prejudice and division, instead creating and encouraging anti-racist and anti-sexist initiatives. Here in Brazil, we have consciously developed our theological thinking to prioritise the stories of people of African descent. After all, such people are the contemporary reflection of Jesus, a black man from the African periphery, who was persecuted, jailed, condemned and assassinated by the oppressive authorities of his time.

Let us remember that we are all made in the image of God, and that no earthly prejudices can separate us from His love.

Sunday 29th August (Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity):

Living God,

May we embrace new ways of

Worship and praise.

Let us balance tradition and innovation,

Placing You at the centre of all we do.

Monday 30th August: Let us pray for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. May we support them in all they do to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in Brazil.

Tuesday 31st August: We pray for the Lusophone Network, which represents and connects Portuguese-speaking members of the Anglican Communion. The network comprises 350,000 Portuguese-speaking Anglicans and Episcopalians across countries including Brazil, Portugal, Mozambique and Angola.

Wednesday 1st September: Let us pray for people of African descent across the world. May we stand against discrimination in all its forms and recognise the pain caused by racism both in the past and present.

Thursday 2nd September: We pray for the people of Brazil, as they continue to suffer from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Friday 3rd September: Let us pray for the protection of Amazon rainforest, the so-called “lungs of the world”, and all those who live there. May we recognise the impact of our actions on the climate and choose to live more sustainably.

Saturday 4th September: We pray for dialogue and compassion in Brazil as political divisions continue to cause conflict and discrimination.

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH



25 JULY – 30 OCTOBER 2021



Malawi:
Education in Malawi

India:
Focus 9/99

Myanmar:
Holy Cross

The Philippines:
Abundant Life

Japan:
Peace Worship

5 SEPTEMBER - 11 SEPTEMBER

EDUCATION IN MALAWI

Tamara Khisimisi, Coordinator of the Anglican Council in Malawi

Primary schools in Malawi have an enrolment rate of 90%, yet only 35% of children complete their primary education. Children often drop out of school because they have to work to provide financial support for their families, or because they have to care for relatives.

The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that many schools have been closed over the last year. Many children already found it difficult to maintain an interest in school, but the pandemic has exacerbated this by denying children access to educational opportunities.

The Anglican Council in Malawi is working with families across the Dioceses of Lake Malawi, Northern Malawi, Southern Malawi and Southern Malawi-Upper Shire to encourage parents to enrol their children in school, and to support children to stay in school. So far, the Anglican Council in Malawi has supported over 20,000 children to stay in school. By emphasising the importance of education to children, we hope to shape their lives for the better – ensuring school graduates are literate and numerate young people.

We pray that children across Malawi are provided with access to education and supported to stay in the education system.

Sunday 5th September (Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity):

Eternal God,

May we trust in You.

Help us to let the world know

Your everlasting love.

Monday 6th September: Let us pray for the Church in the Province of Central Africa, comprising 15 dioceses across Malawi, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Tuesday 7th September: We pray for refugees coming to Malawi from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. May they be welcomed into the country and provided with food and shelter.

Wednesday 8th September (International Literacy Day): Let us celebrate the work of those who teach others to read, and give thanks for the power of language.

Thursday 9th September: We pray for the Anglican Council in Malawi, and the work they do to promote the benefits of education and school attendance.

Friday 10th September: Let us pray for schoolchildren across the world. Over the past year, they have endured severe disruptions to their education. May they be filled with enthusiasm for learning and equipped with skills for life.

Saturday 11th September: Today is the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks in New York. We pray for all those affected by this tragic event through bereavement, injury and shock.

12 SEPTEMBER - 18 SEPTEMBER

HOLY CROSS THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The Rev'd Saw Moses Kaser Htaw, Dean of Studies at Holy Cross Theological College, Myanmar

Holy Cross Theological College (HCTC) was founded in the Diocese of Yangon in 1934 and became a member of the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) in 1999. Since its foundation, the College has trained students who have gone on to become missionaries, theologians and bishops within the Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM). It is the theological engine-room of the CPM.

The College is currently constructing a 29,450 sq. ft., four-story-high Anglican Training and Resource Centre (ATRC), a new building designed to house a more extensive library for the College and the archives of the Church of the Province in Myanmar. The extra space incorporated into the building will also allow HCTC to admit around 75 more students in the next year.

By God's grace, we pray that Holy Cross Theological College will continue to make a significant contribution to our church, our country, and the world through the education and theological formation of men and women.

Sunday 12th September (Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity):

**“If any want to become my followers,
Let them deny themselves and
Take up their cross and follow me”.**
**Lord Almighty, give us the strength
To take up our cross and follow You.**

Monday 13th September (United Nations Day for South-South

Cooperation): We give thanks for initiatives encouraging friendship and partnership between countries in the Global South.

Tuesday 14th September (Feast of the Cross): Crucified God, we give thanks for Your eternal sacrifice. May we take up our crosses and follow You.

Wednesday 15th September (International Day of Democracy): Lord, we thank you for the gift of democracy. May we remember the value of democracy and exercise our democratic rights wisely and responsibly. We pray for those who have been stripped of their right to vote by undemocratic regimes.

Thursday 16th September: We pray for Holy Cross Theological College and the work they do to train and equip ministers in the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

Friday 17th September: Let us pray for the Church of the Province of Myanmar, as they continue to serve Christians across Myanmar during political upheaval and social unrest.

Saturday 18th September: We pray for the people of Haiti and Russia as they gather to vote in their elections this week.

19 SEPTEMBER - 25 SEPTEMBER

MARTYRS OF THE PACIFIC

This week we remember the Saints, Martyrs and Missionaries of Australasia and the Pacific. We commemorate the seven Melanesian Brothers who were martyred in 2003 as they worked for peace: Nathaniel Sado, Francis Tofi, Alfred Hilly, Ini Partabatu, Patteson Gatu, Tony Sirihi and Robin Lindsay.

As part of the peace process, Brother Nathaniel Sado visited a rebel leader in Guadalcanal. Simply because he came from another island, the island of Malaita, Brother Sado was killed. His fellow members of the Melanesian Brotherhood visited Guadalcanal to bring his body home, only to be killed themselves.

Thousands of residents of the Solomon Islands attended the martyrs' funerals, and conflict between islanders formally resolved in 2006.

Dr Peter Rookes, former National Health Secretary of the Anglican Health Service of Papua New Guinea and missionary in the region alongside his wife Jean, remembers: "I travelled with the Brotherhood many times on our village health patrols. Brother Robin Lindsay was so sincerely committed to his Christian faith, it was no surprise to anyone who knew him that he embarked on the peace mission to the Solomons in 2003, during which he and his six colleagues lost their lives."

Sunday 19th September (Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity):

“Whoever wants to be first,

Must be last of all”.

Lord Almighty,

We pray for a more equal and

Inclusive world.

Monday 20th September: Let us pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia, comprised of nine dioceses across the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

Tuesday 21st September (Matthew the Apostle): Let us give thanks for the life and works of Saint Matthew. May we emulate his witness, following the ways that Jesus taught us.

Wednesday 22nd September: We pray for the ongoing work of the Melanesian Brotherhood, their commitment to peace and to the communities of the Solomon Islands.

Thursday 23rd September (International Day of Sign Languages): Lord, we thank you for the gift of sign language. May we remember that communication is not limited to speech, and rejoice in the diversity of ways in which we can communicate. Let us pray for our society to be more inclusive of those with hearing impairments.

Friday 24th September: Let us pray for an end to civil war across the world. May we remember the conflicts in Yemen, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Azerbaijan, and pray for peaceful resolutions to these situations.

Saturday 25th September: We pray for the power of communication in resolving conflict and fostering peace. May we use language wisely and sensitively.

26 SEPTEMBER – 2 OCTOBER

CHANGING SCENES OF LIFE

The Rev'd Fr. Justice Tetteh Apo, from the Diocese of Accra, Ghana on secondment as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St James, Layou in St Vincent, in the Diocese of the Windward Islands as part of USPG's Exchanging Places programme

“Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ”.

Moving away from my family in Ghana was a huge challenge, especially as I left behind my two-week-old daughter and I had never visited St Vincent or the Caribbean before. I arrived in January 2020, a few weeks before the Covid-19 pandemic hit St Vincent. The parishioners in St Vincent showered me with warm Caribbean hospitality and made every effort to make me feel welcome.

The eruption of the La Soufrière volcano in April 2021 has posed a new challenge for churches across St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In the parish of Layou we are fortunate to be in the “green zone”, meaning we are out of reach of volcanic flows. This means we are able to help, providing food for evacuees from areas most severely affected by the eruption.

Sunday 26th September (Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity):

Holy Father,

We thank you for the gift of prayer.

May we pray when we are suffering,

And when we are cheerful.

Let us pray for ourselves,

For others and the world.

Monday 27th September: Let us pray for the Diocese of the Windward Islands, and the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia and Grenada.

Tuesday 28th September (International Day for Universal Access to Information): We give thanks for the technology and resources which allow us to access almost any information we need. Let us pray for those who do not have such unrestricted access to information.

Wednesday 29th September (Saint Michael and All Angels): Let us celebrate the feast of Saint Michael and All Angels. May we strive to do what is good and resist earthly temptation.

Thursday 30th September (International Translation Day): We give thanks for the diversity of languages spoken across the Anglican Communion. Let us celebrate the work of those who foster links between churches and peoples through the power of translation.

Friday 1st October: Let us pray for the development and renewal of friendships between USPG's partner churches in the Global South.

Saturday 2nd October (International Day of Nonviolence): Let us pray for an end to conflict, and a renewed commitment to peace.

3 OCTOBER – 9 OCTOBER

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Davidson Solanki, USPG Regional Manager for Asia and the Middle East

This week we remember Obispo Maximo Alberto Ramento, the ninth Supreme Bishop of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI), who was killed on October 3rd 2006. He was an active member of Karapatan, a human rights organisation in the Philippines, and Pilgrims for Peace, an interfaith organisation working for an end to conflict in the Philippines.

The IFI continue to fight for human rights today, particularly the rights of the Lumad people of Mindanao, who face the widespread closure of their schools. Since President Duterte was elected in 2016, 178 of 215 Lumad schools in the Philippines have been destroyed or closed. Teachers at Lumad schools have also been labelled as “terrorists” and “communists” by government officials.

As a consultative member of the United Nations’ Economic and Social Council, USPG submitted a statement to the 20th Session of the United Nations’ Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This statement urged the UN to call for an independent review of the human rights situation in the Philippines at the upcoming 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council and to engage with the Filipino government to end the violence against Lumads.

Sunday 3rd October (Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity):

Creator Father,

May we remember that

We are all children of God.

Let us pray for young people,

For they are both the present

And future of the Church.

Monday 4th October (World Habitat Day): Lord, we give thanks for your bountiful creation. May we endeavour to take better care of the environment by living sustainably.

Tuesday 5th October (World Teacher's Day): Let us pray for those who teach in schools, universities and other educational institutions. May we continue to learn from those around us.

Wednesday 6th October: We pray for the Save Our Schools network and the work they do to bring human rights issues in the Philippines to light.

Thursday 7th October: Let us pray for Lumad communities across the Philippines. May they be free from persecution and enabled to live as they wish.

Friday 8th October: We pray for the work of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. May this arena facilitate the inclusion and amplification of the rights and needs of indigenous communities worldwide.

Saturday 9th October: Let us pray for peace in the Philippines. May communities across the country live alongside each other harmoniously and combat all forms of persecution.

10 OCTOBER - 16 OCTOBER

DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

The Church of South India (CSI) works to protect children's rights through their Focus 9/99 programme. This initiative seeks to raise awareness of child abuse in local communities and to provide child protection training to church congregations. The programme led to the establishment of a working group on Child Protection Policy as well as clergy and lay participation in several training sessions on how to protect the rights of children and the importance of safeguarding in the church.

On 11th October 2020, the Church of South India held services on the theme of the Day of the Girl Child, an international observance day held each year to raise awareness of girls' rights. The CSI distributed liturgies focused on children's rights so that churches across South India could hold their own services on the Day of the Girl Child.

The Church of South India hopes to expand the Focus 9/99 programme over the next year so that all of its churches can learn about and work towards protecting children's rights.

Let us pray for the Church of South India as they work to promote and protect the rights of children.

Sunday 10th October (Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity, World Mental Health Day):

Loving Father,

Teach us to have the right priorities.

Let us focus on fellowship and love,

Rather than material wealth.

May we live in a world in which

People matter more than profit.

Monday 11th October (International Day of the Girl Child): Today, we pray for girls across the world. May they feel empowered to make their own choices in life.

Tuesday 12th October: Let us pray for all those with mental health issues. May they receive the care they need and feel able to discuss mental health with their loved ones.

Wednesday 13th October: We pray for the Church of South India, comprised of 25 dioceses, 2,300 schools, 150 colleges and 104 hospitals across the southern region of India.

Thursday 14th October: Let us pray for the Church of South India's Focus 9/99 programme, centring children in the life of the Church.

Friday 15th October: Let us pray for the Church of North India, comprised of 27 dioceses, 250 schools and 65 hospitals across northern India.

Saturday 16th October (World Food Day): Let us pray for a more equal distribution of food across the world, ensuring that all have enough food to eat. May we remember those suffering from malnutrition and starvation.

17 OCTOBER – 23 OCTOBER

INEQUALITY IN ZAMBIA

Royter Chongo, National Gender Coordinator of the Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Program (ZACOP)

17th October is the United Nations' International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Today we think of those who are marginalised due to wealth inequality.

Zambia is a country with abundant natural resources, including nickel, copper and corn. However, around 60% of the Zambian population live below the poverty line, surviving on less than £1.50 per day. Residents of rural villages are disproportionately marginalised as growth in the Zambian economy has recently centred on increasing numbers of people working in retail and tourism in cities such as Lusaka and Kitwe.

Outside of these urban centres, the Zambian economy is dependent on copper mining and farming. Unfortunately, economic reliance on these industries is unsustainable; copper mining can cause air and water pollution, negatively impacting the lives of those who live near to the mines. Unpredictable weather patterns caused by climate change can have a severe impact on Zambia's traditionally rainfed crops, putting farmers' livelihoods in danger.

The Zambia Anglican Council is working to build hope in rural communities by providing advice and resources to encourage self-sufficiency.

Sunday 17th October (Twentieth Sunday After Trinity, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty):

**Caring God,
You sent Jesus to serve,
Not to be served.
May we serve our communities,
And be humble in doing so.**

Monday 18th October (Luke the Evangelist): Let us give thanks for the life and works of Saint Luke. May we be a healing presence in the world.

Tuesday 19th October: Let us pray for the Zambia Anglican Council, which represents Anglican churches across Zambia.

Wednesday 20th October: We pray for just transitions from the use of fossil fuels to renewable energy, minimising the economic impact of these changes.

Thursday 21st October (Global Media and Information Literacy Week): Lord, we thank you for the ability to communicate with Christians across the world through technology. May we use this technology wisely and safely, casting a critical eye over the information we receive.

Friday 22nd October: We confess our own prejudice concerning those of other races, and we ask the grace of God to challenge racism in ourselves and in others.

Saturday 23rd October: Let us pray for farmers and those who work in agriculture. May they have bountiful harvests and use their land sustainably.

24 OCTOBER - 30 OCTOBER

EUROPEAN DAY OF JUSTICE

The Rt Rev'd Dr Robert Innes, Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe

On 25 October each year, institutions across Europe mark the European Day of Justice.

This day underlines the commitment of the EU and Council of Europe to fundamental freedoms and legally enshrined rights. The Council of Europe's European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Union's Court of Justice protect the rights of over 800 million people across 47 countries.

The prophet Amos tells us: "...let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos, 5:24). Let us open our hearts and minds this week to the plight of the marginalised within the European community.

May we embolden European institutions and national governments to challenge racial injustice within and across borders. Let us make ourselves, as church representatives and members, more inclusive and welcoming to others.

This year marks a decade since the introduction of the Istanbul Convention, a treaty designed by the Council of Europe to prevent gender-based violence and protect the victims of such violence. May we reiterate our commitment to gender justice across Europe.

Finally, we pray for Christians across both Europe and the world, who face persecution because of their faith.

Sunday 24th October (Last Sunday After Trinity):

**“I saw a great multitude that none could number,
From every nation and tribe and people and tongue.”**

Lamb of God,

From your throne you reign over the peoples of the world.

**On this Sunday, may we draw strength from the Bible’s story
Of Babel’s division becoming a single shout of worship.**

Monday 25th October: We thank God for those who laboured to give expression to the European Convention on Human Rights, and we pray for a continuing and enduring commitment to democratic values.

Tuesday 26th October: Let us pray for the women who suffer violence from those they do not know, and from those they do.

Wednesday 27th October: We remember those who bought our freedom at great cost, and we pray for those who continue to uphold it, praying especially for all those who work to gather and spread reliable news.

Thursday 28th October (Simon and Jude, Apostles): Let us give thanks for the lives of Saint Simon and Saint Jude. May we strive to emulate their zeal and hope.

Friday 29th October: We pray for all those in whom we remember Christ the refugee; for those who administer national laws on migration; for those who exploit the vulnerable, and all whose hearts are hard towards their fellow human beings.

Saturday 30th October: We pray for those who build bridges between those of different faiths and none, and for those with whom we share a common faith in Jesus as Lord. Give us unity of mind and spirit.

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