

The Diocese of Amazonia in the Anglican Church of Brazil

is one of our partner dioceses in the Anglican Communion. Bishop Marinez would have visited us before the now postponed Lambeth Conference in July. This week Bishop Marinez wrote to me about the pandemic as it is affecting people in the Diocese, which covers a very large geographical area, with cities like Belem, and the Amazon rainforest.

Please pray for Bishop Marinez and the people she and her Diocese are trying to serve.

Bishop Ian

Bishop Marinez writes:



We are facing a very difficult time in the life of the world, we are walking through many uncertainties and with many insecurities. I will try to describe a little of what we are experiencing here in the Diocese of the Amazonia in this pandemic time:

Here in Brazil the contagion process is on the rise, and expanding everywhere, there are some studies that claim that Brazil will be the next worldwide epidemic focus, the contagion rate in Brazil is very worrying. Especially in the southeast, north and northeast there are more cases and deaths.

In 3 of the 5 states that are part of the Diocese of the Amazonia (Amazonas, Amapá and Pará) we are already in a collapse of the health system, the State of Pará, whose capital is Belém (the city where the Diocese is headquartered and where I live), has been in lockdown and we don't know how much longer we will be like this, the State of Amazonas, whose capital is Manaus, is already in a funerary collapse, there are no more funeral urns and people are being buried in plastic bags, people are dying without getting medical attention, people are dying in their homes and at the doors of hospitals. Is very sad.

In the Amazon region, people are more vulnerable because basic sanitation is precarious, the health system is scrapped, most impoverished people work in informal jobs and do not have stability or job guarantees, so now there are many people who are starving.

Indigenous peoples are in total vulnerability. The Brazilian government is easing the laws so that gold prospectors can enter areas on indigenous lands that were previously preserved, this is very serious because, in addition to the destruction of nature, pollution, deforestation, it will also cause Covid 19 to reach native villages more isolated, further away from urban centers and may cause the death of entire villages.



Indigenous peoples living in urban areas are also very vulnerable, food, medicine, protective materials such as gloves, masks and alcohol are lacking ... the situation is really worrying.

Our internal situation in the Church is also difficult, we have several people from our Parishes, Missions and Mission Points infected by Covid 19, some family members of Church members have already died.

But, by the merciful grace of God, we have discovered new ways of living the faith and we are approaching as we can, through virtual means, which allow us to pray and reflect on the word of God. We are having Moments of Worship and Virtual Services with lives on Facebook and Youtube every morning and night. And we are also helping with solidarity actions, distributing food, and making masks to help indigenous peoples especially in Manaus and Belém.

Please continue to pray for us while we also pray for you permanently.

18 May 2020

The Diocese of Calcutta in the Church of North India

is our other partner diocese in the Anglican Communion, and Bishop Paritosh would also have visited us in July, before the Lambeth Conference. The area was already being badly affected by the pandemic, especially in the crowded city of Kolkata, when further tragedy struck on Wednesday 20 May. Cyclone Amphan caused huge damage and great loss of life on the coast of eastern India and Bangladesh. More than 2 million people have been evacuated from their homes in Bangladesh, and a further half a million people in West Bengal and Odisha were moved from vulnerable low-lying areas to shelters. But people face an impossible choice of facing the cyclone by staying put or risking Coronavirus infection in crowded camps and shelters.

If you have contact with people or churches in the Diocese of Calcutta, please keep in touch with them, and share with us here any information or requests for prayer and other support.

Bishop Ian

On 22 May I wrote to Bishop Paritosh, expressing our concern and support for him and his Diocese in this emergency:

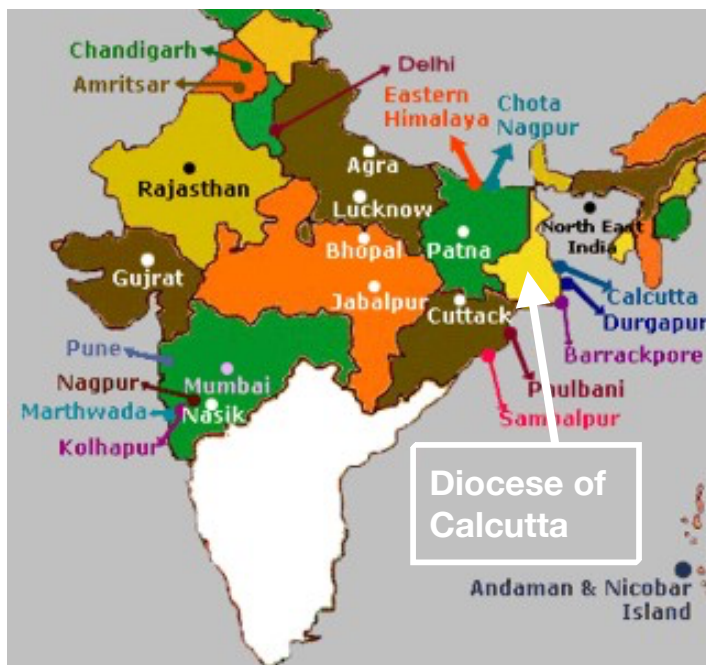
Dear Bishop Paritosh,

We are very saddened and shocked by the news from Kolkata, and are praying for you and for your people, after the devastating cyclone that has caused such destruction. Coming at the same time as the Coronavirus crisis it must have added to the suffering and loss of so many people there.

I keep you in prayer always, dear Bishop Paritosh, and all of our churches pray for you as our partner Diocese. May God keep you safe, and bless your ministry and the work of the whole Church there.

With warmest regards,
+ Ian

Bishop Paritosh replied:



damaged and boundary walls has collapsed which poses a threat to their security. In St. Paul's Cathedral, roof trusses were blown away causing water seepage in the walls, floors and on a grand piano. Added to that, in the Cathedral, huge old trees have been uprooted causing the boundary wall to collapse.

Please continue to pray for our Diocese.

Yours sincerely,
+Paritosh

22 May 2020



Dear Bishop Ian,

Greetings from the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI!

Thank you very much for your prayer and concern for the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI when cyclone Amphan made landfall in West Bengal and wreaked havoc in the State. I am trying to give you an overall picture of the damages we suffered in the Diocese of Calcutta, CNI.

Kolkata is one of the four worst affected districts in West Bengal. To give you an idea, in many of our Churches, big trees have been uprooted causing much damage. In one Church, beautiful antique stained glass above the altar has been broken into pieces. In some Churches, fierce wind has blown away roof-top water tanks. Similarly, tin roofs in the members' houses in Krishnapur, Kalagachhia, Geonkhali and Nahajari were blown away coupled with the cyclone, there has been incessant rainfall all over. In two of our Girls' hostels, rooms were