

# PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FROM  
THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

9 August - 31 October 2020

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# CREATIONTIDE 2020

USPG is pleased to join with millions around the world in celebrating the Season of Creation, from 1 September to 4 October: a season of prayer, worship and action to protect our common home.

As followers of Christ all around the world, we share a common role as caretakers of God's creation. We see that our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of all creation. We rejoice in this opportunity to care for our common home and our sisters and brothers who share it. This year, however, we experience this through the lenses of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has impacted on all our lives in ways that many of us could previously have hardly imagined. Our economies, political structures, healthcare systems, food production chains, energy and transportation systems have been strained and tested as the ramifications of Covid-19 have forced us to recognise our interconnectedness with all creation in new and challenging ways.

As we pray together this Creationtide and beyond, those effects will continue to be made manifest. May we know the presence and guidance of God's Holy Spirit as we seek to pray, worship and act appropriately and imaginatively in this season.

**The Rev'd Canon Richard Bartlett, Director of Mission Engagement,  
USPG**

# 9 - 15 AUGUST

## MY DORM, OUR HOME

The Church of Bangladesh is collaborating with the Diocese of Singapore to support migrant workers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, in a new programme called 'My dorm, our home'.

Singapore is home to some 280,000 migrant workers, mostly from South Asia and working primarily in construction. They are housed in large dormitories situated on the outskirts of the city. In April, the government quarantined four of these dormitories after noting a high number of Covid-19 infections amongst their residents.

The programme was launched after the Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh (CoB), the Rt Rev'd Samuel Sunil Mankhin, responded to a request from the Rt Rev'd Rennis Ponniah, Bishop of the Diocese of Singapore. Together they are aiming to provide 160,000 quarantined migrant workers with online classes in personal skills development, English, music and art.

The Rev'd Lewis Lew, the Diocese of Singapore's Associate Director of Missions, is in charge of running the project. Col James Tan is the Head of Operation of the Diocese of Singapore's Missions Department. He is heading the working groups that are producing the content in three languages.

## **Sunday 9 August (9th Sunday after Trinity)**

**Lord Jesus, you came among us homeless, and as a refugee. Shake our complacency, rekindle our compassion, and help us challenge our leaders to forge a common strategy that is both truly just and fair for all. Amen.**

**Monday 10** Let us pray for the migrant workers the Diocese of Singapore seeks to serve through the 'My dorm, our home' programme.

**Tuesday 11** Let us pray for the loved ones and dependants those migrant workers have back in their home countries, that all their needs will be met during this time of uncertainty.

**Wednesday 12 (International Youth Day)** Let us pray for youth workers and youth ministries within the worldwide Anglican Communion, and for the young people in their care.

**Thursday 13** Give thanks to God for the spirit of collaboration and partnership between the Church of Bangladesh and the Diocese of Singapore, which birthed the 'My dorm, our home' programme.

**Friday 14** Let us pray for Pakistan on its Independence Day.

## **Saturday 15 (The Blessed Virgin Mary)**

Let us pray for India as the country celebrates its Independence Day, and for South Korea as it celebrates National Liberation Day.

# 16 - 22 AUGUST

## FROM CALAIS TO ATHENS: REFUGEE AND MIGRATION INITIATIVES

*The Rev'd Kirrilee Reid, Chaplain and Refugee Projects Officer in northern France.*

In February I travelled to Athens to share in the refugee ministry of the Anglican Church in Greece.

The refugee context in Greece is similar in many ways to that of Calais. Generally, refugees have been travelling for some time, often crossing the Aegean to one of the islands and eventually arriving on the mainland. Indeed, many have been in the camps for years. But Calais, unlike Athens, is very much a transitory place.

I was hosted by the Chaplaincy in Athens and we were able to spend some quality time together sharing our experiences, discussing local responses and supporting each other in our respective ministries.

I was nourished by my time spent building new connections. Visiting various projects in Athens has helped inform my own work. One conversation that we shared in over the week was about how easy it is to become so immersed in the needs in front of us that we forget to speak out and challenge governments to change the way they operate. The current situation with refugees and migrants is untenable and unsustainable. There is a need for creative global solutions.

## **Sunday 16 (10th Sunday after Trinity)**

**Lord God of wilderness, wave and wind,  
you travel with the wanderers of the world.  
Stay close, we pray, to all who live with loss, in terror, and  
adrift, and spur us on to build a world where there is truly  
room for all. Amen.**

**Monday 17** Let us give thanks for the Anglican Church in Greece and pray for its ministry to refugees in Athens.

**Tuesday 18** Let us pray for the chaplaincies across Europe who are reaching out to refugees and migrants trying to make new homes for themselves and their families.

**Wednesday 19** Let us pray for more creative global solutions to be found to address the challenges refugees face.

**Thursday 20** Let us pray that refugee camps all over the world will have access to medical care to deal with the threat posed by Covid-19.

**Friday 21 (International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism)** Let us pray for peace and comfort for everyone who has been affected by acts of terrorism.

**Saturday 22 (International Day Commemorating the Victims of Violence Based on Religion or Belief)** Let us pray for an end to all forms of religious persecution and sectarianism.

# 23 - 29 AUGUST

## BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER COVID-19

*Tamara Khisimisi, Coordinator, the Anglican Church of Malawi.*

Every young child in Malawi has been dreaming of the day they will go back to school after the prolonged stay at home brought on by Covid-19. Not all of them were happy with the enforced holiday, especially those who were about to sit their final examinations.

The outbreak and subsequent lockdown have had a great effect on whatever plans children had made for their school life. It is our prayer that the children will not have been affected psychologically and that their hope is restored, so that they are able to face the future when the schools reopen.

But as much as the children want to go back to school, parents are worried. Malawi's government has put preventive measures in place to avoid a relapse of Covid-19 considering the severity of the virus. But parents worry that children may not fully comply with the preventive measures when they are unsupervised. For this reason, we pray that God will protect our children and guide and help their teachers to manage them effectively. This would give parents hope and strengthen their faith in God.

*(At the time of writing in June, schools in Malawi were due to open in mid-July).*

## **Sunday 23 August (11th Sunday after Trinity; International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition)**

**Father of everlasting compassion, you see your children growing up in a world of inequality, greed and oppression; help them to learn from the mistakes of history, and to build a better world, where your values are shared by all. Amen.**

**Monday 24 (St. Bartholomew the Apostle)** Let us pray for all schools, churches and hospitals whose patron is the Apostle Bartholomew, Saint and Martyr.

**Tuesday 25** Let us pray for all children returning to school following the lifting of Covid-19 lockdowns.

**Wednesday 26** Let us pray for their parents; for peace of mind and reassurance as their children return to school.

**Thursday 27** Let us pray for all students whose exams were postponed, that they may have confidence and use this delay to really prepare for when they finally do sit the exams.

**Friday 28** Let us pray for teachers and all who work in schools, as they adapt to new ways of working in many contexts.

**Saturday 29** Let us pray for all families for whom life is hard and resources scarce in the Covid-19 reality.

# 30 AUGUST - 5 SEPTEMBER

## JUBILEE FOR THE EARTH

*Excerpt from the Season of Creation guide for 2020.*

Climate change is a result of the intersection of greed, inequality and destruction of God's Earth. The theme of Jubilee is chosen for this year's Season of Creation as it reflects those three interlocking themes. Jubilee is a time to renounce overconsumption and economic systems based on constant economic growth at the cost of the earth and those who are poor. Jubilee is a time when those who have consumed the most must make restitution to those who have suffered the most. Jubilee is a time of rest for the land from constant exploitation, to restore ecosystems and people.

The theme of Jubilee has clear links to the root paradigms fuelling unjust exploitation, such as neoliberal and capitalist approaches to the world economy. It brings together the need for a prophetic voice on climate injustice and actions for the restoration of the earth. The theme of Jubilee affirms the need for equality, justice and sustainability, and a transition to sustainable economies. It honours the Jubilee 2000 campaign, which successfully called for an amnesty on debt for Global South countries and redistribution of wealth. And 2020 marks 50 years since the first Earth Day, when the environmental movement was born.

## **Sunday 30 August (12th Sunday after Trinity)**

**Creator God of Love, thank you for the gift of life which we share with all creation.**

**Call us again to safeguard everything you have made for the earth and all its fullness is yours. Amen.**

**Monday 31** Let us pray for the people of both Malaysia and Trinidad & Tobago as they celebrate their Independence Days today.

**Tuesday 1 September** Let us, as we begin the season of Creationtide, commit to do all we can to be good stewards of creation, now and always.

**Wednesday 2** Let us pray for Vietnam as the country marks its Independence Day today, and for the Martyrs of Papua New Guinea.

**Thursday 3** Let us give thanks for the success of the Jubilee 2000 campaign in calling for an amnesty on debt for countries in the Global South.

**Friday 4** Let us give thanks for all that has been achieved in teaching people to care for creation in the 50 years that have passed since the first Earth Day.

**Saturday 5 (International Day of Charity)** Let us pray for the many charities who are facing difficult decisions and cuts as a result of Covid-19.

# 6 - 12 SEPTEMBER

## E-CARE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

*Attorney Floyd Lalwet, Provincial Secretary, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines.*

Through its Episcopal CARE (E-CARE) foundation, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) has established some major breakthroughs in community development.

In March, the Lung Center of the Philippines, one of the leading government hospitals dedicated to the treatment of Covid-19 patients, stopped admitting patients because it no longer had any personal protective equipment (PPE). In response to this, the ECP launched a project to produce PPE for frontline health workers. Romeo de la Cruz, the senior warden of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, enlisted the services of Santi Obcena (an award-winning local fashion designer) to design washable face masks. Santi donated all the material for the masks and cut the pieces himself. The masks are being sewn by E-CARE partners living in marginalised urban communities in Miramonte, Caloocan. Many of these partners have been unable to work during this time of lockdown, and so this project will enable them to earn a much-needed income.

Indeed, the story of the ECP's response to Covid-19 is one of partnership and action.

## **Sunday 6 September (13th Sunday after Trinity)**

**Lord Jesus, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love. Amen.**

**Monday 7** Let us pray for the people of Brazil as the country marks its Independence Day today.

**Tuesday 8** Let us give thanks to God for all the literacy programmes run by USPG's partner churches all over the world.

**Wednesday 9** Let us pray for the Philippines, especially for an end to the oppression and injustices faced by so many of the country's indigenous people groups.

**Thursday 10 (World Suicide Prevention Day)** Let us pray for God's blessing and compassion on all who feel hopeless or vulnerable, and who contemplate suicide.

**Friday 11** Let us give thanks for the ECP's E-CARE programme, and for the way it has both supported health workers and created jobs for people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Saturday 12** Let us pray that the ECP will continue to be a light and a witness of God's love to everyone in the Philippines and beyond.

# 13 - 19 SEPTEMBER

## WHAT THE ASIAN THEOLOGICAL ACADEMY GAVE ME

*Ms Annam Obaid, Sialkot Diocese, Church of Pakistan.*

'Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.' (Benjamin Franklin)

As a south Asian girl, having an opportunity to be a part of the Asian Theological Academy (ATA) in 2016 was a blessing.

The ATA made me think that whether it's environmental pollution, religion and politics, nature and human beings, women's rights or LGBT issues, as Christians we have to wake up, discern and act. We have to raise our voices and encourage others to shift the paradigm of their thoughts towards realities. Attending that ATA conference made me realise that God had a plan and purpose for my life. On returning home, I joined a seminary and am now a graduate. That ATA conference was where I heard the term 'LGBT' for the first time, which inspired me to write my final thesis on biblical views of transgender people. The ATA was the place that gave my pen the power to do so. The journey of my academic biblical learning started from the ATA and is still growing.

Thank you ATA, for being the beacon that showed me where I was meant to be in life.

## **Sunday 13 September (14th Sunday after Trinity)**

**God of Trinity, whose love extends to all your people thank you that you bind us together in faith, hope and love. Help us always to build one another up in faith, as we recognise your spirit in each person, individually made in your own image. Amen.**

**Monday 14 (Holy Cross Day)** Let us pray for strength and courage to glory in the cross as we give thanks for all that Jesus has done for us through the cross.

**Tuesday 15** Let us give thanks for the amazing work being done by the Asian Theological Academy. May it be a blessing to the Church in Asia and beyond.

**Wednesday 16 (International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer)** Let us pray for a reduction in pollution that causes damage to the ozone layer.

**Thursday 17** Let us pray for all the young and aspiring Asian church leaders currently receiving training from the ATA.

**Friday 18** Let us pray for the people of Chile as they mark their Independence Day today.

**Saturday 19** Let us pray for the people of St Kitts and Nevis on their Independence Day.

# PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH



**Greece:**  
Chaplaincy in  
Athens ministry to  
refugees

**St Vincent & the Grenadines:**  
St George's Cathedral  
celebrates 200 years

**Brazil:**  
Black Lives Matter

**South  
Africa:**  
150 years of  
the ACSA

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GLOBAL MISSION

# 9 August 2020 — 31 October 2020



**Japan:**  
Towards a  
nuclear-free world

**The Philippines:**  
E-CARE responds to Covid-19

**Sri Lanka:**  
Life after Covid-19

**Malawi:** Back to school  
after Covid-19

**Singapore:**  
My dorm,  
our home

# 20 - 26 SEPTEMBER

## A STEP FORWARD TO THE WORLD'S PEACE

*The Rt Rev'd David Eisho Uehara, Nippon Sei Ko Kai, Japan.*

On 11 March 2011, the great East Japan earthquake and tsunami devastated the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, causing it to leak radioactivity. Numerous residents left their homes to avoid exposure to radiation, leaving behind many ghost towns looking like scenes from a disaster movie.

When I saw some of those deserted towns, I thought of the nuclear calamities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the agonies those victims of radiation suffered. Japan was determined that another nuclear disaster should never happen anywhere in the world.

Now, however, an atomic nightmare has been caused by Japan's own nuclear power plant. Nuclear power may well be a great source of energy, but we have not learned how to control it and keep it safe, nor have we found a truly clean way to dispose of radioactive waste. Currently, the best we can do is bury such waste underground where leakages can contaminate the earth. Yet many regions of our world continue to depend on nuclear power.

I hope we can learn the wisdom to prevent anyone else becoming a victim of nuclear catastrophe, whether from a weapon or a power plant, and the wisdom to enable the whole human race to build a bright future of peace.

## Sunday 20 September (15th Sunday after Trinity)

**Oh, God of peace and safety,**

**pour your peace on us.**

**Oh, God of peace,**

**grant peace in our hearts.**

*(from an Arabic hymn)*

**Monday 21 (St Matthew; also International Day of Peace)** Let us lift up to the Prince of Peace everyone involved in peacemaking work around the world.

**Tuesday 22** Let us pray for all the scientists and researchers who are looking for ways to dispose of nuclear waste safely.

**Wednesday 23 (International Day of Sign Languages)** Let us give thanks for the brilliant work sign language interpreters do in enabling people to communicate.

**Thursday 24 (World Maritime Day)** Let us pray for ministries such as the Mission to Seafarers, which offer much needed spiritual support to those whose livelihoods are connected to the seas.

**Friday 25** Let us pray for God's continued comfort on all those in Japan who are still mourning loved ones they lost in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

**Saturday 26 (International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons)** Let us give thanks for the NSKK's stand against nuclear weapons and pray that more people join the NSKK's campaign.

# 27 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER

## 150 YEARS OF THE ACSA

*The Ven Horace Arenz, Provincial Executive Officer, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA).*

From the beginnings of Anglican work in Southern Africa in the early years of the nineteenth century, the clergy sent to minister here by agencies such as the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel highlighted the demand for worship and ministry to meet the diverse needs, cultures and languages of the region.

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Province at our first Provincial Synod in 1870, the Church remains true to the vision of meeting these diverse needs, including by enriching and enabling prayer and worship to reflect our diversity, seen in the translation of prayer books and hymnals into the languages of the Province.

From our first diocese in Cape Town, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa has grown and spread to a total of 29 dioceses across the southern tip of Africa, covering six countries: Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, as well as the islands of St. Helena and Ascension.

We thank God for the wonderful privilege of ministering in this place, captured in our Vision Statement, which declares that 'Anglicans ACT' - namely that we are: Anchored in the love of Christ, Committed to God's mission and Transformed by the Holy Spirit.

## **Sunday 27 September (16th Sunday after Trinity)**

**O God, make us faithful witnesses in the mission of your church. Help us to seek justice, to work for healing and salvation of all. Renew and empower us with your Holy Spirit to build your kingdom on earth as in heaven. Amen.**

**Monday 28** Let us give thanks for all the people who have found a spiritual home within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa in the 150 years since it began.

**Tuesday 29 (St. Michael and All Angels)** Let us pray for good health for all the people of Southern Africa, especially those impacted by Covid-19.

**Wednesday 30** Let us pray for the people of Botswana as they celebrate their Independence Day today.

**Thursday 1 October** Let us pray for the ACSA: for wise leadership to steer the church well in the years ahead.

**Friday 2** Let us pray for the people of Guinea as the country marks its Independence Day today.

**Saturday 3** Let us pray for the people of Lesotho, who will be celebrating their Independence Day tomorrow.

# 4-10 OCTOBER

## #BLACKLIVESMATTER: A BRAZILIAN PERSPECTIVE

*Bispo Maurício Andrade, Diocese Anglicana de Brasília.*

On Monday 8 June, two weeks after the death of the American George Floyd, the community of the Anglican Cathedral of the Resurrection knelt in front of the cathedral building, remembering that it is not possible to stand as if everything was fine. They raised their arms, remembering the struggle of oppressed people to live without fear and in peace.

Together with the Very Rev'd Tatiana Ribeiro, Rector of the Anglican Cathedral of the Resurrection, I led a group of members of the community in this memorial act in front of the cathedral. This was not just in memory of George Floyd but also of the deaths of thousands of black Brazilians, victims of violence and neglected by the state - all people who have been killed because of the colour of their skin.

The Church can no longer quietly accept lives being taken in such a brutal, unfair way. For too long, Christian churches accepted theologies that denied that black people had souls, which were used as ideo-theologies to allow enslavement. These ideo-theologies need to be totally rejected and seen as sinful constructs that take away the value God places on all people.

## **Sunday 4 October (17th Sunday after Trinity)**

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;**

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon;**

**Where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;**

**Where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.**

**Amen.** *(after St Francis of Assisi)*

**Monday 5 (World Teachers' Day)** Let us give thanks for all those who devote their lives and talents to education, and pray God's blessing on all teachers today and every day.

**Tuesday 6** Let us give thanks for USPG's Standing in Solidarity campaign and pray that through it many more people will commit to racial justice, equality and reconciliation.

**Wednesday 7** Let us pray for Bishop Mauricio and the Church's stance in support of marginalised people of colour in Brazil.

**Thursday 8** Let us pray with thanksgiving for the growth and witness of the Black Lives Matter movement - in America, in Brazil and all over the world.

**Friday 9** Let us pray for the people of Uganda on the country's Independence Day.

**Saturday 10** Let us pray for the people of Fiji as they mark their Independence Day today.

# 11-17 OCTOBER

## COVID-19 AND SRI LANKA

*The Rt Rev'd Dhilloraj Canagasabey, former Bishop of the Diocese of Colombo.*

At the time of preparing this reflection (June), my country Sri Lanka is gradually returning to a semblance of 'normal' life after nearly two months of lockdown. The lockdown has had a drastic effect on people's livelihoods and the country's economy, already under huge strain following the Easter Day terrorist bombings of 2019.

Covid-19 has shaken the entire world, not just my country. Many questions are being asked by God's children: Where is God in this? Why has God allowed so many thousands to die? This worldwide pandemic has exposed the nakedness and poverty of humankind and our spiritual sickness on one hand; on the other, it has revealed the extent to which we have exploited God's own creation.

I believe that the Church, as a people of God, needs to ask itself the question: have we been faithful to the biblical command to care for creation? Let us as a community of believers in God the Creator and Sustainer, be inspired to play a more assertive role in advocating for a new, more balanced approach to development and the way we interact with our environment in the post-Covid world.

## **Sunday 11 October (18th Sunday after Trinity)**

**Loving God, we pray that through your grace and mercy, you may bring strength, consolation and peace to the thousands who have suffered and are yet suffering because of Covid-19 in Sri Lanka and the rest of the world. Amen.**

**Monday 12** Let us give thanks for the church in Sri Lanka and the way it has stepped up to support people affected by Covid-19.

**Tuesday 13** Let us pray for those in Sri Lanka whose livelihoods have been hardest hit by Covid-19, including daily wage earners and people working in the tourism and hospitality industries.

**Wednesday 14** Let us pray for help to re-examine our relationship with the world around us in our own reactions and responses to Covid-19.

**Thursday 15 (International Day of Rural Women)** Pray for the programmes run by USPG's partner churches in various parts of the world, aimed at empowering women and girls living in rural areas.

**Friday 16 (World Food Day)** Let us pray for Sri Lanka's farmers, also hard hit by Covid-19 and doing all they can to grow the crops that will feed the nation.

**Saturday 17 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty)** Let us pray for strength and resolve to eliminate poverty in all its forms around the world.

# 18 - 24 OCTOBER

## JOURNEY WITH US: REFLECTIONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

*The Rev'd Rob Penrith, a Journey With Us placement host.*

It is in times like this - times of crisis - that USPG has been visible and active in the lives of South Africans through its partnership with the country's churches over many decades.

I first encountered the generosity and care of the USPG philosophy while serving as rector of a parish in Walmer, a suburb of Port Elizabeth. We were blessed to receive Alison Fowler as our first participant on the Experience Exchange Programme, as Journey With Us was known then. Alison was followed by Kathryn Mowatt, Faye Woollard, Jemma Geffen, Hannah Silcock and Dominique Iste, all of whom became an integral part of our lives and ministry. They just had something about them! Perhaps it was that we could see in them, as they hopefully saw in us, Christ the hope of glory.

Through the encouragement of USPG we were able to establish significant ministries in our local township area, an area with huge needs and severe poverty. Our ministry here includes care for HIV orphans and destitute families, feeding, clothing and education.

This is just a small example of how seeds USPG planted in our part of the world have developed into all sorts of wonderful fruit.

## **Sunday 18 October (19th Sunday after Trinity; St Luke the Evangelist)**

**Christ the hope of glory, our praise is in the Gospel.  
Help us to proclaim in word and deed  
the wholesome medicine of the Gospel  
with love and power to heal, in the name of Christ.  
Amen.**

**Monday 19** Let us pray for all involved in the healing ministry of the Church across the world.

**Tuesday 20** Let us pray for all who live with HIV and Aids and all who support and care for them.

**Wednesday 21** Let us give thanks for the Journey With Us programme and the way it has helped foster good relationships between USPG and our partner churches overseas.

**Thursday 22** Let us also give thanks for how the Journey With Us programme has enabled people to find their way into ministry and mission.

**Friday 23** Let us pray for all the people who were meant to be on placements with Journey With Us and Expanding Horizons this year, whose plans have now been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Saturday 24** Let us pray for everyone involved in the running of both Journey With Us and Expanding Horizons, especially for those in the host countries receiving people on placement.

# 25 - 31 OCTOBER

## ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

The Cathedral Church of St George in Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines, is usually referred to as the 'Mother Church' of the Diocese of the Windward Islands. The present building was consecrated on 6 September 1820. It became a Cathedral in 1877 when the Diocese of the Windward Islands was constituted.

The theme of the Cathedral's bicentennial celebrations is 'Affirming our heritage, forging new paths'.

The British colonies were characterized by the presence of the Church of England in the West Indies where there was limited or no separation between the Church and the State. In St Vincent and the Grenadines, the Church was disestablished in 1878.

The Cathedral continues its mission to share the Gospel of Christ today - not only in training clergy but also with its efforts in education, social outreach and ecumenism.

The current attempt to renovate the cathedral building is not the only restoration work that is happening here. God is always restoring this community, restoring us as people of faith, because we never fully arrive at the place of Christian perfection.

## **Sunday 25 October (Bible Sunday/Last Sunday after Trinity)**

**God of yesterday, today and for ever,  
Thank you that in you we may affirm our heritage and  
forge new paths. Pour your blessing upon your church as  
we commemorate the past, seek your will in the present  
and lay our plans for the future before you. Amen.**

**Monday 26** Let us pray for all the cathedral ministries in the Province of the West Indies, for their service in the mission of Christ and the development of nations.

**Tuesday 27** Let us pray for the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines as they celebrate their Independence Day today.

**Wednesday 28 (St Simon and St Jude, Apostles)** Let us pray for the Church in the Province of the West Indies, that its churches will be a source of support and comfort to many.

**Thursday 29** Let us pray for the completion of the ongoing restorative work being done on the structure of St George's Cathedral.

**Friday 30** Let us pray for the safety of the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines during this year's hurricane season.

**Saturday 31 (World Cities Day)** Let us pray for churches that are based in urban areas, that they may be a place of solace and nurturing for all weary city dwellers.

# PRAYER DIARY

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