

_Dear everyone

When we wrote last time, we wrote about new responsibilities. Life is certainly proving full as we attempt to keep up with things...

Penny left the Cathedral at midday on 31st Dec (Sunday) (yes, with cake). A few hours later she was in **Jesús el Nazareno**, at a special service to start the New Year with prayer; as expected, prayer was interrupted at midnight when the sound of fireworks became too intrusive. Despite warnings every year, it is still a common sight to see small children setting rockets off

During January the Diocese held a **Training Week** - obligatory sessions on Bible and Anglicanism in the mornings and workshops on Sunday School, youth work, music ministry, & AMA in the afternoons / evenings. Sadly, a large number didn't arrive: a heavy earth tremor near Arequipa and landslides on the road from Huancayo affected travelling. Penny led the Sunday School course; many churches do not have a children's ministry and she has now been named responsible for encouraging this important area of the Church's life.

Children's work in Jesús el Nazareno included a Bible Club "Jesus came to my house"; just as well that God knew better when we said "3 groups of up to 20" since space available is just not large enough... Some opening activities each day were held in the street; conveniently bars at each end of the street - to prevent burglaries - also provide an enclosed area for children. Neighbours were thus treated to daily renderings of "Head, shoulders, knees and toes" (English lesson). Particularly encouraging was the number of children who came from the "invasions", 10 minutes' walk from Church. Sunday School is now mornings (not afternoon); plans are to have a monthly service at this time and to invite parents (only ONE of whom currently comes to Church) Please pray for teachers Diana and Palmira, and for Yeni, Alexandra & Jennifer (helped in the summer and have expressed interest in continuing to be involved.)



A **Youth Alpha** course for 18-30 year olds began in March; they recently held their retreat. Those in charge of the course are some young people from Jesús el Nazareno, but they have received great support from Chris and Hannah Agnew, volunteers here until July. Two of the girls - Melany and Karla - have been invited to attend a Youth Alpha



Conference in Mexico City in June, a big challenge for them since they are both quite young.

Meanwhile, normal weekly activities continue. Juan Carlos, as Vicar General, is attempting to "regularize" paperwork for some of the **Diocesan properties**, beginning in the south of Lima where we work. Not easy - some things CAN be solved (eg a Church address being "Road" on one document and "street" on another); others are far more complicated, involving agreements made many years ago but never properly formalized.....

Once a month each Pastoral region has a meeting. In the South/East Lima these are varied. Most include "business", eg matters such as the abovementioned paperwork, but we have recently been discussing the **Diocesan canons** which are being completely revised. This will be discussed at the Synod, on 20 & 21 April, but work will continue to be done over the next year. Please pray for the Synod, especially in discussions where there are likely to be differences of opinion. At other meetings there have been presentations of materials by SU etc.



Penny will not actually be at the Synod. In Dec 3 of us from **AMA** went to N Argentina to take part in the "replica" (repeat) of last Sept's Mother's Union conference; now there is a follow up session to the Sept conference, in Canada. The project for children with fragile health conditions (INES) has asked us as AMA to work towards protection of children from domestic abuse, starting with identifying factors for a /warning" symbol.

Juan Carlos also travelled! In January he accompanied some of the boxes for the **Christmas Box project**. One place near Cuzco certainly comes into "extreme poverty" category; encouragingly this year some representatives from the school that gives most of the boxes were able to attend the final event, a presentation of the project (plus accounts etc), and they also were interested in this area so please pray for any developments.



The children? Becky has applied to study for an MSc (she has a BA but apparently sustainability is an MSc) in the UK; Lizi is looking for a permanent job; and Jonny is studying.



- new children coming to Sunday School
- those attending Youth Alpha
- progress (albeit slow!) with AMA project
- those attending the weekly prayer meetings in JEN
- AMA/AMARE conference in Salta

Please pray.....



Ongoing prayer please...

(see also under photo on first page)

Anglican Church in Peru – Bp Jorge Luis, the Diocesan Council and Pastoral Committee, and other leaders; financial stability, regularization of properties

Congregation in JEN;

Pastoral care: visiting & counselling

Children's work: for all churches to have an interest; for training teachers

AMA: drawing up guidelines for the INES project for children with disabilities; encouraging local groups to be involved with these families; preparations for retreat in Oct

Family: times to be together; Becky as she prepares for UK

The country of Peru: for stability in government; for all parties to work together (President resigned end March; vice pres. took over)

Weekly activities in

Jesús el Nazareno

Sun: 9.30 breakfast

10.00 Sunday School

7.00 service

Tues: 8.00pm "War Room"

Bible study on prayer

Thurs: 4.30 AMA

8.00pm prayer meeting

Sat: 7.00pm Alpha

Specific dated requests

Apr.17-21: MU conference & rally in Canada

Apr.20 /21: Diocesan Synod

May 22-25 Provincial Synod & Environment Conference in Lima

May 27: installation of Rector

Mark in Cathedral

June 7-11: Mexico Youth Alpha

conference (Melany & Karla)

Marcés Mailing

April 2018



¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

(Jeremiah 29:11-13)

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos: Pastoral responsibilities in Jesús el Nazareno; Diocesan Archdeacon (Diocesan Admin. council and Diocesan Pastoral Council)

Penny: work in Jesús el Nazareno; responsibilities with children's ministry and AMA; coordinating visits by overseas teams and volunteers

Becky, Lizi & Jonny:

Juan Carlos, Penny, Rebeca, Elizabeth and Jonatan Marcés
Reynaldo Morón 215, Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 33, PERU
Tel.+51-1- 448 - 8264 Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com
Letter sent by: Mrs Alison Everness (Penny's sister-in-law),
23 Glebe Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3DS (01306-882817)

Thank you for your prayers and other support which uphold us.

God bless you

Juan Carlos, Penny (& Rebeca, Elizabeth & Jonatan)