May

Wed 1st  **Argentina:** We pray for political and economic stability in this long-suffering nation. We pray for the health services as they struggle to cope with the Dengue Fever epidemic ravaging the country currently. We pray for seafarers who are vulnerable to the mosquitoes that transmit this viral disease.

Thu 2nd  **Chaplaincy of Greater Buenos Aires:** For Fr. Ariel Irrázabal Montero, Port Chaplain, who has announced his resignation after 7 years rebuilding the ministry after a 42 year hiatus. We give thanks for all that he has achieved and ask for God’s blessing on him, his family, and their future ministry.

Fri 3rd  Fr. David George, Chair of MtS-Argentina, and the Board of as they begin the search for a new Port Chaplain.

Sat 4th  For the Diocese of Argentina as it and MtS look to resurrect ministry in the port city of Rosario on the River Plate.

Sun 5th  **Brazil:** We give thanks that Brazil has ratified the MLC-2006 convention but pray that it may soon develop the will and the instruments needed to enforce it.

Mon 6th  For Revda. Dlice Paiva de Oliveira and her husband Paulo who are pioneering maritime ministry in the port of Açu, Rio de Janeiro State.

Tue 7th  We give thanks for the partnership between Anglo-American and MtS that have made this new ministry possible.

Wed 8th  We pray for those seafarers whose need for Shore Leave are being frustrated or exploited by local shipping agents. We pray for these agencies that they may recognise and respond to the humanity and needs of seafarers calling into Açu and Revda. Dilce’s vital ministry.

Thu 9th  **Suape:** For Bishop Filadelfo Oliveira Neto and his wife Dulcy who have struggled with serious health issues this last year. They ask our prayers as they search for a suitable home fit for their needs.

Fri 10th  We give thanks for the support given by the Suape Port Administration to Bishop Filadelfo’s ministry, for their solidarity and empathy for the plight and needs of seafarers calling into their terminals.

Sat 11th  We pray for Bishop Filadelfo’s vital role as Sub-regional coordinator for Brazil, for his pastoral care of colleagues, and his gifts as a trainer of prospective Ship Visitors.

Sun 12th  **Vila do Conde:** For Fr. Eliás de Souza Barata, Port Chaplain, and Sousa e Silva, Volunteer Ship Visitor, and their efforts to rebuild the ministry in the wake of the pandemic. They ask our prayers for more volunteers.

Mon 13th  We give thanks for the successful conclusion of the Port Review process and the implementation of the new model that guarantees 3 full days ministry in this isolated and dangerous port.

Tue 14th  We pray for the crews of the livestock carrying vessels that call into this port. Many of these ships are old, in poor condition, dirty, and crewed by seafarers from poor nations who receive low pay and little in the way of care.

Wed 15th  **Costa Rica:** For Costa Rica, which is not an MLC-2006 signatory. We pray for those who are labouring preparing the way for Costa Rica’s ratification of this international instrument that guarantees seafarers’ basic rights.

Thu 16th  **Chaplaincy of Puerto Limón and Moin:** We give thanks for Fr. George Watts, Senior Port Chaplain, and Ms. Linda Watts, Assistant Port Chaplain as they persevere in the face of innumerable obstacles to develop pastoral care and welfare services in Puerto Limón and Moin.

Fri 17th  We pray for the Port Authorities and security services that are struggling with the increased attempts to smuggle narcotics aboard visiting vessels. We pray for seafarers who are often at risk of coercion and vulnerable to threats of violence from the drug cartels.

Sat 18th  We pray for a growing appreciation of the need for the pastoral care and welfare services offered by our Chaplaincy Team. We pray for a streamlining and simplification of security procedures so that our team may visit and encounter seafarers on board their vessels.

Sun 19th  **Panama:** We pray for Panamá as the nation holds it 5 yearly General Elections. We pray for those who will be appointed to the various departments of the Panamanian Maritime Authority that they will put the wellbeing of seafarers at the heart of their labours.

Mon 20th  For the newly emerging National Seafarers’ Welfare Committee. May the authorities move forward with this important milestone for the sake of all seafarers calling into Panama.

Tue 21st  For an abundant rainy season and an end to the drought that is threatening vulnerable ecosystems, the population’s water supplies and the proper and efficient functioning of the Canal.

Wed 22nd  **The Seafarers Mission-Panamá:** We pray for the evolving partnership between The Mission to Seafarers (MtS) and the Deutsche Seemannsmission (DSM) and for Fr. Ian Hutchinson...
Cervantes and Mrs. Andrea Meenken as together they serve the ports on both sides of the Isthmus and in continuing to secure the place of maritime ministry in this strategic global hub.

Thu 23rd We give thanks for our wonderful Shopping Team and their extraordinary ministry. Pray for Michele Colbourn, Sarah Simpson, and Stef Stevens who selflessly navigate the city’s traffic looking for “good deals” for seafarers. We give thanks, too, for our MtS-Panamá Board members and their encouragement and support for our ministry in Panamá.

Fri 24th We also pray that more people to sign up for our important work through active volunteering, or with donations.

Sat 25th For our growing team, for our new colleague Father Jesús Sta. Iglesia as he struggles with the visa application processes. We give thanks for his time with MtS-Philippines and our increasingly close friendship and partnership with our colleagues in the Philippines.

Sun 26th For crews enduring long waits out at anchorage due to the delays caused by the reduced number of vessels transiting through the Canal. For the necessary funding and staff needed to develop a much needed anchorage ministry in Panamá.

Mon 27th Trinidad and Tobago: Trinidad and Tobago is recovering from a tragic oil spill that soiled some of Tobago’s most beautiful beaches, mangroves, and marine environment. The slick spread far and wide with currents carrying crude oil as far away as the island of Bonaire. The accident is a reminder of the maritime industry’s urgent need to develop alternative energy sources and the risks seafarers face when transporting dangerous and toxic products.

Tue 28th The Mariners’ Club, Port of Spain For Ms. Esme Forbes who oversees and undertakes the day-to-day maintenance and management of the Mariners’ Club. We give thanks for her faithfulness and commitment as she seeks to reactivate the Club’s ministry to seafarers after the enforced closure during the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

Wed 29th For Bishop Calvin Bess, retired diocesan bishop, who chairs the Mariners’ Club’s Board and for Board members as they grapple with the challenges of meeting the changing needs of seafarers.

Thu 30th For the successful recruitment and preparation of a Ship Visitor to serve the Ports of Point Lisas and Port of Spain.

Fri 31st Lord bless the Mission to Seafarers in Latin America and the Caribbean, guide their efforts to provide comfort, support and care to those who journey across the seas. May they be a beacon of hope and strength to seafarers far from home. Amen

May 2024

LATIN AMERICA REGION

Regional Director: Fr Ian Hutchinson-Cervantes


This month we are praying for the work of the Latin America Region.

The prayer requests this month have been prepared by Fr Ian Hutchinson-Cervantes and his team.

Fr Ian is the port chaplain to Panama and regional director for Latin America.

Mission to Seafarers has an active presence in eight ports over five countries. The prayers this month also include a focus on the nations where we have a presence identifying a key issue that impacts upon seafarers and/or our ministry.