

Marcés Mailing

January 2022



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 1:3)

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in the Cathedral (Dean, and in charge of Spanish speaking group);
Diocesan responsibilities (Christian formation)

Penny: Responsibilities in J el N (lay rector);
Diocesan responsibilities (Children´s Ministry, AMA)

Juan Carlos + Penny: working out priorities and use of time;
supporting each other in the two Churches; adequate rest;
plans to visit UK (April – July)

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Diocese: safeguarding course part 2 (starts March)

Jesús El Nazareno: children´s work- for helpers; growth in
Biblical knowledge

El Nazareno area: communal kitchens, schooling

Cathedral: For people to attend in-person services

Country of Peru: political, economic and education situations,
and all those affected by them

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Letter sent by: Mrs Alison Everness (Penny´s sister-in-law),
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Dear friends

New Year Greetings to you all! Yes it WAS supposed to be Christmas greetings too, but we are on “hora peruana” (= “late”), so it’s too late. Serpost (mail) seems to have the same attitude –writing on 31st Dec we can say “thank you” for the 25 Christmas cards, 20 of which have arrived in the last 2 days (having been posted anywhere between 6 Dec and 20 Dec).

However, one advantage of being late with the Christmas greetings is that we can start by suggesting you listen to the recent BBC podcast about Peru (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b006qt55>). The situations described would not be true of the Cathedral and its congregation, but it gives a good idea of the situation in El Nazareno - and interesting to hear things being emphasised that we take for granted! We can also use the Christmas and New Year celebrations here to tell you something of the current situation....



This Christmas we COULD (and DID!) meet in Church on Christmas Day – with the protocol of vaccination carnet, face covering, social distancing etc.... In Jesús el Nazareno in-person meetings are so much more satisfactory than any online attempts; internet connections are too unreliable for it to be a fully satisfactory

exercise, even without taking into account those who simply don’t have the technology. It was wonderful to have 2 children there with parents – parents who would not consider themselves churchgoers but HAVE been accompanying their children.



Children in the Diocese had a treat this year. A gift was sent to buy presents for them all. Having ascertained how many children were actively involved in each group (without explaining why the question was being asked – in some cases this may well have affected the answer given....), Penny distributed the funds and is now in the process of trying to get everyone’s reports/ accounts and photos in order to provide a report to the donors. For some



children this was the only present they received. This reflects the difficult economic situation Peru still faces, not helped by the political instability which has led to devaluation and inflation. The Christmas Box project via the Cathedral also took place, under the leadership of Juan Carlos. With all these gifts, each child is also given the booklet “What is Christmas?” – the greatest gift is Jesus.

Given the economy, the communal kitchens are still a huge help to many.



We give thanks for the funding that has been provided to support some of these communal kitchens. The 2 we are involved with in the El Nazareno area have just had their turn in receiving 2 months' aid from a supermarket chain. Each week they have collected whatever is offered – basically what the supermarket cannot sell. This may include tomatoes going soft, rice in bags with a tiny hole, or (yummy!) cakes or exclusive chocolates which are at their sell-by date (to say nothing of

shampoo and make-up remover).

Children are now (not unexpectedly!) on their main school holidays. For families where mums have spent hours helping their children, these are indeed holidays. But for so many, “holiday” from what? - the online schooling which has been the only education on offer for most has simply not worked. Factors include: lack of internet, lack of mobile phone, lack of parental encouragement, or simply laziness. The result - thousands of children who have lost 2 complete years of education – 8 year olds some of whom are still unable to distinguish vowels. In addition to some sort of holiday Bible club, will it also be possible to provide classes for some of these 8 year olds linked with the Church? (Penny DID succeed in getting one reading; even better was mum then deciding maybe he wasn't so stupid and actually helping him herself!) It is planned that schooling will return to partly in-person in March when the school year begins – but this is not guaranteed.....

On the brighter side, covid deaths are certainly down. Who can really say about the number of CASES? It is almost certain that a LOT of people had covid in the first 2 waves (we are still awaiting the 3rd wave here) without knowing it. Many of us have never had a test – unless there is a reason for the state to give you one (eg you have symptoms) you have to pay for the test, so testing every week is hardly likely. Vaccinations have been widely taken up – all over 18s who have had their 2nd shot more than 3 months ago are now eligible for the booster. As for the covid “orphan pension” – the only family we know has still not received it after a year.....



And New Year? Very few fireworks this year – someone suggested “too many people have lost too many loved ones to celebrate”. The 11pm curfew (changed from 2am for the Christmas and New Year weekends) may have affected it too. The beach closures over this weekend will certainly affect New Year's Day plans – last weekend crowds broke through the barriers and flooded the beaches, but this weekend the army is controlling them.

Finally, we are looking forward to having all 3 children here together (albeit briefly) in February! The dog and cat won't know what to do with themselves when they have so many people to spoil them.



- improving health situation (covid and vaccines)
- in-person meetings
- non-Churchgoing parents attending the "family meetings" for children in JEN
- Provision in the ongoing communal kitchens, in El Nazareno and at Diocesan level
- provision of gifts for children

Please pray.....



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

- Sun:** 10.00 am WhatsApp chat form of service sent (JEN)
11.30am In-person /Zoom service (Cathedral)
6.00 pm in-person service (J. el Nazareno)
- Tues:** 8.00 pm Zoom Bible study /prayer meeting (Cathedral)
- Thurs:** 6.00 pm in-person prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
8.45 pm WhatsApp group call prayer meeting
- Sat:** 4.00 pm Children's activity (J. el Nazareno)

In the pipeline.... (pray for planning!)

- Jan:** literacy help for 3rd grade children
- Feb:** Visits of Becky, Oli (partner) and Lizi to Peru
holiday Bible activity
- Mid Feb-end March:** Course for couples (JEN)
- March:** beginning of school year – hopefully!
- March:** safeguarding course part 2

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs) in so many ways. By supporting us and the ministry here, you too are part of what happens here, both in the Anglican Church in Peru, and in Peru. Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987.

God bless you and keep you secure in Him, now and always,

Juan Carlos & Penny