

## Prayer sheet 3

**04 April 2020**

***You may wish to pass this prayer briefing on to members of your parish so they can use these requests in their prayers:***

Please pray for our link dioceses at this very challenging time:

Melanesia:

- Please pray for the Solomon Islands as Cyclone Harold continues to churn through the south of the country, having left a trail of destruction in the capital of Honiara on 3rd April;
- For the dozens of people missing at sea after a passenger ferry tried to make an island crossing during the cyclone;
- For Melanesian families who traditionally live in multi-generational groups and where self-isolation is not an option;
- For the Melanesian Brotherhood and the Anglican Church of Melanesia as they encourage communities to adopt strict hygiene practices;
- For Sam Rylands, UK Ordinand stranded in Honiara trying to get home to his wife.

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

Democratic Republic of Congo:

- Please pray for the local people that they would not lose their faith while churches are closed, pray for pastors who depend on parish income. Pray for faithfulness and good health;
- Also pray for the economic hardship resulting from border closures;
- Pray that the Corona spread would be limited because of government regulations as this disease could cause devastation;
- Pray for Peter and Patricia, missionary workers in the Aru Diocese, who are trying to return to the U.K. via Belgium. Pray that that the mission's work would continue.

Please continue to prayer for our schools and their staff teams who are continuing to provide care for pupils of key workers and vulnerable children. This week, we wish to recognise that for many children being at home is not necessarily a happy situation – particularly thinking of and praying for children who live in situations of domestic violence. Please pray for their safety, for the contact that schools will be trying to sustain and for peace in their family homes during this time.

Please pray for the Cathedral Chapter and Leadership as they begin to prepare their recovery plan.

Pray for our clergy and readers as they reach out to those who are grieving and for funeral directors at this difficult time. And for clergy and all who give pastoral support who have extra pressures upon them and cannot visit those who are in need in their parishes.

Please pray for our Self-Supporting Ministers and those to be ordained as SSM's this year, many of whom are working in frontline situations.

Our Prison Chaplaincy teams have asked us to pray for safety and health, for patience and strength and for peace in the prisons in our diocese.

Please pray for our Hospital Chaplains as they care for the patients, staff and families in our hospitals for words of comfort and for protection.

Transforming Lives Together have asked us to share about Christ the King Church in Birkenhead, one of the most deprived parishes in the country, who are running the 'Oak Community Project' which provides people with much needed support of food and other essential items. On average they give out thirty-five bags per week but over the last three weeks this has increased to fifty-two. They are expecting this to rise as the weeks go on.

Please pray that they can find the funding they need to continue this service to the community and to support the many churches across the diocese providing food and comfort. Please also pray for collaborative efforts between faith, statutory and voluntary sectors to ensure any support is effective and for enough food to reach foodbanks which are struggling to obtain enough supplies.

For our clergy and lay ministers, working remotely, and for members of Bishop's Staff that we can use our online offerings to enable and to reflect the worship of Holy Week and Easter. That they also may find the opportunity for rest and relaxation in these challenging times.

Please continue to pray for our Church Treasurers and Church Wardens as they deal with the financial impacts of the current crisis. Pray that they might have strength, faith and hope to bring these problems to the Lord and that He will give them wisdom to address challenges as they arise. We remember especially those churches in vacancy currently.

We give thanks for local hospices which provide a vital service to our communities. In the current crisis their income has collapsed as they have had to close their

shops and cancel fundraising events. Many services have had to be curtailed or reduced but where possible telephone and on-line contact is being maintained with patients and their relatives and In Care patients are still being cared for. Please pray that our Hospices can continue their essential work, for the staff and volunteers, and for opportunities to increase funding for the important work that they do.

Churches Together in Britain have produced this prayer and asked us to share it with you:

*God, our rock and shield, we pray for our land, and all nations and places in our world, as many endure the effects of the illness Covid-19 and the Coronavirus pandemic.*

*For those who are ill, grant healing;*

*for those who mourn the death of loved ones, bring comfort;*

*for those who care for the sick, grant strength and endurance;*

*for those who are isolated or whose livelihoods are threatened, give courage and hope;*

*for all who take difficult decisions, from governments to health practitioners, give wisdom and compassion to accompany the knowledge and experience that they bring.*

*Deliver us from this disease, we pray, and enable all nations and communities to grow in collaboration and unity as we face this challenge together.*

*Grant a legacy of enduring common purpose in facing all that threatens our global common good.*

*We pray in Jesus' name, in the unity of the Spirit, Amen.*

If you think of an area/ministry of our diocese in which it would be good to pray for, please let us know [foxhill@chester.anglican.org](mailto:foxhill@chester.anglican.org)

Thank you, for joining us in prayer,

Jonathon and the Foxhill Team