

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS
FOR THE PEOPLE AND PARISHES OF
THE DIOCESE OF FALSE BAY

JANUARY 2021

PRAYER THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Lord, shine on me. Lord, shine in me. Lord, shine through me.

DIOCESE OF FALSE BAY

FRIDAY 1-THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS: THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST

We thank God for a brand new year. May God give us strength and wisdom that through all the opportunities and challenges 2021 has to offer we may only be blessed and grow closer towards God, our destiny. We pray for the ministries in our diocese and the many that take part in building up God's Church. We especially pray for our Bishop, Margaret, who has the weighty responsibility to lead us as a diocesan family that God may continue to lead, embrace and equip her. We humbly pray you forgive our sins of the past, and mercifully be with us all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Pray for The Diocese of Aba – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Aba Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 2

We pray for all who live in this Diocese. We pray for the Parishes as they strive to work more closely together in addressing the various problems and challenges that face Anglicans in our care. We remember especially the work of the Church among those affected by the Covid epidemic and the economic down turn. We give thanks for the pastoral programs of each parish and for the joint initiatives that exist amongst some of the Parishes. We give thanks for the support structure around our clergy and their families, and we especially pray for those who bless them with their kindness and compassion and all those who are looking after their health and their needs. We remember the homes and the families of our clergy and we pray that God will watch over them and that his light will shine upon them. We pray for friendly relations between the various parishes. *Pray for The Diocese of Aba Ngwa North – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Aba Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 3-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER SHRISTMAS

Almighty and everliving God, receive our prayers for the worship being offered in this Diocese. Give your Grace to all who will speak, read, sing or serve, to all who will kneel at your altar, to all who come to listen and to pray. Grant your blessing to all parishes, that with one heart and mind we may offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to the glory of your name. *Pray for The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

PRAYERS FOR PARISHES AND PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF FALSE BAY

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MONDAY 4

Heavenly Father: You have entrusted us with the protection of our children, young people, and vulnerable adults. May the Holy Spirit guide our steps as we help shepherd their paths. May our Church leaders, teachers, parents, and those entrusted with the care, responsibility and/or supervision of vulnerable adults be filled with a wise and discerning spirit, fostering an environment that is embracing, instructive and safe. Widen our hearts and perspectives to listen gently and with compassion to the experiences of those suffering, victims and potential victims of abuse, being ever mindful of the fragility and honour in safeguarding their trust. May the Holy Spirit embolden us to speak and act judiciously, wielding the sword of truth, and may Your courage be ours as we stand in the gap on behalf of the innocent. May we continue to grow in our own paths to holiness ever listening to the rhythms of Your voice, ever obedient in following Your will, ever humble in our responsibility. *Pray for The Diocese of Abakaliki – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Enugu Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

TUESDAY 5

We give thanks to Almighty God for the growth in ministry and dedication within our Diocese. We pray for God's strength and His blessings upon the laity and all those in leadership positions. We pray especially for Thabo, our Metropolitan, Margaret, our bishop and ...(name)..... our priest/s that they may find strength for their work, grow in holiness and love and be mature in their faith. *Pray for The Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney – The Scottish Episcopal Church (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

WEDNESDAY 6-THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Prince of Peace, born among us. As we share together the most profound mystery of your birth among us, so we pray that you would fill us with your peace. Pour into our hearts that peace which we so desperately seek, and which you alone can give. May we live as children of the same heavenly Father, willing to share our love for you and also to listen to the faith of others, that together your people may be one. Awaken in our hearts, love and gratitude for all that you have done for us and may our joyful hearts share in the message of the angels to all humankind. *O God, who revealed your only Son to the Gentiles by the leading of a star, mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may after this life enjoy the splendour of your gracious Godhead, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. The Epiphany Pray for The Diocese of Abuja – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Abuja Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

THURSDAY 7

Almighty and ever-living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish/church family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. Pray for The Diocese of Abye – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Northern Bahr el Ghazal Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

FRIDAY 8

Loving Father, we pray for all who shoulder the tasks of human labour—in the marketplace, in factories and offices, in the professions, and in family living. We thank you, Lord, for the gift and opportunity of work; may our efforts always be pure of heart, for the good of others and the glory

THURSDAY 28-Thomas Aquinas, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

O God of love; you have created us to live in community, bless our friends who provide us with the grace and love of an extended family. Endow them with the riches of your blessings: good health, sight, and mobility, that they may enjoy the wonders of your creation and share their delight with others. Bless them with keen minds and compassionate hearts that they may create a better life for all. Guard them from injustice, oppression, and evil that they may know freedom and hope lifelong. In their waking and in their sleeping, in their laughter and in their tears, surround them with your love until the end of their days; and so bring them to eternal life in peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Saint Albans – The Church of England (Canterbury Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

FRIDAY 29-Charles Frederick Mackenzie, Bishop in Central Africa, 1862

Heavenly Father, We your people come together in prayer for our children. Keep them safe this day, protect them from the evil one, give them wisdom, enlightenment and strength to resist temptation when it comes their way. They are only ours for such a short time; we give them unto Your care. They are Yours, You created them and You love them so. Send Christian mentors into their lives, whom they will listen to; mentors who are walking in Your Ways, who will guide and direct them on the path to You. For those who have left Your church, help them to understand that in community there is peace and comfort. We pray they will all come to know Your Son Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. *Pray for The Diocese of Albany – The Episcopal Church (II (2) Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 30

Heavenly Father we pray for Archbishop Thabo, for Bishop Margaret and for the members of Chapter; give them the grace they need to fulfil your charge; pour into their hearts a true love for the people committed to their care; and so guide and govern them by the Holy Spirit that all they do may be for the welfare of your Church. *Pray for The Diocese of Algoma – The Anglican Church of Canada (Ontario Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 31-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Lord, we join hands with all women who aspire to an abundant and dignified life. We join hands with our brothers and sisters in exposing and opposing the forces of oppression and dehumanization of women. May we see the coming of a truly just and humane society. We commit ourselves to transforming the oppressive forces in ourselves: greed, pride, hate and indifference. We pledge ourselves to pursue enlightenment and awareness so that we can usher in the dawn of a new day when there will be freedom and justice for all God's people. Amen. *Pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

The Archdeaconry of Blue Downs to submit their prayers by 6 January 2021

Father we pray for those who are sick, especially those whose illness is long term and demands much patience to bear. We remember before you those who are lonely and depressed and pray that we may be good listeners when friends and neighbours need us. Give us the right words to comfort and help us to know what simple acts of kindness may help someone else. We ask you to strengthen with your presence those who suffer in body, mind or spirit and give them courage and hope in their troubles. We think of those we know who are in special need of our prayers at this time and in a moment of silence we now name them in our hearts. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. *Pray for The Church of Bangladesh (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

MONDAY 25-THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

We pray for our youth and youth leaders. Heavenly Father, we praise you for providing leaders as gifts to your Church, for building up your people in faith and love. We pray for the leaders and members of all youth groups in our Diocese; equip them with every needful grace for all the demands made upon them, so that they may serve with humility and love, with perseverance and zeal, and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Pray for The Diocese of Akure – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

TUESDAY 26-Timothy and Titus

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right. May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others. *Pray for The Diocese of Alabama. The Episcopal Church (IV (4) Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

WEDNESDAY 27-John Chrysoostom, Bishop of Constantinople and Teacher of the Faith, 407

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, recognised by the UN.

Loving Father, we open our hearts, minds and souls to you as we remember the victims of the holocaust and genocides around the world. As we honour the heroes, the martyrs, the survivors and the victims; we ask for your presence in our midst; for healing, light and love to soothe and ease our pain, as we commemorate the horrors that were committed not long ago. We ask that you strengthen our will, that you help us to ensure that the world does not again see such monstrosities. We say "never again" and we dedicate ourselves to this principle, to the idea that justice does not allow persecution, that genocide shall not be repeated, and that vigilance is the responsibility of freedom, at all costs. Please, oh Holy One, make manifest our resolve that these horrors remain but memories. We ask that you answer our prayers. We pray that those who fight for freedom and justice always prevail, that those who need protection do not become victims.

We pray that the lessons we learn from this darkest hour allow all mankind to better itself, and to truly embody the idea that we are each made in your image. We pray for the souls of the millions and millions of victims of the holocaust and genocides; we pray that we honour their lives and their memories by observing this day, and by doing everything in our power and beyond to make sure that no such shadow again darkens our world. Above all, we pray for wholeness and peace to be in our midst, now and forever. *Pray for The Diocese of Alaska – The Episcopal Church (VIII (8) Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

of your name. We lift up to you all who long for just employment and those who work to defend the rights and needs of workers everywhere. May those of us who are now retired always remember that we still make a valuable contribution to our Church and our world by our prayers and deeds of charity. May all the labours of our lives benefit your creation so that we might be co-creators of your world filled with peace and enough for all. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Accra – The Church of the Province of West Africa (Ghana Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 9

Father, we pray for the many who are trapped by growing burdens of debt, who see no way out, and who despair for their future: give them courage to tackle the problems they face, clarity in taking decisions which will turn their situation around, and faith that, as they cry to you in their trouble, you will deliver them from their distress; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Pray for The Diocese of Adelaide – The Anglican Church of Australia (South Australia Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 10-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:THE BEPTISM OF CHRIST

As we have been commanded to love one another and to serve each other's needs we ask for God's help in our homes, to be helpful and considerate, forbearing and forgiving, so that the harmony of our family life may be strengthened and sustained. We ask that the blessing of your peace rest upon us all. *Pray for The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

MONDAY 11-HOLY INNOCENTS

Lord, help us to show your loving kindness to all in this world who may feel themselves little loved or forgotten, and those to whom love has never come. In their loneliness, help us to cheer them, that they may meet all life's problems with courageous and high-hearted happiness. Let them know that you do love them and are with them always. *Pray for The Diocese of Afikpo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Enugu Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

TUESDAY 12

Almighty God, you have called the churches of the Anglican Communion to witness and service and have richly blessed them. Grant that the members of this world-wide family may plan and work together in brotherly love to further your mission to the world. And confessing that the Church which lives to itself will die by itself, may we receive humbly, give generously, and share joyfully the spiritual treasures and material resources you have entrusted to us. *Pray for The Diocese of North Africa – The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

WEDNESDAY 13-Hilary Bishop of Poitiers and Teacher of the Faith, 368

We pray for our world in this time of crisis. We pray particularly for our political and religious leaders – but we all need your support and guidance in these difficult days. May we be more attentive to your message of love. May we, as nations and individuals, learn to reconcile and respect, to labour for justice and peace, and to attend to the needs of all of your children. May we, singly and together, play our part in helping your Kingdom to come in our day. We pray

this in Jesus name. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of the Horn of Africa – The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

THURSDAY 14-Richard Benson of Cowley, Religious, 1915

We pray for our clergy. Pour out your Holy Spirit, O Lord, on all whom you have called to serve your Church as priests and teachers. Give them wise and understanding hearts; fill them with a true love for your people; make them holy and keep them humble; that they may be faithful shepherds and feed the flock committed to their care, ever seeking your glory and the increase in your kingdom. *Pray for The Diocese of Agra – The (united) Church of North India (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

FRIDAY 15

Father, hear us as we pray for those in distress; the hungry and the homeless; the incapacitated and the handicapped; the mentally afflicted and depressed; the sick and the dying; the aged, the lonely and the bereaved. O Lord, help us who offer these prayers, to take the sufferings of others onto ourselves and so, by your grace, to become the agents of your transforming love. *Pray for The Diocese of Aguata – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 16

We pray for all Christians in Southern Africa today, aware of our many different traditions and understandings, and aware also of our common faith and baptism. May we grow fuller in respect and love for one another. We pray for our own nation today in all its wonderful diversity of history, culture, creed, philosophy and race. May we come to recognise your image and likeness more fully in every one of our sisters and brothers. May we rejoice in those things that make us each distinct and individual while building up the beauty and harmony of your creation. May we appreciate more fully what it really means to call you Father. *Pray for The Diocese of Ahoada – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger Delta Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 17-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

We pray for the Church in the world today, that it may be receptive to the needs of humankind and faithful to its Gospel, that it may preserve all the good from the past and reach out fearlessly to the future. We pray that the Church will care for the individual and help to change society and that it will have a growth in unity. *Pray for The Anglican Church of Australia (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

MONDAY 18-CONFESSION OF ST PETER

A prayer for Africa. Help us to be Christian in our attitudes. Let all that we do and say spring out of understanding hearts. Make us willing to seek moral objectives together, that in united action this nation may be steadfast in the search for righteousness and peace. Bless those who bear responsibility. May they be led by You to do that which is right rather than that which is expedient or politically wise. Save us from politicians who seek only their own selfish interests. Illuminate the minds of management as well as labour, that there may be an end to selfishness and greed. Bless this land that we love so much, our Father, and help her to deposit her trust, not in armies and navies, in wealth and material resources, or in achievements of the human mind, but in that righteousness which alone exalts any nation, and by which alone

peace can finally come to us. (Peter Marshall). *Pray for The Diocese of Aipo Rongo – The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

TUESDAY 19

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: we praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labours, and that in every place your servants call upon your name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. (Episcopal Church, USA). *Pray for The Diocese of Ajayi Crowther – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

WEDNESDAY 20

Father today we pray for our nation. We ask that you would give our President wisdom beyond his own understanding and the courage to choose the right path no matter how narrow the gate. We pray for all in authority over us, that you would give them the grace and strength to stand against the temptation to use power as a weapon, but rather to carry it reverently as one would a child. We pray for the spiritual leaders of our country, that they would hear your voice and know your heart. *Pray for The Diocese of Akobo – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Jonglei Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

THURSDAY 21-Agnes, Martyr at Rome, c. 304

Lord, remember your church throughout the world, that your people may dwell in peace. Lord, remember those we have met today, that they may receive your gifts. Lord, remember all families, that they may live in harmony. Lord, remember the sick and the dying, that they may have your joy. We ask this in your name. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Akoko – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

FRIDAY 22

Help us, Lord, to understand what your will is in the confusion and unrest of our times. Give us insight to distinguish between the signs of your Spirit demanding change and renewal, and the signs of human greed and lust for power; that we may be your fellow workers in creating an order of society which acknowledges your sovereign power and might. *Pray for The Diocese of Akoko Edo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Bendel Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 23-Yona Kanamuzeyi, Deacon and Martyr in Africa, 1964

Praise to you, God of all times and seasons, for you are faithful from age to age in your great love for us. Strengthen our efforts to build a community that cares for body, mind and spirit under your guidance. By your Holy Spirit, bring our individual talents together for the common good. Help us to honor you, O God, in all people, and to glorify you in all things, so that your justice and peace will renew our world. Praise and glory be yours, God of endless ages, both now and for ever. *Pray for The Diocese of Akot – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Eastern Bahr el Ghazal Province) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 24-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY