

Day of Prayer for South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo 23 February 2018

Materials for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (drawn from material from the Anglican Church of Congo and Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa)

Prayer Points from the [Anglican] [Congo Church Association](#)

“In the Democratic Republic of Congo, an upsurge in militia activity, clashes and insecurity in different areas in recent days and weeks has displaced thousands of people and sent many across the borders into Uganda and Burundi. Bunia, in Boga Diocese, has seen a huge influx of people from Djugu territory (between Bunia and Aru) where clashes took place.

Please pray for :

- community, church and Government officials as they work for peaceful solutions, remembering particularly Bishop William of Boga, Bishop Ande of Aru and Rev Bisoke, National Youth Coordinator;
- effective help from churches and NGOs to the displaced and refugees;
- ongoing preparations for elections due to be held on 23rd December 2018

In Kasai there remain huge numbers of internally displaced people across the region, with insufficient access to food: pray for Bishop Kapinga and his clergy as they seek to minister in these very challenging circumstances, and pray for provision of basic needs, food, health care and shelter, for the population and peace enabling them to return home.

Bishop Achille of Kinshasa will shortly be starting a pastoral and outreach visit to Matadi and Boma.

Give thanks for the participation of 9 youth leaders plus Rev Bisoke at a youth training conference in December organised in Kampala by the Church of Uganda – pray for their fruitful ministry and outreach amongst young people, many of whom lack jobs or opportunity for further studies.”

A Prayer adapted from the Anglican Church of Congo's Liturgy

(adapted from the [prayer commended by Archbishop Masimango Katanda for this Lent](#) – see below)

God who watches over our world,
look upon the Democratic Republic of Congo;
Grant that all its inhabitants may seek the common good,
And that those who govern there may govern with wisdom,
So that there may be more justice amongst all its people,
and in the whole world, more happiness and peace.

A Prayer adapted from the Anglican Church of Congo's Eucharistic Service

*(original translated by the Revd Canon Ian Tarrant and available on the Congo Church Association website:
<http://www.congochurchassn.org.uk/ministry/>)*

We remember the leaders of all the churches: may they be blessed with wisdom and unity.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

We remember the leaders of the Democratic Republic of Congo: may they rule with justice.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

May righteousness be the Congolese people's shield and protector.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

May the country be at peace; and the people be blessed.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

May the herds increase; and the fish in the lakes be many.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

May the fields yield abundantly; may the harvests be great.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

May all artisans and traders see the benefit of their labours.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

May all who are enemies turn from strife and seek peace.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

May the strength of the Lord support all who are sick.

All **Good Lord, hear us.**

A prayer by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

Loving God, Prince of Peace, we pray today for our sisters and brothers in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo;

We pray for the victims and survivors of violence in those nations,

We pray for refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries, and for the millions of people crowded into camps for displaced people,

We pray for their politicians, that they will learn how to become servant leaders, dedicated to the interests of their people.

Lord Jesus, you are our hope,

Our faith in you grounds us in hope,

It gives us certainty that peace can be made,

It strengthens our resolve that peace must be made,

And hope helps us to triumph over all.

We pray that the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan,

Will focus on the hope that you inspire,

Hold one another's hands,

Look upon one another, eyeball to eyeball,

And resolve to build united, peaceful nations.

This we pray in your precious name,

Amen

The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Congo's [First Pastoral Letter – for Lent](#)

(see Facebook page for the Eglise Anglican du Congo/EAC)

The season of Lent begins on this Ash Wednesday – 40 days in which to prepare ourselves for the feast of Easter! During these forty days, we will not be able to forget the verbal and physical violence which is taking hold of our neighbourhoods and cities ... and sometimes of our own selves. During these forty days, we will not be able to ignore the distress of those who live in the Provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo who, knowing the scourge of war, are rushing onto the roads of exodus, notably our brothers and sisters of the Provinces of Ituri, Nord-Kivu, all the Provinces of Kasai, and the City-Province of Kinshasa.

Lent doesn't place us outside the world. It plunges us into the heart of the world, so that we may be present there in the manner of Christ. For this purpose, we wish to follow resolutely the path of conversion, responding to the triple invitation which Christ addresses to us on Ash Wednesday: to pray, to fast and to give alms.

1. Praying

During this time of Lent, let us take the time to pray for those who suffer physically and spiritually. Let us also take the time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in the always-demanding pursuit of the common good ... a pursuit which is also for us disciples of Christ a path of conversion ... letting the cries of the world touch us, in order to transform them into shared hope.

During this time of Lent, I invite you also to pray for our country, borrowing these words from the liturgy: "God who watches over our world, look upon the country in which you have given it to us to live; grant to all its inhabitants to seek the common good, to those who govern us to do so with wisdom, so that amongst us there may be more justice, and in the whole world, more happiness and peace."

During this time of Lent, may prayer also become family prayer, as "the family that prays together, stays together"

2. Fasting

I invite you, my brothers and sisters, to "active non-violence." Violence comes from the human heart: "it is from within, out of the heart of man, that evil thoughts come" (Mark 7:21). In this Lent, may all desire for physical or verbal violence (there are words that 'kill') leave our hearts! With Christ we learn that active non-violence is a force that can transform society when it denounces, in season and out of season, the situations of injustice and exclusion on which violence feeds. May our families be places where people learn to resolve conflicts in a non-violent fashion: the family is the indispensable crucible in which spouses, parents and children, brothers and sisters, learn to communicate and to care for each other selflessly, and where frictions, and even conflicts, must be overcome, not by force but by dialogue, respect, seeking the other's good, mercy and forgiveness.

Each Friday of Lent, I invite you to fast, so that God may drive from our hearts - and all human hearts - all desire for violence, and make them places of welcome for his forgiveness.

3. Giving alms

To give alms is to offer money to those in need without expecting anything in return. It's inspired by love of neighbour. Today, to indicate that each person can [both] give and receive, we hear more often the call to solidarity. Lent is always an invitation to sharing: sharing of what we are ... sharing of what we have

Sharing of what we are, because 'the other' is a gift, and right relationship with other people consists in recognising their worth. During this time of Lent, could we dare an encounter with the person whom we don't know well ... or at all?

Sharing of what we have Among all the appeals that will come your way, I invite you to show your solidarity with those displaced by war in the DRC.

During this Lent, let us be committed to returning to the Lord through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In this way, we will be able to live in the world not after the manner of men, but after the manner of Christ, in bearing witness to Easter joy!

A very good Lent to all,
His Grace MASIMANGO KATANDA Zacharie
Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Congo.

To donate to work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Congo Church Association – [Online donation facility](https://www.congochurchassn.org.uk/). You can also find other ways of donating at <http://www.congochurchassn.org.uk/>.

These materials for the Day of Prayer were gathered by Christian Concern for One World. We are grateful to the Congo Church Association and Archbishop Thabo Makgoba for giving us permission to publish materials from their emails and website.

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