

May Prayer points: Praying for the Nations

Country	% Christian	
Andorra	90%	A tiny country of just 87,000 deriving 80% of income from tourism. It is also a tax haven but latterly has struggled economically. Relatively high suicide rates as well as alcohol dependency. Most people profess Catholicism but for many this is only notional.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	49%	Still suffering from the disastrous three year war in the 90's, the country is struggling economically with high unemployment. It is divided into two autonomous regions, one largely Muslim and the other Orthodox/Catholic. Religion is a major cultural feature to the three main ethnic groups in the country. There is a peacekeeping force in the country which has recently been reinforced because of the fear that international tensions might ignite violence.
Cape Verde	95%	Comprising a group of islands, the country is regarded as politically stable. Due to lack of employment opportunities and problems of food production due to terrain, more Cape Verdians live away than in their own country. Drought is also a major problem. Further economic development is needed. The majority of Christians are Roman Catholic although the importance of the church has declined in recent years.
Croatia	94%	The majority of professed Christians are Roman Catholic but only around 15% of people attend church on a regular basis. Allegiance to that faith is part of the Croat ethnic make up and, as in other parts of former Yugoslavia, culturally important. Croatia has recovered to a great extent since the war of the 90's and is now a member of the EU. It is a beautiful, fertile country and tourism is important.
Cyprus	70%	Although the government of Cyprus is internationally acknowledged as representing the whole island around a third of it is controlled by a Turkish Republic (recognised only by Turkey). The Turkish part is also suffering economically due to the problems in the Turkish economy with which it is linked. Discussions on reunification have not progressed although it seems around two thirds of both sides want this to happen. The main Cypriot economy is also struggling especially tourism over Covid. Largely Orthodox Christian, in common with other European countries, church attendance is declining. The North is 99% Muslim.

Estonia	36%	Occupied by Russia during and after the Second World War has led to bitterness towards its larger neighbour. Many Russians were also resettled in Estonia during its occupation which lasted until 1991. Estonia now feels threatened by Russia and is a NATO member which gives Russia cause for concern. Religions were not encouraged during the occupation and so generally observance is low and much professed Christianity is nominal. The country has experienced strong economic growth and is financially secure.
Republic of Ireland	91%	Previously strongly religious, church attendance has declined sharply. This is a reflection of a wider Western societal problem but in Ireland many have been disillusioned following a number of well documented scandals involving the church. Economically, Ireland is now prospering with a big tech sector and a controversial tax regime to encourage investment but it is not that long since the economy collapsed.
Kosovo	6%	Another part of the former Yugoslavia and one which suffered enormously in the 90's with ethnic cleansing. The country has not recovered to the extent that Croatia has and remains poor with high unemployment. The majority of the country is Muslim and while there is freedom of religion there is some evidence of opposition to Christians. To avoid upsetting cultural sensitivities, Kosovo is one of the few countries that has an instrumental anthem.
Lichtenstein	88%	A very prosperous, albeit tiny country. It is home to many multi-national companies due to low tax rates and has had rules allowing for absolute secrecy in banks. Due to concerns over money laundering there has been some reform. Historically a country of great faith, most people still profess to be Christians although for many this is more cultural.
Luxembourg	77%	Luxembourg has some similarities with Lichtenstein although is more open being a founder member of the EU. Religious observance is low and the high levels of wealth and consumption take priority for many people. The country has high levels of employment with many major companies headquartered there.
Malta	96%	The place where St Paul was shipwrecked, Malta has a strong Christian heritage. The majority of people still worship on a regular basis, mostly Roman Catholic. The country is a landing place for many migrants from Africa. It lacks basic resources of food and energy and so has to import these. There are also issues with water supply. There are issues of corruption in government and these

		have been worsening. The murder of Daphne Galizia, an investigative journalist, in 2017 is still an open sore. The judiciary is slow with claims that money laundering cases take six years to come to trial. There are allegations of passports being sold to great concern in the EU. All at odds with the Christian heritage.
Monaco	85%	The second smallest country in the world at less than one square mile in size. Zero personal income tax and more millionaires per capita than any other country. There is freedom to worship but evangelism is discouraged. Like others on this list, a country where affluence and consumption have usurped the gospel message.