

**Diocese of Salisbury**

# **Please Pray for Sudan**



**Referendum Prayer  
Request.**

## Background Information

On January 9<sup>th</sup> – if all goes to plan – Sudan will hold a referendum vote to decide its future. The referendum is an essential part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), signed 6 years ago, which ended 20 years of civil war in which over 2 million died. The people of Southern Sudan will decide whether to remain in a united Sudan or establish their own nation.

This is no small matter - there are huge implications whatever the outcome for everyone living in Sudan. People who have been displaced from home by the war are giving up jobs and returning ahead of the referendum to be with friends and family.

If Sudan splits, a new country will be generated that will need much outside aid, lots of development and our support in prayer. If Sudan remains as one it will face major challenges in uniting the north and south under new federal government, and in helping the South of the country to bring fair government and development in rural areas.

The Episcopal Church of Sudan has agreed to remain as one church. It will need to support those dioceses in the north who will be in an Islamic state, should Sudan decide to split. The resources required to maintain a functioning and growing church in Sudan will not diminish whatever happens at the referendum.

There are huge tensions and expectations on all sides about a likely outcome for Sudan and much political wrangling over power and wealth distribution. There is also much argument over the actual border line between North and South, particularly as much of this runs through rich oil fields. This is could easily become a source of conflict.

Whatever happens, in a country more used to fighting than talking and with so much at stake for all involved there is a huge potential for violence and bloodshed at this time.

Everyone is asking for prayer as the referendum approaches and as a diocese in fellowship with the Episcopal Church of Sudan we should look to respond in prayer. Please ask your priests and church intercessors to remember Sudan and the referendum in their public prayers, praying especially for a peaceful outcome. Please remember this event and pray for it yourselves at home, at work, in church and please encourage others to do the same.

Prayer for Sudan at this time of change is very important. Join with us and prayer partners around the globe in supporting our brothers and sisters in Sudan through this time. **January 9<sup>th</sup> has been requested as a day of prayer in Churches across the diocese, please try to keep that day so that we can pray together.**

**A Prayer Wall is being established. Yours prayers for Sudan can be e-mailed to [sudan.prayer@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:sudan.prayer@salisbury.anglican.org) in any format.** Thank you

## **A Prayer for Sudan**

Lord God Almighty,  
King of Kings, Creator and Sustainer of all,  
we cry to You for all the people of Sudan  
as the completion of the  
Comprehensive Peace Agreement approaches.  
Father,  
you know their hopes and fears,  
you know the lack of organisation  
for the Referendum,  
you know the vested interests of some  
and the weakness and simplicity of others.  
You know the potential for violence  
and you know the longing in many hearts for a  
Sudan in which all people may live and grow in  
peace.  
May your love for all mankind guide those  
entrusted to lead the nation through these birth  
pains.  
Move by the power of Your Spirit to bring  
order, peace and justice to this land,  
that those who honour You  
may live and work to Your praise and glory  
Amen

# More Prayers for Sudan

## **A PRAYER OF ARCHBISHOP TUTU**

God, all holy One,  
you are our Father, and our Mother,  
and we are your children.  
Open our eyes and our hearts  
so that we may be able to discern  
your work in the universe.  
And be able to see Your features  
in every one of Your children.  
May we learn that there are many paths  
but all lead to You.  
Help us to know that you have created us  
for family, for togetherness,  
for peace, for gentleness,  
for compassion, for caring, for sharing.

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu, provided by the Save Darfur Coalition.**

God of the ages,  
we pray for the people of Sudan. Stand with them as they face  
violence, displacement, and death. Comfort those who grieve.  
Guide those who work for peace and seek to implement peace  
agreements. May the killing and violence stop. May your peace  
with justice prevail. May those who hunger be fed. Touch the  
hearts and minds of the nations of the world so that they will  
respond with wisdom and compassion. We pray through Jesus  
Christ. Amen.

**Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.**

Gracious God,  
watch over those who journey to Sudan to keep the peace.  
Guide them in their work. Bless the efforts of the  
peacekeepers. Hold them in your care. Speed the day when  
violence ends and all the people live in safety. May peace reign  
and justice roll down like waters across Sudan. We pray in  
Jesus' name. Amen.

## ***Christian Aid Prayer for Sudan***

Merciful Father  
deliver Sudan from conflicts  
that tear apart families,  
force communities to flee  
destroy villages and lives and hope.  
Lord, when we pray for peace,  
grant Sudan the noise of families laughing  
and children playing together.

Gracious God,  
we pray for all who seek peace for Sudan –  
for people who simply want to live their lives with their  
neighbours  
for peacekeepers who work to prevent violence on the ground  
for international organizations and diplomats who seek  
solutions  
for leaders of the government and opposition groups that they  
might act with wisdom, courage, and vision.  
Guide all seek to walk in the paths of peace and justice. Bless  
their efforts. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of  
Peace. Amen.

## ***Prayer for PEACE in Sudan***

Lord Jesus, you who said to us;  
"I leave you peace. My peace I give you."  
Look upon us your sisters and brothers  
in Sudan as we face this moment  
of referendum.  
Send us your Spirit  
to guide us.  
Give us the wisdom we need to choose  
our future where we will know  
your true peace.  
You call us out of slavery, oppression,  
and persecution so that we may  
have life in abundance.  
Grant us peace with one another.  
Give peace among ethnic groups.  
Help us to work together for the good of all.  
We ask this in your name,  
Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.  
Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

**Adapted from a prayer by Bishop Desmond Tutu.**

*Official prayer of the 101 Days of Prayer for Peace in Sudan. Approved by the Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference. Solidarity with Southern Sudan*

*[www.solidarityssudan.org](http://www.solidarityssudan.org)*

## **A PRAYER FOR SUDAN**

We pray for the people of Sudan who worry if the peace will hold;

We pray for the people who have been terrorized and forced from their homes; for those who have fled to refugee camps, and who still live in fear;

We pray for those who have died, and for their families;

We pray for the women who face danger every day as they leave their camps for firewood – may You watch over Your daughters;

We pray for the children, especially those who face a frightening world without one or both of their parents - may they be protected and comforted;

We pray for the safety of the humanitarian aid workers as they feed and care for the people;

We pray for the safety of the United Nations' personnel working in Sudan;

We pray for mission workers who seek to teach skills and tools for seeking peace and striving for reconciliation;

We pray that the world's leaders will be guided by You in their quest for justice and safety for the people of Sudan – may they be inspired by Your humanity;

Remind us that we are all your children, and teach us to listen;

We pray that those who are causing death and misery in Sudan will turn from violence – and turn to You for guidance instead;

Teach us to rejoice in all the things we have in common and respect each others' differences;

We pray that people everywhere will strive to live in peace, tolerance, and respect, no matter what their faith or race - may we gain the wisdom, grace, and generosity of spirit to overcome our differences and live as one. Amen

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu, adapted primarily to expand the focus to include Sudan.**

Gracious God,

we pray for our sisters and brothers affected by violence and warfare in Sudan. Protect all who are in harm's way. Comfort all who grieve. Work healing within all who are wounded. Bless the efforts of those who seek to make peace agreements benefit the Sudanese people. Care for those who have been driven from their homes. Guide and sustain those who pursue justice. Lead the peoples away from violence between the different groups and tribes and toward living together. Use us and your children as answers to our own prayers. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, based on emails with members of the Sudan Advocacy Action Forum and on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle.**

### **Collect for the Sudan. Salisbury Cathedral**

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ wept over your people,  
because they knew not the way of peace,  
And were as sheep without a shepherd  
hear our prayer for the people of the Sudan.  
Turn the hearts of their leaders to reconciliation and peace.  
Bless their Bishops and clergy,  
that they may be true shepherds of your flock.  
Strengthen those who heal the wounded and feed the  
starving.  
And hasten time when all nations will own your just and  
gentle rule and receive your gift of peace,  
Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord  
Amen

#### **Acknowledgement with thanks**

Diocese of Salisbury Sudan Committee 2010, Salisbury Cathedral, Christian Aid &  
[www.solidarityssudan.org](http://www.solidarityssudan.org)