**USPG** is the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God’s mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice. Founded in 1701.

This prayer diary comes to you free of charge. If you would like to make a donation to cover the costs you can do so here [www.uspg.org.uk/donate](http://www.uspg.org.uk/donate). Your generous donations ensure we can continue to provide this prayer resource.

For more information about USPG, visit [www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk) or call 020 7921 2200.

Please contact us to order more copies of this prayer diary for your church, or download a copy online [www.uspg.org.uk/pray/](http://www.uspg.org.uk/pray/).

You are welcome to use this publication for public worship. Please note that the views expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of USPG.
Welcome to the Lent and Easter edition of the USPG Prayer Diary. Alongside prayer, during these two important seasons, many people across the world will be using USPG’s new course ‘Living with a world of difference’. This is offered in preparation for the Lambeth Conference and the hospitality week in Britain just before it.

The world is indeed full of difference, but all too often, differences are portrayed as negative or divisive. Differences of understanding within the Anglican Communion have been widely communicated in the run up to the Lambeth Conference, and at USPG we seek to play a part in sharing how embracing difference can be a blessing rather than a curse in ministry and mission.

‘Living with a world of difference’ is a course that highlights five areas where Anglicans are being challenged to work through their differences, in the face of adversity, outside their comfort zones or in new ways, so that the Kingdom of God can come afresh. If you would like to be a part of this, please see www.uspg.org.uk/lent2020

Thank you for being a part of ‘Living with a world of difference’ with USPG. May God bless us, and all for whom we pray.

The Rev’d Canon Richard Bartlett
Director of Mission Engagement, USPG
ST JOHN’S: A SPIRITUAL HOME FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN CASABLANCA

The Rev’d Canon Dr Medhat Sabry, Chaplain of St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Casablanca.

St John the Evangelist was the first Protestant Church established in Casablanca. Consecrated in 1906, it is the oldest operating church building in Casablanca and one of the few official places of Christian worship in the city.

Over the past seven years, attendance at the church’s Sunday services has grown steadily. The new congregation members include migrants from East Asia (especially from the Philippines) and displaced people from sub-Saharan African countries such as Sierra Leone.

On 21 June last year, we celebrated in style when the church’s new community centre had its grand opening ceremony. With the community centre, we are aiming to offer training to help people develop personal skills, to provide a place for social and spiritual activities, to provide a subsidised hot meal twice a week for some of the displaced people, and a library for studies and after-school classes.

The community centre has also been used as a temporary home for the church, because the old church building is now too small to hold its ever-growing congregation. Our new, bigger church building opens on 28 March. Please pray for us.
Sunday 23 February: Sunday next before Lent

Holy God, thank you for making us all in your image, each of us a precious child in your sight. Help us to recognise your dignity in all people, and work for the inclusion and empowerment of us all.

Monday 24 (St Matthew) Let us pray for the new Bishop of Mauritius, who was consecrated yesterday, for wisdom and guidance as he starts his new role.

Tuesday 25 Let us give thanks for the growth in numbers that St John’s in Casablanca has experienced over the past few years, and pray for the new people joining the congregation.

Wednesday 26 (Ash Wednesday) Lord, as we mark the start of the season of Lent today, help us to be mindful of all those around us, and seek to be a blessing to them.

Thursday 27 Let us pray for the people of the Dominican Republic as they celebrate Independence Day today.

Friday 28 Let us pray for refugees and asylum seekers in our home towns, that our churches follow the example set by St John’s in reaching out in service to them.

Saturday 29 Let us rejoice with everyone who receives and accepts a marriage proposal today.
Bishop Gaul College is the national Anglican theological college in the Church of the Province of Central Africa (CPCA). Since its establishment, the college has produced bishops and over 100 priests. It caters to students of the five dioceses in Zimbabwe and the Diocese of Botswana. More recently, the college has opened to students from countries outside CPCA; this has brought an international flavour and opportunities for students to think beyond their borders. Increasing students from the laity are now being trained. The impact of a wider range of people trained to spread the Good News and the salvation of souls is in line with the college’s objectives.

Bishop Gaul College is committed to the formation, training, and equipping of clergy and laity for the Christian ministries in the Church of the Province of Central Africa, which is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The college has substantially increased the number of students from the laity. It is the college’s intention to contribute spiritually and socially to the community by teaching the laity. There are currently 27 students. The college currently faces various challenges, including a reduction in the number of ordinands, a lack of water and rising running costs.
Sunday 1 March: First Sunday of Lent and Zero Discrimination Day

Holy God, thank you for treating us all equally. Help us, both during this season of Lent, and the rest of the year, to stand against all forms of discrimination and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Monday 2 As the people of Guyana go to the polls today, let us pray for peace in the country, and that whoever wins the election will govern fairly, with wisdom and justice.

Tuesday 3 We pray for the students at Bishop Gaul College; that through their studies they will be well equipped to lead the churches in their care.

Wednesday 4 Let us pray that the faculty and staff at Bishop Gaul College are able to overcome the challenges the college currently faces, and for their sustainable future.

Thursday 5 Give thanks for people involved in theological education worldwide – both learners and teachers.

Friday 6 Let us pray for the Anglican Diocese of Accra and for all the people of Ghana as they celebrate their nation’s Independence Day.

Saturday 7 Let us pray for all the dioceses that make up the Church of the Province of Central Africa.
8 – 14 MARCH

THOUGHTS ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY


One day is not enough to celebrate my strength, but it is a reminder of the power I possess and the progress I have made. This momentous day is more than an observation for me, it is my daily life and advocacy. In Guyana, the campaigns go beyond a day. Observances are celebrated prior and after via social media, radio and television advertisements, concerts and workshops.

Throughout the excitement, as always I self-evaluate my place of being as a young woman. The battles I have conquered for my family and women that needed that ‘push’. The adversities of my sisters and those that continue to bend to fulfil the meaning of womanhood. From a country girl in the market streets to a woman in leadership; empowering hearts and minds is who I am.

We pray for women and girls growing up in societies where women have endured pain and suppression for years. May hope and strength be restored in themselves, families and institutions, so that women and girls can thrive.
Sunday 8 March: Second Sunday of Lent and International Women’s Day

Dear Lord and heavenly Father, we pray that women and girls are moulded and empowered to change the hearts and minds of every individual they touch. We pray against evil and unjust thoughts that will hinder their growth. May their hearts be cleansed and renewed through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Monday 9 Let us pray for Yvonne Barrow, and for the work she does in Guyana with the Human Rights and Social Justice Commission.

Tuesday 10 Pray for the work that the Anglican Church in Malawi and USPG are doing together to ensure that girls in Malawi are able to have an education.

Wednesday 11 Pray for the Women’s Helpline Service provided by the Church of North India’s Delhi Brotherhood Society, and for all the women that make use of its services.

Thursday 12 Pray for the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil and its ongoing campaign against gender-based violence.

Friday 13 Pray for all the projects USPG supports concerning women’s health, eg. the Anglican Church of Tanzania’s Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Programme.

Saturday 14 Give thanks for all the women bishops in the Anglican Communion worldwide.
All over the world, indigenous people groups are some of the most excluded and disadvantaged sectors of society, suffering as a result of discrimination, poverty and human rights abuses.

This situation is especially challenging in the Philippines, which is home to an estimated 14-17 million indigenous people groups. These include communities such as the Lumad people who live in the southern Philippines, who have struggled for years with limited access to land and attacks from mining companies. It is with communities like these in mind that the Iglesia Filipina Independiente launched its ‘Abundant Life’ programme (ALP), with support from USPG. ALP believes that as a community of faith steeped in the history of the Filipino people’s struggle in their homeland, it has a historical mission and ministry to empower the poor, deprived and oppressed.

Through ALP, the Iglesia Filipina Independiente seeks to empower both the Philippines’ indigenous peoples and the Church itself. It does this through education and mobilising Filipino people to pursue life in its fullness, encouraging them to be active witnesses against injustice.
Sunday 15 March: Third Sunday of Lent

Holy God, thank you for the faithfulness of your church living your gospel in places of diversity and difference. Help us to listen and be attentive to your voice in all places, and bear one another’s burdens in prayer and action.

Monday 16 Let us pray for the indigenous peoples of the Philippines, especially for an end to the discrimination and injustices they have suffered for so many years.

Tuesday 17 Pray for the Iglesia Filipina Independiente; that through ALP it will build bridges with indigenous people.

Wednesday 18 Let us pray for all the speakers and attendees at USPG’s ‘Rethinking Mission’ conference, taking place in London this weekend.

Thursday 19 (St Joseph) Pray for all those who have been affected by the volcanic eruption that happened in the Philippines in January.

Friday 20 (International Day of Happiness) Lord, we thank you that your joy is our strength. Help us to spread happiness wherever you place us.

Saturday 21 (International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) Lord, help us to see each other as equals, and to do all we can to end all forms of racial discrimination.
This year marks the 80th anniversary of the passing of the Lahore Resolution and the adoption of the first constitution of Pakistan, which paved the way towards making Pakistan the world’s first Islamic republic.

Today, Christians are a religious minority in Pakistan (making up about 3% of the total population of 220 million people). Yet the Church in Pakistan enjoys a well-earned reputation for its services in the field of education and health. Along with these traditional roles, the Church has entered into some new areas. These include: interfaith harmony, strategies for peaceful coexistence, injustice fuelled by prejudices and discrimination against minorities, growing urbanisation, poverty, brain drain and the church also desires to work for the climate justice and water preservation. Through these initiatives the Church wants to maintain its existence, sustain its survival and also safeguard its identity through its diaconal approach with a focus on stewardship for the total Pakistani community.

The Church in Pakistan will always maintain our Lord and Saviour’s mission: to proclaim the Good News, strive for the freedom for the prisoners, recovery of the sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free and to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.
Sunday 22 March: Fourth Sunday of Lent, World Water Day and Mother’s Day

Almighty God,
May your peace be upon all mothers today,
And help us to share your living water with all who thirst.

Monday 23 (Pakistan Day) Heavenly Father, we pray that you bless Pakistan. May the Church in Pakistan continue to be a source of healing, contentment, joy and blessing to all.

Tuesday 24 (International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims) Lord, may we not turn a blind eye to injustice, but rather stand up for all who are victimised.

Wednesday 25 (Annunciation, International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade) Lord, as we remember the atrocities of slavery in the past, help us to be active in ending modern-day slavery too.

Thursday 26 Join with the Church in Myanmar in giving thanks for its 50 years of autonomy.

Friday 27 Let us pray for the Church in Myanmar, for God’s help with all the challenges it faces as it continues to grow and be a beacon of hope for the people of Myanmar.

Saturday 28 Let us give thanks along with the congregation of St John the Evangelist Church in Casablanca, on the opening of their new church building today.
‘IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT GOD’S CREATION’ – ANGLICAN PROVINCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

The Anglican Church in the Province of the Indian Ocean recognises the urgent need to mitigate the effects of climate change, stating emphatically that ‘it is our duty to protect God’s creation’.

Fisheries and marine tourism are the pillars of the Seychelles’ economy. While it is important that those activities continue along with sand mining and oil exploration in order to support the livelihoods of the Seychellois people, it is also important that these activities are carried out in a sustainable way.

USPG partners with the Province of the Indian Ocean in supporting the implementation of Indian strategic plan, which covers protection of the environment. In 2014, the island nation developed a marine spatial plan that covers its entire marine territory and holds a large mandate from marine protection to sustainable economic growth.

The Seychelles has committed 30 percent of its 1.35 million square km of waters to marine protection by 2020, ten years ahead of the United Nations 2030 target for Sustainable Development Goal no. 14, known as the ‘life below water’ goal. Most of the work has already been accomplished, with only some four percent left for the Seychelles to reach the deadline.
Sunday 29 March: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Holy God, as we enter Passiontide today, help us to walk alongside our brothers and sisters who are marginalised, and work with them to transform unjust structures of society.

Monday 30 Lord, we thank you for the progress made in the Seychelles to meet its target towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Tuesday 31 Let us pray for the Anglican Church in the Province of the Indian Ocean, and its role in mitigating the effects of climate change in the region.

Wednesday 1 April Lord, we thank you for all the churches that are taking a stand for climate justice. We pray that other churches will follow.


Friday 3 Pray that Christians may come to understand that caring for the environment is part of our discipleship.

Saturday 4 (International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action) Pray for vulnerable communities in places where mines and explosive remnants of war pose a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of civilians.
Palm Sunday is a significant day for Christians including Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and many other denominations. It marks the start of Holy Week and the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem.

There are various traditions attached to Palm Sunday but the most common is to give and receive small crosses made from palm leaves. The Gospel of John only mentions palms in connection with Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem. The emphasis of the gospels was not probably on tree or shrubs but on Jesus and his entrance, which wasn’t incidental. It looks planned as he gives instructions to his disciples to fetch the donkey from a certain place.

His entrance to Jerusalem raised concerns of those Jewish leaders who were seeing this procession in the light of the 200-year-old story of Simon Maccabeus. Sometimes certain patches of our personal experiences or communal history create fears and concerns and we don’t welcome Christ in our lives and societies. Christ is always looking for the right time but sometimes instead of allowing God to execute his plans, we react according to our human fears. Let us pray on this Palm Sunday that God gives us a fresh understanding of the restoration and change he wants to bring – both in and through us.
Sunday 5 April: Palm Sunday

Lord our God, help us to receive a fresh understanding so that we do not always allow our past experiences to become a hindrance for the restoration and change you want to bring in and through us. Amen.

Monday 6 (International Day of Sport for Development and Peace) Pray for all those who use sport as a means of fostering good relationships between people and communities.

Tuesday 7 (World Health Day and International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda) We mourn with Rwandans who mourn lost loved ones; we give thanks for peace and reconciliation, and we pray for the people of Rwanda.

Wednesday 8 Lord, help us not to be so stuck on the past that we fail to notice what great things you are looking to do in the present.

Thursday 9: Maundy Thursday Lord, as Good Friday approaches, let us take time today to ponder what it means to take up our crosses and follow you.

Friday 10: Good Friday It is finished. Lord, as we remember your pain and suffering on the cross, we pray that all those who suffer might know your peace.

Saturday 11: Holy Saturday Lord help us learn patience, and give peace to all those who watch and wait.
‘Alleluia, Christ is risen: he is risen indeed, Alleluia!’ The ancient joyful response which Christians across much of the world cry out today, as we celebrate the joy of the resurrection and the hope that Christ brings to the world. This is the response from churches in many, though not all, parts of the world today: for the Orthodox Easter is not until next Sunday – a reminder that in the wider ecumenical church, we live ‘with a world of difference’: our Orthodox friends today are just embarking on Holy Week.

Many of us, across the world, have been using the USPG course ‘Living with a world of difference’ during Lent. We may have learned, shared and experienced more deeply not only the differences celebrated in the course, but also differences shared between our group members along the way. We are all uniquely created, difference is part of our DNA, we celebrate that God given difference. And we celebrate today that which holds all our differences together: the resurrection of Jesus. Whatever divides us, the resurrection of Christ unites us. Now there’s something to celebrate! Alleluia, Christ is risen: he is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Sunday 12 April: Easter Day

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Alleluia, Christ is risen: he is risen indeed. Alleluia! Amen. (From the Easter Liturgy)

Monday 13 May we continue to celebrate the joy of the resurrection, and the hope that Christ brings to the world.

Tuesday 14 Let us pray for all those who use the ‘Living with a world of difference’ Lent course, that it will give them much to ponder and feed on.

Wednesday 15 Lord, we thank you for all the variety and diversity you brought into the world you created. Help us to appreciate it and learn to share our gifts with each other.

Thursday 16 Pray that churches around the world will be places where people learn how to live in a world of difference.

Friday 17 As Orthodox churches mark Good Friday today, may we use this as an opportunity to reflect once again on Christ’s incredible sacrifice for us.

Saturday 18 Let us pray for the people of Zimbabwe on the day of its 40th anniversary of independence.
Through initiatives such as its HIV Stigma and Discrimination Reduction programme, the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe (ACZ) is spearheading God’s mission ‘to ensure Christ’s love for all’, ensuring that people living with HIV all have dignity and experience the love of Jesus Christ abundantly.

The programme has been training church leaders on issues of HIV and HIV stigma since 2015. This has become a more mainstream topic for church sermons: people who have disclosed their status are now welcomed into the church and offered support. The programme also encourages people to come forward for HIV testing and counselling. Knowing their HIV status allows people to make informed decisions: they can receive medication to prolong life, be advised on a suitable diet and join wellness groups.

Work on this programme goes on despite some very serious challenges ACZ faces. For a very long time, ACZ has suffered from a paralysed negative cash flow, due to ongoing economic hardship in Zimbabwe. ACZ’s House of Bishops has initiated a strategic revival process to deal with the church’s financial challenges, to enable the church to drive its mission and fulfil its purpose.
Sunday 19 April: Second Sunday of Easter

We thank you, Lord, for all who endeavour to ensure Christ’s love for all. May more of us follow their example. Amen.

Monday 20 Let us pray that through ACZ’s HIV Stigma and Discrimination Reduction programme, more HIV-positive people feel included and appreciated rather than ostracised.

Tuesday 21 On World Creativity and Innovation Day, we give thanks for all those who have used their gifts to improve our quality of life. We pray that more people be inspired to dream and create.

Wednesday 22 Lord, as we mark Earth Day today, we pray for all the projects different members of the World Church have initiated to tackle the effects of climate change.

Thursday 23 We pray again for communities around the world that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Friday 24 Let us seek to be good neighbours to Muslim people we know who start observing Ramadan today.

Saturday 25 (St Mark and World Malaria Day) Lord, we thank you for all the advances that have been made in medical science, particularly in treating malaria.
26 APRIL – 2 MAY

CNI’S YEAR OF JUBILEE

On 29 November 1970, the Church of North India was born when six protestant denominations came together to form one Church. Leaders of the six denominations gathered at All Saints Cathedral in Nagpur for CNI’s inauguration. This year, CNI marks a half century of ‘unity, witness and service’ with a year-long Golden Jubilee celebration. Bishops and representatives of all of CNI’s 27 dioceses came to the celebrations, which involved a joyous procession in the streets of Nagpur and a thanksgiving worship service.

The events to mark the jubilee fall into three phases: ‘refreshing memory’, ‘revisiting the mission of the Church’ and ‘celebration’. The first phase involves thanking God for the people who first brought the Gospel to India – going all the way back to St Thomas, who was a missionary to India in the year 52AD. The second phase involves taking stock of the past 50 years to see how well CNI has upheld its mission of ‘breaking down the barriers of caste, class, gender, economic inequality and exploitation of nature’. The third phase started with a huge ceremony in Nagpur last November, and continues throughout 2020.
Sunday 26 April: Third Sunday of Easter

Lord, thank you for giving us the grace to live with a world of difference. Please help us share that grace with everyone we meet. Amen.

Monday 27 On Sierra Leone’s Independence Day, let us pray for the people of Sierra Leone and for the Anglican Diocese of Freetown.

Tuesday 28 Let us rejoice with the Church of North India as it celebrates its fiftieth birthday all through this year. Thank you Lord for a half century of ‘unity, witness and service’.

Wednesday 29 We pray for CNI’s resolve to break down barriers of caste, class, gender and economic inequality. May India’s churches be places where all feel equally welcome.

Thursday 30 Let us pray for CNI’s Green Schools project; that through it, children will start learning from a young age to be good stewards of the planet.

Friday 1 May (St Philip, St James) Let us pray for an end to modern-day slavery and all other unjust and exploitative work practices that exist in the world.

Saturday 2 Give thanks for CNI’s church leaders and pray that they might know God’s wisdom as they seek to encourage their congregations to live as true disciples.
St Nicholas Seminary in Cape Coast, Ghana, is a Provincial Theological College. USPG has been supporting the college predominately through the provision of scholarships to the Seminary. St Nicholas plays an important role in leadership development and clergy formation of the Province.

The mission of St Nicholas Seminary is to educate lay and ordained leaders of the Church and world emphasising the life of daily prayer and worship, high sense of community life, pastoral care, ministerial formation and social justice. The training and formation of Seminarians at St Nicholas has a pastoral dimension. As they begin the formation programme, seminarians come to understand that the priest, like Christ, is ordained ‘not to be served, but to serve’ – not to dominate, but to inspire and guide the people of God. They should become vividly aware of the Church’s mission to all people, and be ready to minister to all people everywhere.
Sunday 3 May: Fourth Sunday of Easter and World Press Freedom Day

Heavenly father,
we pray for those journalists who risk their lives to speak truth to power,
and we pray for more honesty in our media.

Monday 4 We pray for all prospective ordinands, that they come to understand that the priest, like Christ, is ordained ‘not to be served, but to serve’.

Tuesday 5 (International Midwives Day) We pray for all health workers involved in bringing new babies into the world, especially in countries where infant mortality rates are high.

Wednesday 6 Lord, we thank you for the role St Nicholas Seminary plays in leadership development in Ghana, and for the support USPG gives the seminary.

Thursday 7 Let us pray for all the serving and aspiring church leaders currently being trained at St Nicholas Seminary.

Friday 8 (Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War) Lord, as we remember those who died, help us resolve to be peacemakers in the world.

Saturday 9 Lord, we thank you once again for church growth across west Africa.
Bangladesh experiences a number of threats from a changing climate, with one third of the population at risk of displacement because of rising sea levels. These rising sea levels are not only causing the erosion of communities that are losing their homes and land to the encroaching ocean; the salt in the sea water is causing other problems too.

The amount of salt-water in the area has intensified significantly in the past 10 years and is spreading further inland each year. The impact is very visible. As you look around, you can see a reduction in vegetation and wildlife. The quality of plants and fruit grown here has dropped; for example, coconuts grown in the area are much smaller than they once were.

Recognising the urgency, Bangladesh has become very active in terms of planning and action on climate change. The Church of Bangladesh has been responding via its development organisation, Shalom, which holds Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management as one of its core mission priorities. The Church of Bangladesh’s work is based on three principles: awareness raising, capacity building and education.
Sunday 10 May: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Loving Lord, we thank you that you created us all equally, in your own image, and as one inclusive family. Inspire your church to work to overcome inequalities, that the world may see your justice in our midst.

Monday 11 Pray for the Church of Bangladesh’s disaster management work. May it succeed in its objectives of education, raising awareness and risk management.

Tuesday 12 Let us pray for the people living in the parts of Bangladesh that are suffering the most from the effects of rising sea levels.

Wednesday 13 We pray that other countries will follow Bangladesh’s lead, and become more proactive in terms of planning and action on climate change.

Thursday 14 Pray that all people might learn to live in harmony with Creation and with each other.

Friday 15 (International Day of Families) Thank you Lord for the gift of families.

Saturday 16 (International Day of Living Together in Peace) God of peace, we pray that you empower us to be peacemakers and peacebuilders in our world – today and every day.
LIVING WITH A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE
USPG’s new five session study course celebrating diversity within the Anglican Communion.
Copies may be ordered or downloaded from www.uspg.org.uk/lent2020