

Call to Prayer and Fasting **Sun 22 March (or any other day this coming week)**

The GAFCON leadership has issued a call to prayer and fasting, asking us to pray particularly about the COVID-19 pandemic, swarming locusts in East Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and famine and hunger in regions of Africa.

Here are their message and prayer points:

In these days where global fear and anxiety are on the increase due to the pandemic spread of the Coronavirus, and the exponential growth of locust swarms and famine, we look to our Sovereign Lord God for refuge, consolation, intervention, wisdom, cure, and provision.

We know from Scripture and experience that God acts differently when we pray. We believe that He not only hears our prayers, but that He uses people like our leaders, scientists, and medical professionals to accomplish His will. We pray that God would grant them wisdom, insight and strength in these coming days. We pray that in this time, people will call on Jesus in their pain, suffering and worries and find the rest and hope that only He can provide.

We call on Anglicans around the globe to join together in the Holy Spirit, in prayer and fasting this Sunday, 22 March 2020.

Let us pray and fast for our nations:

- repenting of our sins and asking God's forgiveness
- asking God's intervention to stop the spread of this virus
- asking God's intervention to stop the locusts
- asking God for healing for those who are sick
- asking God for miraculous provision for the hungry
- asking God to use us, his people, as agents of love and compassion

- asking God to draw people to himself through the saving power of Jesus on the cross.

“Return to Me with all your heart,” says the Lord, “with fasting, weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts, not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who know whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him. Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast.” - Joel 2:12-15

Let us pray:

Eternal God, whose son Jesus Christ bore our grief and carried our sorrows, 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.

Help us, O Lord, who offer these prayers, to bear the sufferings of others as we seek to minister to them in your name, demonstrating your love and bringing your grace to bear in their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Increase, O God, the spirit of neighborliness among us, that in peril we may uphold one another, in suffering tend to one another, and in homelessness, loneliness, or exile befriend one another. Grant us brave and enduring hearts that we may strengthen one another, until the disciplines and testing of these days are ended, and you again give peace in our time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP, 2019 #44, page

Faithfully in Jesus Christ,

Archbishop Foley Beach, Gafcon Chairman

Archbishop Ben Kwashi, Gafcon General Secretary

To this our own Bishop Jay has added:

Please join me in continuing to pray to our sovereign God:

- That he would halt the spread of this coronavirus and spare further loss of life
- That he would guide researchers to find a vaccine and effective therapeutic treatments
- That he would “teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12)
- That he would make us “strong and courageous” during this extraordinary time
- That he would enable us to step toward one another and toward our neighbours in love, and that with his help we would be a great blessing to our communities
- That he would care and provide for all those who are particularly affected: medical professionals, businesses, the vulnerable, the lonely, the elderly, and others
- That many would turn to him and find the hope that Jesus offers during this crisis

Your brother in Christ, Jay Behan
Bishop, Church of Confessing Anglicans