

Prayer sheet 10**05 June 2020****Thank you for joining us in prayer.****Melanesia**

- Give thanks that there are still no recorded cases in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Both countries still have their borders closed and the church is running awareness programs and distributing soap and buckets to remote communities;
- Give thanks for the donations received for MMUK's Emergency Appeal which is enabling the Anglican Church of Melanesia to distribute rice, agricultural tools, hand washing equipment & basic school packs to communities in Vanuatu;
- Please pray for the five novices who were admitted as Sisters to the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia on Pentecost Sunday: Sr. Clara Nenaia, Sr. Dania Maesiara, Sr. Ellam Wai, Sr. Jassie Bota and Sr. Emma Luisa and for the mission work they are undertaking;

Democratic Republic of Congo

- Give thanks for the FM radio in Aru, broadcasting church services when they are closed;
- Give thanks that the incidence of Coronavirus in DRC remains low and that there have been no reported cases so far in the Ituri Province;
- The reported cases and deaths are still centred around the capital of DRC Kinshasa, so please pray for continuing containment;
- Give thanks for the work of IPSAC in Aru and Boga, a Christian NGO which is improving the health and well-being of communities. Please pray that the current administrative disagreements between the Diocese of Aru and IPASC would be resolved quickly;
- With borders still closed please continue to pray for the local economy which is being badly affected with escalating food prices and traders unable to sell their produce;
- Please continue to pray for all the communities and individuals affected by terrible violence and that peace will prevail in these difficult times;
- Pray for Bishop Ande in Aru Diocese and Bishop William in Boga Diocese. Pray they are guided on how best the church can reach out to help their communities and distant villages.

Diocesan Wellbeing Group

The group has asked us to pray:

We pray for the wisdom to care for our own well-being in these challenging times, and for the compassion, energy and resources to notice and care for the well-being of one another.

Amen.

Our diocesan Wellbeing Group has also asked us to highlight our wellbeing material which is now a news item on the website:

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/news/how-are-you-doing-.php>

NHS and hospices

One of our Hospice Chaplains has written:

I would like to give thanks that little has changed for our in-patients other than very much restricted visiting. I also give thanks for the way our staff and volunteers have adjusted. Our Family Support, Counselling, Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy teams have continued to contact patients and bereaved relatives from home by phone, WhatsApp and Zoom.

A prayer for the NHS and in the caring professions:

*Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Schools

- Give thanks for the support that parents continue to show in supporting their children's learning at this time;
- Please pray for headteachers, senior leaders and governing bodies as they continue to plan and prepare risk assessments for the phased return of pupils and staff over the coming weeks;
- That the anxiety felt by staff, pupils and parents would be eased;
- Pray for staff and pupils who cannot return due to self-isolation, shielding or because of under-lying health conditions. Please pray that they will be able to return to school and be reunited with their friends soon;

- Please pray for students in Years 11 and 13, who would have been undertaking formal exams in May and June, as they await their grades and make plans for the next academic year.

Young People

One of our Youth Leaders asks us to pray:

- Thank the Lord for each young person in the diocese, and for the opportunities that God has provided through this situation for them to draw closer to Him. Pray that Jesus would be the firm foundation on which they build their lives in the midst of uncertainty;
- Pray for those young people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, or who are struggling along with their families because the many effects of Covid-19. Pray that they would all experience the comfort and peace that He abundantly brings;
- Pray for protection for our young people as lockdown restrictions are gradually loosened, for good health and for them and their families;
- Please pray for a boldness in our young people as they stand and speak against the injustices of our world. May God's Spirit strengthen them and lead them as they seek to be beacons of light in this dark world;
- Finally, pray particularly for the many young people in our diocese who are walking this uncertain, challenging road unaware of the Lord and the love that He has for them. Pray that they would find refuge in Him.

Transforming Lives Together

- We are thankful that we have been able to provide financial support and PPE for eight churches to help them provide food for their local communities;
- Please pray for the recipients of the food that they will get to the stage where they no longer need this help;
- and for the staff and volunteers, that they will stay well and find time to rest;
- Please also pray for wisdom for those at TLT as they navigate the next few months and work out what their priorities should be.

Businesses

Pray for business leaders who have the responsibility of keeping their businesses going, whilst keeping their people safe and employed. Pray for wisdom, good decision making and the ability to discern who and what to listen to and take advice from.

Rural Communities

- Challenges continue for rural communities as lockdown eases and people understandably want to go out beyond their own localities. Local communities in rural areas, particularly the 'honeypots' are fearful of visitors bringing the virus into the communities, and small local shops are quickly overwhelmed;
- The agricultural community are also struggling as people return to the countryside, especially when visitors come in large numbers or pay scant regard to the countryside code;
- the exceptionally dry weather conditions are compounding the challenges. Crops which were sown late because of the exceptionally wet autumn and winter are germinating slowly or failing completely. Grass is also growing slowly, meaning that the second cut silage will be poor or even impossible to harvest.

Festivals and Youth Events

Many festivals and youth events which were planned for the spring and summer have had to be cancelled. However, some have put their talks on-line, including: Spring Harvest, Word Alive, Keswick, New Wine and Greenbelt.

- Please pray for the teams planning these virtual gatherings who have a steep learning curve doing this in a different way;
- For the contributors, for grace and help in drawing from the scriptures, in prayer, preparation and for good delivery;
- those watching - that many would be encounter God and be encouraged in their walk with Him;
- for those of no faith who access the events, that they be drawn to Jesus;
- for financial provision for the significant costs and for wisdom in decision making.

As we journey together let us pray the prayer from St. Patrick's Breastplate:

*Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

Thank you, for joining us in prayer
Jonathon and the Foxhill Team.