

Archbishop's Message 2023

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

Light houses are essential to all seafaring vessels, especially before the availability of modern navigation technologies. A light house gives bearing and direction to ships, a sense of certainty, especially in the midst of storms and darkness. It helps the captain to stir the ship towards safety or away from danger.

The world that we live in today, is faced with multiple challenges. With changing values and changing laws, from issues concerning human sexuality to human sufferings, aggravated by the effects of wars and the pandemic, we find ourselves as a Province, engulfed in unprecedented storms and darkness. All these developments surrounding us in our region and within our Anglican Communion, demand us to keep our bearing right as God's Church and God's people in the world. Who can provide us the direction, assurance and strength we so desperately need amidst the shaking of our faith? How can we and our future generations navigate through turbulent waters of faith, mission and economic hardships ahead? Thanks be to God for Jesus, who is "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith". What He has began in us (pioneer), He will also see us through (perfecter).

Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12). He alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). He is therefore the immovable Lighthouse to the Church. I encourage us to fix our eyes on Jesus. Hold on to His infallible, timeless words, unwavering in our trust in Him. I urge us as a Province, in this coming year of 2023 and beyond, to focus on Jesus and His words, to focus on the non-negotiable essentials in carrying on the Great Commission in our region, and to make known Christ and His love in our respective context.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Do not focus on the storms. For our Jesus sat down at the right hand of the throne of God and He reigns! He is so much bigger than the storms. He is faithful and trustworthy. He will never leave us nor forsake us.

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding fills your hearts and mind, now and always.



The Most Revd. Datuk Melter Jiki Tais
Primate of the Province of the Anglican Church in South East Asia
Bishop of Sabah



The Province of
South East Asia



FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS

Hebrews 12:2



Provincial Sunday
5 February 2023



DIocese OF SABAH

Diocesan Bishop : The Most Revd Datuk Melter Jiki Bin Tais
Assistant Bishop : The Rt Revd John Yeo

THANKSGIVING & PRAISE

1. Thank the Lord for a fruitful Diocesan Synod meeting in person after reopening.
2. Though churches were largely in lockdown, the Lord added to the churches significant number of new believers.
3. Despite challenges from the pandemic, we thank and praise the Lord for enabling the Diocese of Sabah to continue in our development projects which include new church buildings and extension works.
4. We thank and praise God for the ordination of 6 priests and 2 deacons, licensing of 9 pastors in 2022. We rejoice at the 1st ordination conducted in Nunukan, Kalimantan, Indonesia.
5. As some Diocesan events were conducted in person or hybrid, we rejoice in the favourable response from the Diocese. We thank the Lord for record high attendance at the BM prayer conference and youth conferences.

INTERCESSION

1. Pray for all churches that we will seize every opportunity to reach out to the younger generation, intentionally discipling the next generation of clergy, pastors and leaders in the church and society.
2. Pray that the whole Diocese will embrace a clear common vision as we move towards creating Area Dioceses. Pray for the Diocesan leadership to be endowed with wisdom from the Lord to strategize for optimum growth.
3. Ask for steady provision of financial resources, land and properties for the expansion work of the church.
4. Empowering of laity and raising up of full time ministers for the works of ministry and mission, including marketplace ministry. Pray that the Diocese will utilize all means possible and permissible to this end.
5. Pray that the Diocese will through mission schools, church-run vision schools, any social outreach and welfare efforts to touch the unchurched and stay relevant to our society.



DIocese OF KUCHING

Diocesan Bishop : The Rt Revd Datuk Danald Jute
Assistant Bishop : The Rt Revd Nelson Ugas Bulang
The Rt Revd Andrew Shie

THANKSGIVING & PRAISE

1. Ordination of six new Deacons and one Priest in March and April 2022 respectively.
2. Graduation of three seminarians from STM, and lay leaders with Certificates and Diplomas from various theological colleges.
3. For the many years of faithful service of Archdeacon Stanley Bunseng and Rev. Canon Dennis Gimang who retired last year.
4. The collation and installation of two Archdeacons and two Canons, and the creation of Upper Central Sarawak Archdeaconry and a mission district.
5. The 23rd Biennial Diocesan Women's Fellowship was successfully held in Miri.
6. The consecration of Rt. Rev. Andrew Shie as an Assistant Bishop in September.

INTERCESSION

1. The rebuilding of the House Of Epiphany, Kuching as our Diocesan Theological College, along with other building projects.
2. HTBB church planting in Kuching
3. Seminarians in training at Seminari Teologi Sabah, Kota Kinabalu and Seminari Teologi Malaysia, Seremban and those in our Internship Programs.
4. Mission work in Sarawak, Brunei and West Kalimantan.
5. Mission schools - for heads of schools, Management Boards, teachers and students.



DIocese OF SINGAPORE

Diocesan Bishop : The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung Khiam Boon
Assistant Bishop : The Rt Revd Low Jee King

THANKSGIVING & PRAISE

1. Partnership in new parish-groupings in creating new opportunities for relationships and collaborations
2. As Singapore emerges from the shadow of COVID19 and all the restrictions that have accompanied the pandemic, our parishes are slowly returning to more normal practices.
3. November 2022 ordination of 32 candidates, with 28 coming from the deaneries, consisting of 15 from Indonesia, 9 from Nepal, 2 from Thailand and 2 from Cambodia.
4. Praise God for His financial provision for the purchase of a hotel for Anglican Theological College Indonesia and the construction of St Andrew's School, Niki-Niki.
5. Ongoing effort to be effective in evangelism and growth of parishes, including church planting.

INTERCESSION

1. Diocese of Singapore
 - Area Groups with a focus on inter-parish community and support.
 - Clergy, deaconesses, pastoral staff to cope under considerable stress as we continue to face new challenges and ever-changing working conditions.
2. School Principals & Senior Leadership Team
 - Wisdom and courage to lead the team in fulfilling Christian education mission.
3. Missions / Deaneries
 - More workers to serve in the various missions outputs, English centres, dormitories.
4. Community Services
 - Enhancing end-of-life palliative care in Nursing Homes and Home Care Services; strengthening of pastoral and spiritual care for staff and beneficiaries in every centre; divine grace and miraculous intervention for challenging cases of autism and psychiatric illness.



DIocese OF WEST MALAYSIA

Diocesan Bishop : The Rt Revd Dr Steven Abbarow
Assistant Bishop : The Rt Revd Dr Jason Selvaraj
The Rt Revd Dr Stephen Soe Chee Cheng

THANKSGIVING & PRAISE

1. Following a post-pandemic setting, members, money and ministries are returning to church life. An Ordination at All Saints' Church KL saw an addition of 14 new priests and deacons, and one deaconess added. Baptism numbers are returning to the churches. Mission work continued in Perak interiors and Cameron Highlands amongst the Orang Asli. We give thanks!
2. We give thanks and pray for the diocesan clergy and lay leadership to stay focussed and to re-ignite the Mission and Ministry of the Diocese as set out in the Diocesan Theme 2021-2030, "Behold, I Make All Things New!".
3. We give thanks for the courageous and steadfast leadership of Bishop Steven. His perseverance and passionate push for the furtherance of the gospel throughout the Diocese is most inspiring; leadership by example.

INTERCESSION

1. For the desired goal of the Diocesan Theme (2021-2030) to bear fruit. Pray that all Clergy, Deaconesses, PCCs, Diocesan Committees and board members will work together with dedication towards growth in discipleship, godly leadership, and new church plants.
2. Pray that the Lord will heal Bishop Steven and sustain him to complete his episcopacy with distinction. Bless his wife, Anne and their children. Pray also for Bishop Jason Selvaraj and Bishop Stephen Soe that the Lord will bless them with His grace, good health and goodness.
3. Theological Training: Seminari Theoloji Malaysia, St Paul's Theological College and the Diocesan lay training and leadership development program, AIM (Anglican Institute of Ministry) that students of biblical studies will be sufficiently equipped in the mission field in whatever capacity and wherever God leads them.
4. For Diocesan Children's Ministry and Youth Ministries in the Diocese. Pray for effective outreach work amongst children and youths; that they will grow up to know Christ and put their trust in Him.
5. For empowerment and effectiveness in diocesan social ministries. Pray for compassionate responses, training of staff, increased manpower and good financial support.