

Prayer sheet 11**21 May 2020**

As we enter the season of “Thy Kingdom Come” let us pray those words over some of the situations we face and see around us:

For our world:**Melanesia**

- Please pray for the babies, born in Melanesia since the global pandemic was declared on 11 March;
- We pray for antenatal check-ups, skilled delivery care, postnatal care services, and that effective infection prevention and control measures are in place in health facilities;
- We pray for the lockdown and curfew being held in Honiara for 36 hours from Wednesday to Friday this week, as the government practices its control measures, which will be needed if the virus enters the country.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- Give thanks that the incidence of Coronavirus in DRC remains low (1,538 reported cases and 61 deaths);
- The capital, Kinshasa, remains the epicentre of the outbreak but any spread of the virus would be a major concern for the provinces so please pray for continuing and effective vigilance to prevent the spread into outlying areas;
- 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 an end to threats and violence in the south of Ituri. There are news reports that militia fighters attacked Hema village in Ituri province at about 1 a.m. on Sunday killing at least twenty civilians. Pray for all the communities and individuals affected by this terrible violence and that peace will prevail in these difficult times;
- Pray for Bishop Ande in Aru Diocese and Bishop William in Boga Diocese. And for their work, providing supporting and reaching out to churches and village communities, teaching them about the precautions needed to prevent any spread of the Coronavirus.

As we give thanks for the ministry of the NHS I was forwarded this article from a medic:

During the current period of lockdown because of coronavirus many of us have been caught up in the problems that our families, churches and communities are facing that we have paid less attention to those who are much less fortunate than us. This was brought home to when a former junior doctor who had trained in my team asked to visit the hospital to see how we treated people with COVID-19 outside intensive care. She is now working for a global children's charity and is shortly to set out to a country in South Asia to set up a COVID hospital in a refugee camp. The camp houses 800,000 people at high risk of catching COVID and of serious complications if they do so. There is a suspicion that there is a lot of COVID already in the camp, and there is no social distancing in place, although that would be very difficult in the circumstances. She will have access to a limited supply of oxygen but none of the investigation or drugs that we use. There are no ventilators available at all.

A prayer for Mental Health Awareness Week

Heavenly Father, may we see the needs of others who are burdened and in mental pain; help us to hear each other's cry and speak words of encouragement, hope and comfort to all in need.

May we reach out and touch others with your love bringing comfort and reassurance, and may we strive together to make this a world where fewer become stressed, distressed, depressed and anxious. Amen.

For our clergy and church leaders

- Our church leaders in parishes and at diocesan level are having to rapidly adjust to very new ways of working and to acquire new skills. This is very demanding and many report that they are finding it quite tiring. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will equip them with the gifts and energy that they need;
- As people return to their workplaces, let us not forget the frontline workers still working tirelessly in a wide variety of situations.

Transforming Lives Together

- Give thanks that for the food bags and hampers that have been given out and for the financial advice which has been offered;

- The foodbanks report that demand is not slowing, please continue to pray for all foodbanks and the volunteers working with them;
- Please pray that the foodbanks, churches and smaller organizations would have the resources that they need to meet local demand.

Rural

- The provision of effective rural internet continues to be a challenge. Please pray that this will be resolved quickly;
- Please pray that the ability to travel further for recreation will not lead to rural communities in popular areas of the countryside being overwhelmed;
- Farms in the Diocese been severely affected by the drop in milk prices. Those which have diversified into tourism have lost income from that too. Please pray for the dairy farmers, especially for those who don't qualify for government support;
- Some small rural businesses, like those in more urban areas, are finding that they do not qualify for any of the government grants available. This is especially true for businesses which were already vulnerable. Please pray for business owners.

As we give thanks for the appointment of Bishop Mark to be our next diocesan bishop:

*Almighty God,
Who sent Jesus Christ to be the cornerstone of your Kingdom
and calls us to follow him;
guide your Church, by the Holy Spirit,
to show love and mercy as we build your Kingdom.
We pray for Bishop Mark in his new role as the next Bishop of Chester
Bless guide and strengthen him to answer your call;
in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen*

Please contact us at foxhill@chester.anglican.org if there is an area/ministry of our Diocese which you would like us to pray for.

Thank you, for joining us in prayer,

Jonathon and the Foxhill Team.