

Prayer sheet 5

11 April 2020

As you pray, please look back at [our previous briefings](#) and continue to pray. You may wish also to pass this prayer briefing on to members of your parish so they can use these requests in their prayers:

Melanesia

- We give thanks that there are still no recorded cases of COVID-19 in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu but are mindful of the limited capacity for testing;
- We remember those who have lost their homes and gardens, used to grow produce, as a result of Cyclone Harold, including the MBH Central Headquarters in Vanuatu;
- And we pray that power will be restored to the main town of Santo in Vanuatu following the storm.

Please find below the prayer requests and messages from the Melanesian Brothers and Sisters

From the Sisters

- To think deeply in our hearts and minds of the suffering Lord as we're to live in His living Example;
- That we may be comforted and have the peace of mind through Jesus in this global crisis, disaster and the uncertainties in life.

From the Brothers

The MBH send their Easter Greetings to all our supporters and thank you for being supportive not only in finance but very importantly in prayers for the work here in Melanesia and abroad. They ask for prayer:

- for God's protection upon us all during this pandemic of Coronavirus;
- We also ask for prayers for those who have been badly affected by Cyclone Harold
- Prayers for comfort and strength in this time of mourning the twenty-six passengers lost on the ferry to Malaita.
- Pray for those who are finding ways to survive with little food after Cyclone Harold;
- Prayers that the leaders of the MBH may lead with God's wisdom and knowledge as they manage the recovery process in the next six months.

Regular updates can be found on: | www.mmuk.net> | Twitter: [@MelanesianM](https://twitter.com/MelanesianM)

Democratic Republic of Congo

Please continue to pray for D.R.C. as they face many challenges

- For the pastors and congregations as they face an Easter of not gathering for worship, that they would not lose their faith while churches are closed;
- Pray for faithfulness and good health;
- That the spread of the Coronavirus would be limited because of government regulations as this disease could cause devastation.

Our Department of Outreach has asked us to pray for

- Foodbanks as they run out of food and struggle to find volunteers, as many of their regular helpers are over 70;
- For those who are unable to manage financially especially those struggling to pay bills or to feed their families;
- People in safeguarding functions who are busier than ever before. Domestic violence and “hidden abuse” are now even more prevalent behind closed doors;
- People who live alone, especially younger people often over-looked when considering who is vulnerable;
- For local councils as they re-deploy people into crisis response roles rather than maintenance activities;
- Delivery drivers and people on the minimum wage keeping the system going who are often unrecognised and undervalued;
- People being exploited and for the victims of modern slavery which is set to increase as unscrupulous traffickers and business stay afloat illegally using unpaid workers.

On a more positive note, we give thanks for our beautiful environment which we can see and hear so vividly when other noise and activity has ceased. We pray that we will continue to remember this time, that it is possible to reduce what we do and to continue to let the Earth breathe.

Schools

This week we pray for our school staff who have enabled our schools to remain open during the Easter holidays. In particular we wish to pray for the cleaning staff, caretakers and site managers who are playing such a key part in keeping the schools open and ensuring that they are safe. We also ask for prayer for those feeling loss over exams, and for those in transition without a chance to say proper farewells.

Mothers' Union.

Please pray for MU members and projects worldwide, and especially at this time for the following projects in the Diocese of Chester:

- **Knitting** – A variety of knitting projects including items for premature babies, snuggle blankets and soft toys for Africa and fiddle muffs for people with dementia which provide a calming activity;
- **Release Bags** - MU members have provided monetary donations to purchase Release Bags for Thorn Cross and Styal Work;
- **Clewer Project** - MU members are working closely with the staff at Church House to end modern day slavery.

The MU also normally work in other areas of ministry: in the prisons; in supporting family life by providing short caravan holidays for families who need time out together; by offering parenting courses; and Virtual Babies, a computer course for teenagers which seek to avoid unwanted pregnancies by increasing awareness of the responsibilities of parenthood.

They are unable to carry out these projects at the present time and request prayer for those who would have participated in the projects, that all who would have benefitted from these projects would be blessed and find that their needs are met in new and different ways. Please pray also for wisdom for those who were involved in these projects to know how to share the love of God in new ways.

Please pray for those who are self-isolating and for families and friends who are unable to meet.

We continue to give thanks for those God has called and is equipping for ordained ministry: for their training, formation and gifting. May they know God's sustaining grace and kindness as they complete their studies and continue virtually in placements in these extraordinary times.

Thank you for joining us in prayer,

Jonathon and the Foxhill Team.