

Anglican Paraguay Prayer Calendar

Dec 14 & Jan 15



First service in the new Ramonita Church, Concepcion



New church in Colonia 24, La Patria, Chaco

Week Mon 1 – Sun 7 Dec: Good News to share!

Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. 1 Chronicles 16:8

- Thankful that Paraguay continues to be blessed with adequate rainfall, especially thankful that recent rain in the Chaco means that families have more water in their storage cisterns.
- Thank you for praying for 17 year old hostage Arlan Fick. In October the EPP terrorist group released video footage of Arlan and another hostage (a police officer). We continue to pray for all hostages, especially Arlan and also the families of hostages. Please pray for the government of Paraguay that they will be able to respond adequately to security issues in the North of the country.
- We give thanks for the completion of the Chapel in Colonia 24 in La Patria, give thanks for the favour of the Lord towards this community, the enthusiasm of the community for their new church, for the builders Celino and Jose.
- The Emanuel Church in Luque held a very successful Dinner for 2, organised by Cefe and Ana Romero. It was described as ‘marvellous’ by one of the participating couples. Please pray for the next Dinner for 2 which is taking place on Saturday 6th December.
- The group that meets in Ramonita in Concepcion now have a church building! Please pray for the Saturday evening services.
- The Esperanza Foster Home gives thanks that twins F & F are settling in well in their family and Ana, Mary and Sally were able to be present at their dedication service in their new church. Please pray for the process with M & P and their future parents.
- Saint Andrews School gives thanks for the Lord’s faithfulness at the end of this school year and ask us to pray for all staff vacancies to be filled with the staff that the Lord chooses.

*O my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to all the prayers made to you in this place.
2 Chronicles 6:40*

Week Mon 8 – Sun 14 Dec: Advent

‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’ Matthew 1:23

Pastor Donald Brooks asks us to pray for the Emmanuel Christian Centre in Luque thanking the Lord for all those who are taking part in the Tuesday leadership training course. Praying also for joint leadership and church council group for continued unity and vision. Let us also pray for Donald and his wife Caroline and their two young children that the Lord would give them strength, wisdom and spiritual protection.

Please pray for Pastor Lucio, his wife Priscila and their family to receive the Lord's peace and comfort following the tragic suicide of one of their sons, Valeriano. Sadly suicides are happening amongst the young people, particularly young men who choose to stay in the communities and do not work. We remember in our prayers Benigno Rojas (the community leader) and his wife Esther as they faced the aftermath of this tragedy in the community. We pray for Chris Hawksbee as he seeks to talk about this difficult subject in the communities.

Please pray for 15 year old Yanine who is part of the Cathedral Sunday Youth class. Very sadly her mother, aunt and grandmother have all died in the last month. Her mother Ruth's body, is being repatriated from Equatorial Guinea and the funeral will be held this week. We ask that Yanine and her uncles would know the Lord's presence comforting them and giving them hope during this time of grief and adaptation to a new reality. Please pray that she would be surrounded by a supportive network of family and friends.

We continue to pray for Neri Sosa, from Maklawaya and the son of Pastor Juan that the checkups he has in Asuncion would go well and that his leg would continue to heal.

People of the week: Translators Asuncion and Tim (pictured with Bishop Peter)



Tim Curtis is no stranger to mission having grown up in Chile and has dedicated much of his adult life to working in the Paraguayan Chaco translating the Bible into Enxet. Asuncion is Tim's co translator, he is Enxet and was born and grew up in the Chaco. He and his wife Cipriana and their family live just down the road from the Translation Centre in Rio Verde. He has recently had shingles and an infection in his right hand which has resulted in a weakness in his right arm. Currently they are working on a final check of Luke's Gospel. Asuncion goes on holiday next week until the mid-January, and will be going to stay with his extended family. Please pray that his arm would regain strength and that he would be able to rest during the holiday. Tim will be in charge of the Diocesan Centre and Translation during this time, so let's pray for protection for Tim and the site.

Please pray for Saint Andrews Chapel as they hold their carol service this Sunday that visitors would attend. They give thanks for Abdul who attended chapel several years ago and has recently been able to visit again.

Week Mon 15 – Sun 21 Dec: Filled with joy in the Spirit

At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honoured, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said." Luke 1:41-45

This week in the midst of the preparations for Christmas ask the Lord to help you find time to reflect and be filled with His joy as you anticipate Christmas Eve or 'Nochebuena' – 'The Good Night' as it is known here in Paraguay. Maybe you are trusting Jesus for a special blessing this Christmas, as you remember his promises to you, may you be blessed.

We pray for St Pauls in Concepcion for:

- the preparations for the Christmas celebrations
- church council: Ricardo, Saul, Javier, Myrian, Claire, Zunilda and Leonarda
- vice president of the council Javier, who is a doctor and is currently working over two hundred kilometres from Concepcion that the Lord would provide him with a job nearer home. We pray for Myrian to be given good health and strength as she takes care of Jessi and baby Jazmin.

Pastor Agustin joyfully gives thanks for the 4 Bible study groups in La Herencia in the Chaco, rejoicing that the Lord Catalino, Silverio, Vicente and Bernardo who are all taking part in discipleship training with a focus on leadership. Please pray for the families who live in La Herencia that they would continue to be encouraged by the Lord and that they return to the church.

Please pray for Chris Hawksbee and Pastor Agustin as they visit communities and churches in La Patria this week for their time to be fruitful and joyful. May they bring the Lord's blessings and joy to the homes they visit.

People of the week - Esperanza - Katty Aguero & Sally Bartlett:

27 year old Katty is a member of the Redeemer Church in Zeballos Cue and she recently started working as the helper at the Esperanza Foster Home. She has settled well and is enjoying working with the children who took to her straight away. We mentioned her last month as she is taking part in the School of Ministry. Please pray that the Lord will bless Katty as she serves him and invests her time in ministry training. Sally is the General Director of Esperanza, a role which she enjoys but finds challenging. Please pray for Sally and the other members of the board – Teresa, Ana Maria and Maria Lyz that they would be given wisdom and grace at all times in their service to some of Paraguay's most vulnerable children. Please pray for the children over the Christmas period as the home is in recess and the children go and stay with supporting families.



Pastor Ronnie and Nicky Irene ask us to pray for their oldest daughter Natasha, thanking the Lord for her life and successful completion of her schooling at Saint Andrews College. Please pray for this next stage of her life that she will be guided by the Lord and open to all the Lord has for her. She is a member of Christ the Saviour Church and sings in the worship group.

Week Mon 22 – Sun 28 Dec: Don't be afraid

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"
Luke 2:9-11

Thank you for praying for Charlie and Raquel Mendez, baby Nathaneal arrived safely. We remember to pray for all those we know who are pregnant.

We pray for all those who are travelling this week, for safety on the roads. We pray especially for all those who are returning to their communities in the Chaco to spend Christmas with family, that this would be a special week for them and that they would make joining in public worship a priority.

We pray for the celebrations which take place this week that God's name would be glorified, that God's people would be filled with joy at the coming of the Messiah and that others who do not know the Saviour would receive revelation.

We pray for families in Paraguay as they set up nativity cribs in their homes and gather around to pray on Christmas Eve, that the hearts of children and parents would be open to receive the Sun of Righteousness who rises with healing in his wings, and that those who are captive to sin and sadness would go free, leaping with joy (Malachi 4:2)

We pray for our pastors and their families at this busy time of the year, praying that

- they establish godly priorities
- their homes would be places which are filled with laughter, joy and wisdom
- their marriages would be strong
- their children would be nurtured in the Christian faith

Week Mon 29 Dec – Sun 4 Jan : Letting go of old ways

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved. Matthew 9:17

Jesus encourages us to understand that what he has prepared for us this year requires that we abandon unhelpful 'old wine skins' in our lives. This year we will need to change in order to become the people God wants us to be in 2015. Take some quiet time on your own to reflect and listen to God.

Please pray for the School of Ministry students during the summer recess, asking Jesus to show them His way forward this year. We pray for Magdalena, Salomon, Hernan, Dina, Gloria, Katty, Regina, Juanca, Marlene, Nicky, Victor, Raphael, Sadrac, Gustavo and Rebeca as they work on their homework assignments over the summer vacation period.

We pray for Esther Brassett who is a gap year volunteer teaching English at St Andrews College, thanking the Lord for her adaptation to life in Asuncion and her involvement in worship in the Villa Guarani Church and St Andrews Chapel. Please pray for Esther as she enjoys the summer vacation and travels in South America.

People of the Week: Bishop Andres and Estela Rodriguez Bishop Andres retired at the middle of last year after nearly 30 years in of ministry. This means that he and his wife Estella and their family are in a process of change and adaptation. They have moved out of the pastoral house next door to St Paul's church and moved to a different part of Concepcion, into their own house which they are renovating. Please pray for them as they 'let go' of St Paul's church, make the decision about where to worship and as they adapt to a new congregation. Their daughter Myriam, along with her husband and family are now living in the pastoral house. Please pray her and also for their other children: Jorge, Saulo, Daniel and Sara, and their families in this time of change of roles.



We pray for:

- teachers in private schools do not benefit from government pension schemes but the government have promised to rectify this situation, we pray that this change will happen in 2015
- the members of St Andrews School staff: who also attend Anglican churches Gwen, Mags, Alison, Aresenio, Caroline, Cecilia, Donald, Deborah, Esteban, Esther, Nicky, Sarah, Rita, Victor, Mirta, Regina and chaplain Ronald.
- more English teachers for St Andrews School
- Head teacher Catalino and the Annexe school staff and for all ancillary and administrative staff
- Gloria as she moves on from teaching the Pepe school in Zeballos Cue, thanking the Lord for Gloria's new job and praying that the Lord would guide the Zeballos church as to the future of the Pepe Preschool.
- Thanking the Lord for Miriam Greco's contribution as administrator to the life of St Andrews School, and praying for her as she prepares to become Diocesan Administrator. May she grow in wisdom and grace.

Please pray for Chris Hawksbee as he leads weekly summer Bible studies for the chapel and for Alison as she is back in England visiting family. May the Lord grant them both times of refreshing and spiritual growth.

Week Mon 5- Sun 11 Jan: Radiating God's glory

The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honour at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. Hebrews 1:3

Pray for all teachers in Paraguay during this holiday period that they would rest and be refreshed. May those who know the Lord be changed day by day so as to reflect in greater measure the light and love of the Lord.

Pastor Ronald asks us to give thanks for:

- St Andrews Cathedral and the Chapel working together more closely
- The families who attend Christ the Saviour church that are becoming more committed

And to pray for:

- the Lord to work in Ronald's personal development helping him to become the pastor that He wants him to be
- for good health for him and his wife Nicky and their 4 children, Natasha, Tamara, Daniel and Samuel, especially for Samuel as he receives help to overcome his speech impediment

Please pray for the churches in El Estribo especially for Pastor Lucio and the church in Santa Fe & Pastor Mario in Dos Palmas as they move forward in times of change. May the church be strengthened and new leaders to emerge and be trained.

Pastor Luis asks us to give thanks for new people who have been starting to attend the Redeemer Church, and for the discipleship training that is taking place. He asks us to pray for marriages and families to be made stronger and for an improved communication and understanding between spouses.

Teo and Lidia Rivas in San Lorenzo give thanks for the commitment of Maria Eugenia and Pedro, in spite of family challenges and for the toy library sessions that have been enjoyed this year. We pray with them for: the children who attend that they will receive the message of Jesus with open hearts; their parents would become open to the gospel and turn to Jesus; for creativity with the pre teens and for protection for each child during the holiday period.

Let us pray this week for Pastor Lucho and Estella, praying that they would be given great wisdom in difficult pastoral situations in San Juan, Mirador and King of kings. May they be given sensitivity to the voice of the Spirit, be filled with the love of the Father and be bold like their Saviour Jesus and grow in discernment.

Week Mon 12 Sun 18 Jan: – Kept safe in challenging times

I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces. In my desperation I prayed, and the LORD listened; he saved me from all my troubles. For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.
Psalm 34:4-7

Generally speaking Paraguayans find change challenging and threatening, so we ask you to pray for Bishop Peter in his leadership of the Diocese, for wisdom and clear direction as he moves the Diocese forward in times of very rapid social and cultural changes in the country. Please pray for all who face uncertainty that they will call on the name of the Lord and be freed from their fears. Please pray for Bishop Peter and Sally as they are back in the UK until February on Home Ministry Assignment.

Tim Curtis ask us to pray for:

- spiritual protection for himself and Asunción
- protection of the equipment in the very hot summer months
- the Lord's timing for the final 'cleaning' of the text on the computer, and the Lord's provision of the people He appoints to do this.
- funding for the publishing of the Enxet Bible

Lord we pray for Pastor Juan Sosa, his wife Alicia and Deacon Romualdo and his wife Yrna, and St Peters church in Maklawaya. May they look to You for Your help, and may they and the church community be surrounded by Your protection, especially from drunkenness in the community, witchcraft and gossip. Lord, may each member seek You diligently in prayer and reading of the Scriptures and in all circumstances look to you for help and thereby grow in confidence in Your great power to save and protect. Amen.

We pray for Claire Holmes back in Ireland on home leave, asking you Lord, to protect her as she travels, encourage her through fellowship with family, friends and church, renew her physically, emotionally and spiritually. And we remember before you the groups she last left behind in Concepcion, and so we pray that you word would continue to be preached and taught and that young leaders would grow in trust in You and confidence in ministry.

Person of the Week: Rev Luis Echeverria. Luis and his wife Regina grew up in the Chacarita shanty town district of Asuncion and they became Christians when their children were small. All their children: Esteban, Teresa, Magda, Rocio and Sami now have their own children. Luis has been leading the Redeemer Church in Zeballos Cue for 7 years, taking it on after the previous minister had a personal crisis leading to his resignation. Luis is currently doing a two year masters in Christian family counselling. Please pray for Luis as he hopes to complete his masters this year and as he faithfully pastors the church which is in a part of the city of Zeballos where many families face financial and spiritual crisis.



Let us pray for Teresa Maidana who leads the Saturday Children's Club in the Cathedral for children from the Chacarita, asking that the Lord will grant Teresa rest and relaxation this summer and that she would be guided by the Lord regarding the future of the club.

Week Mon 19 - Sun 25 Jan: – Remembering God's name

Build my altar wherever I cause my name to be remembered, and I will come to you and bless you.
Exodus 20:24

We remember in prayer this week the churches in La Patria and their pastors, Robert, Mario, Niño Pepe and Agripino. Last year two communities were blessed with newly built churches, and we pray that these faith communities would remember God's love, forgiveness, graciousness, favour and kindness to them in many ways and come together to bless the Lord's name and that zeal for the Lord's name would encourage them to evangelise others. We pray for protection for the Anglican churches in the face of frequent visits from sects which often divide communities, may the pastors, deacons and church council members be diligent in prayer and reading.

Beryl Baker gives thanks that health promoter Norma's health is improving and her ovarian cysts seem to be disappearing without the need for surgery. Please pray for Beryl for the Lord's guidance as to the future, especially for good health and for the Lord's priorities to be established in the medical care of indigenous peoples in the Chaco.

Teo Rivas, the Diocesan Administrator, is shortly due to retire. Let's pray for:

- the next two months to be smooth and fruitful in terms of the hand over of responsibility to Miriam Greco who is going to be the next administrator
- for Teo's retirement plans and projects that the Lord will lead him and show His favour to Teo and his family

Victor Gonzalez is encouraged by the response to his visiting programme for families in the Rio Verde area. Please pray for Victor as he travels in the Chaco and for his family back in Roque Alonso, for protection and well being.

Rio Verde, which is home to the Chaco Diocesan Centre and the Translation Centre, is in a process of rapid growth and this means that new families are moving in the area. A young English couple who are Jehovah's Witnesses have moved in and are doing visitation. Please pray for members of the St Matthews church who have contact with them, that they would be given opportunities to testify regarding Jesus'



FEISA: Let us pray for:

- for the 29 graduates (2014) preparing to teach this year, that they will carry the fragrance of Jesus in all they do
- the staff that they would be well rested during the summer holidays
- director Ana Maria who is visiting the United Kingdom to spend time visiting churches and groups who have supported FEISA
- God's provision for the financial challenges caused by curriculum changes introduced by the Ministry of Education
- the students who have the vocation to teach young children to sign up for the courses on offer this year
- the Toy Library

Week Mon 26 – Sat 31 Jan: – Ambassadors for Christ

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 2 Corin 5:19,20

Jesus Christ who lives in us, also wants to live through us and reveal His glory to others, through people like you and me. You may be the only representation of Jesus that others see. Through you they hope to receive the message of reconciliation and wait to see God's glory. Amongst other things we are called to reveal His goodness, forgiveness, salvation, compassion and healing.

- Please pray for the staff of St Andrews College, the Annexe School and FEISA as they finish their summer vacation and prepare to return to work. May each one be conscious of the wonderful message of reconciliation and be willing to be transformed by Jesus more and more, so that His light shines through their actions and words
- We pray for those who once were close to the Lord but whose love has grown cold that their hearts will be set on fire for Him once again and that they will respond to Christ's instruction, 'Come back to God!'
- Pray for leaders to grow in love for the Lord and His Kingdom and in personal integrity
- Pray for each member of the Anglican Church in Paraguay to be reconciled both to God and to those with whom they have conflicts

Thank you for praying for the Anglican Church in Paraguay

+Peter & Sally Bartlett

on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

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