

Marcés Mailing

October 2021



Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm.

Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

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

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Diocese: safeguarding course (6 weeks)

Jesús El Nazareno: children's work: for helpers on Saturdays;
General: more people taking responsibilities eg leading services

El Nazareno area: soup kitchens, schooling

Cathedral: Alpha course; for people to attend in-person services

Country of Peru: political, economic and education situations

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

Greetings again from a STILL red-listed country! (Why? – no obvious reason; to object, <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/597406> is the relevant petition). Also, a reassurance that if you receive this you have not missed any letters - we are just extremely late in writing; the “urgents” take precedence and the “important” gets left.

Welcome now to **Saint Matthew Passage**. Not, in this case, a Biblical reference, but the translation of the name of the street where Jesús el Nazareno Church is situated (Pasaje San Mateo). The Church was called “Jesús el Nazareno” after the local area (“El Nazareno” - the Nazarene), with streets named Nazareth, Galilea, etc; it’s a shame people don’t use these for giving their address but rather the official plot grid numbers; the Church is Manzana N, lote 2. Pasaje San Mateo is a narrow street of 100m, gated at each end (for security). The 25 buildings which open onto the passage are mostly either occupied by an extended family, or have rented rooms, so the population is over 200; about 70 are under 18 whilst less than 10 are over 70. It is also a place where there’s no need to watch soap operas on TV; some residents lead colourful lives....



Commercial activity (Shopping and eating out): Before covid, Pasaje San Mateo had a little stationer’s stall at the front of one house. Now, there is also a greengrocer’s stall, and 2 small grocery stalls. In addition, as is common in Peru, there are frequent “activities” to raise money, eg “pollada” is fried chicken with boiled potato. This month we will support: medical costs of 43-yr old Roberto who had a stroke 18 months ago (he and his wife now attend the Church); payment of a debt from a loan of years ago; costs to pay the right to a bed space in a prison (for someone accused but not yet tried, let alone sentenced). (Yes, the cooking is taking place in the road).



Leisure activities: Being gated, Psj S Mateo seems relatively safe for children (mostly boys) to be out on the street. Groups of boys play football; even toddlers may be seen wandering around alone. Adults are not left out; volley became a popular leisure activity for some (though currently out of fashion!), whilst others preferred the possibility of an outside pub. Sadly, the

activity that attracts a crowd most rapidly is an unprogrammed fight (usually fuelled by drink). The children's activities at Church sometimes attract interest – please pray that we will return to open children's meetings soon so that anyone who wants can attend.

Schooling: Owing to the weaknesses(!) in the current educational system, too many children are NOT receiving an education. Over the last couple of months Penny has been giving classes to 2 2nd-grade boys who still don't have the most basic literacy teaching; one is responding well whilst the other has a much less positive attitude. Given that most of the other 2nd-graders in the area are also struggling, maybe in the summer we will set up a basic literacy course to help them all revise. Covid willing of course. A few schools are back part-time in person; despite what the govt says, it seems doubtful that most will be back in-person before the next academic year begins in March 2022, but we shall see.

Church: Of course, Psj S Mateo also has Jesús el Nazareno Anglican Church. Given the size of the street, it is unsurprising that our Church is physically small. This shouldn't mean it has to stay numerically small.... Give thanks for those who go on Saturdays; pray that the adults come to know the Lord too (please pray also for helpers!): Pray too that those in the street –& further afield–come to prefer going to Church to hear about the Lord rather than drinking &/or fighting. Today was actually the funeral of someone who went -her coffin was carried from her house (not in Psj S Mateo) and inclined outside the Church for her to say “goodbye” on the way up the hill to the (not at all formal) cemetery – but the story of the wake and funeral is not for now.



The Cathedral? ...is rather less like a soap opera. (See prayer requests)

Is there a book about all this? For several months there have been plans to write a book about the history of the Anglican Church in Peru, as part of the national Bicentenary celebrations (mostly non-existent, due to covid and political constraints). However, there is basically no money to do this; if anyone would like to support the project, please let us know!



And finally... all 3 of our children now have full time jobs: Becky near Leeds, Lizi in London, and Jony (who became a member of the College of Lawyers last week) in Lima. Becky FINALLY managed to visit us in Sept, albeit for less than 3 weeks – it was great to see her (she quarantined in Spain).



- 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
- children’s weekly materials

Please pray.....



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

- Sun:** 9.00 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)
- Wed:** 8.00 pm Diocesan safeguarding course “Protégeme”
- Thurs:** 6.00 pm in-person prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
8.45 pm WhatsApp group call prayer meeting
- Sat:** 7.30pm Online Alpha

Specific dates

- 7 Nov:** Installation of Penny as Lay Rector of J.el Nazareno (yes, it IS rather delayed; should have been Jan)
- 26 Nov:** celebration of anniversary in communal kitchen “Corazón de Jesús”; still to be organised!
- 28 Nov:** Visit of Pat Blanchard to J el Nazareno to say goodbye (she was Rector for several years & is now leaving Perú)
- End Nov:** delivery of Christmas boxes from San Silvestre to Cathedral for sorting and sending to Cusco/Arequipa

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