



**Diocese
in Europe**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA

*We worship in Word and Sacrament at Lago Jardín, Los Balcones and La Siesta
and ministering through the southern Costa Blanca and eastern Murcia.*

A truly Eucharistic community of faith and love.

Chaplain (equivalent of Parish Priest):

Father Richard A. Seabrook SSC

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FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8th December 2024

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



**WELCOME TO THE CHAPLAINCY OF SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH IN THIS CHAPLAINCY.**

**Please remember to turn off your mobile phone
before our services begin.
Please don't use a mobile phone in church. Pray instead!**

**Please remember to talk to God in prayer before our services begin.
There is plenty of time to talk to each other afterwards.
Your talking may distract someone else's praying.
Please keep a devotional silence.**

Father Richard's contact details are on the front of this newsletter.

Our Churchwardens are:
Peter Maude (churchwardenpeter@gmail.com)
Jennifer Saville (chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com)
They also act as Joint Treasurers.

The Vice-Chairman of the Chaplaincy Council is:
Joan Berry (losbalconeswarden@gmail.com)
Joan is also Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council.
For Chaplaincy Council matters please use:
chapsec@gmail.com

We take the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy is displayed at La Siesta and Lago Jardín and is available on our website:
<https://www.c-of-e-torre vieja.com/safeguarding-policy/>
Our Safeguarding Officer is Anna Horsnell who can be contacted at
safeguardingtorrevieja@gmail.com

The Congregational Warden at La Siesta is:
Sue Maude (wardenlasiesta@gmail.com)

The Congregational Warden at Lago Jardín is:
Liz Shouksmith (shouksmithliz@gmail.com)

Nuestra Señora de la Asunción at Los Balcones, our third church,
is closed for a major rebuilding project.

Home Communions

Father Richard will take Holy Communion to people at home according to their circumstances. This is a privilege and enables for prayer in the home at difficult times and for the communicant to receive Holy Communion at home. Please never hesitate to contact me if you would like Holy Communion at home if you are unable to come to church because of sickness or being housebound.

Here are some guidelines to assist you:

1. If you can, please arrange a surface with a white cloth upon which I can place the Blessed Sacrament. If this is difficult please do not worry too much but it is appreciated.

2. The Priest will not enter into general conversation until after the celebration which lasts about ten minutes. Then he would appreciate a cup of tea and chat with you but if your circumstances don't allow, please do not worry.
3. Please consider giving a donation to the Church for the Priest's ministry. He will have had to drive to you and it also enables you to give your weekly collection to support the priestly ministry in the parish / chaplaincy. This means there can be a Priest available for you and for others with a priestly presence in the parish / chaplaincy.
It is a long-established custom – if you can – to make an offering to the Church in thankfulness for the ministry of the Church.
4. You don't have to tidy up before the priest arrives! Just prepare spiritually for an encounter with Christ in the Eucharist by being prayerful before his arrival.

Father Richard writes:

Dear friends

We have recently received a legacy for 1000 euros from the estate of the late Jill Dorsett who died earlier this year. Jill was a tireless worker for and great supporter of the Chaplaincy for many, many years. She is still greatly missed especially her wonderful sense of humour and friendship which she shared with many of us. Jill's generosity to the Chaplaincy, even after death, is a sign of her dedication to the life of the Church, her faith and this Chaplaincy. A statue of S. Joseph is being given to honour her and will be placed in Lago Jardín Church in due course. Please continue to give thanks to God for Jill's life and work and pray for the repose of her soul.

Thank you for your generosity throughout November in response to the devastating floods in Valencia. We raised 720 euros which will be sent to the flood appeal via our bank.

One of the many joys of living in Spain starts to develop in December with Advent and the approach of Christmas. December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and many churches have novenas (nine days) of prayer leading up to the Solemnity itself. The principal church in Torre Vieja is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady, as she is honoured in the Immaculate Conception, is the *Patrona de España*. This year the Solemnity falls on the Second Sunday of Advent and this year is the one exception when the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception takes precedence over the Second Sunday. So, unusually this year, you will see white vestments being worn; the Eucharist is of the Immaculate Conception (except that the second reading is from the Second Sunday of Advent); the Gloria is sung. Normally the Gloria is omitted on the Sundays of Advent.

But it is important to set this in the context in which we find ourselves. We are not in England! (Or indeed, any other country.) We work in a Spanish ecumenical setting with, principally, the Spanish Catholic Church and it is those bonds of ecumenical and fraternity charity which we have maintained over many years and continue to develop that are important. This weekend is an opportunity to express that in our liturgy. It is important and generous that we should do so.

We have two Holy Hours in Advent – on the 9th and then the 20th. Advent is a time of waiting and watching – waiting in expectation for the coming again of the Lord in majesty and glory.

It is a time of prayerful hope and I hope that we will make time to be with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar and pray, pray, pray. For it is our prayer life which makes manifest that deepest longing for the coming of Christ: a coming again we long for at the end of time; his incarnational coming among us in Bethlehem; and his coming to us in the Holy Eucharist.

May God bless you all this Advent.

With my prayers and best wishes for you all, *Father Richard*



CHRISTMASS HAMPERS

From Sunday 3rd November until Sunday 15th December, tickets (squares) will be on sale to win one of the Christmass Hampers that we put together.

This is a good fundraising event to help bring in much needed funds for the work of the chaplaincy and we do ask that you try to support it. Tickets cost €2 per square and these will be available in both churches between the dates above.

Donations of chocolate, biscuits, bottles of wine etc will be gratefully received by Sue Brassington or Joan Berry so that the hampers may be put together.

DATES AHEAD:

SPECIAL SERVICES DURING ADVENT IN THE CHAPLAINCY
*In addition to our Saturday and Sunday celebrations
of the Holy Eucharist*



Monday 9 th December	1700	Holy Hour	Lago Jardín
Friday 13 th December	1800	Carol Singing	Lago Jardín
Thursday 19 th December	1800	Nine Lessons and Carols	La Siesta
Friday 20 th December	1700	Holy Hour	Lago Jardín

CHRISTMASS IN THE CHAPLAINCY



Tuesday 24th December
1700 VIGIL MASS Lago Jardín

Tuesday 24th December

2330 MASS DURING THE NIGHT La Siesta

Wednesday 25th December

1030 MASS OF THE DAY La Siesta

Saturday 28th December

1700 Mass of the Holy Family La Siesta

Sunday 29th December

1130 Mass of the Holy Family Lago Jardín



**We will not open on Thursday 26th December or
Thursday 2nd January.**

Friday 13th December



1800 – 1900

CAROL SINGING

At Lago Jardín Church

to which all are welcome

***as we prepare to celebrate The Nativity
of Our Lord Jesus Christ, please join us
for carols and readings outside.***

Refreshments in the Pool Bar afterwards.

Pay as you go.

A silhouette of a nativity scene set against a dark blue night sky. A bright star with a four-pointed glow is positioned above a wooden manger structure. To the left, a crescent moon is visible. In the background, the silhouettes of three camels and two figures on horseback are visible against a lighter blue horizon. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative of the Christmas story.

**NINE
LESSONS
AND CAROLS**

**To prepare to celebrate the Nativity of
the Lord, you are invited to**

A FESTIVAL OF

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

at La Siesta Church, Calle Granados,

Urb La Siesta, Torrevieja

Thursday 19th December

1800

followed by refreshments

ALL WELCOME!

FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHAPLAINCY

There are various ways of giving financially to the Chaplaincy for the work of the Church:

1. You can give in the plate each week.
 2. You give through the UK gift aid scheme if you are a UK tax payer.
 3. **You are encouraged to set up a standing order to the Chaplaincy – this helps us budget more effectively.**
 4. You can make an offset against your Spanish tax
 5. if you are Spanish tax payer.
- One off donations are gratefully received.

For more information contact Father Richard or the Churchwardens.

The Chaplaincy relies on generous and sacrificial giving in response to a generous God who sacrificed his Son for us all on the cross.

Spanish Bank details. Banco Sabadell.

IBAN number ES65 0081 2061 7900 0106 0414

BSAB ESBB / Capellania Anglicana de Torrevieja

UK Bank details. Barclays Bank PLC Account name: Diocese in Europe Fund

Account number: 40317039 Sort code: 20-06-13. Address : Tufton Street,London Please state TORREVIEJA as the reference so the money is correctly applied. The IBAN number is: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 31 70 39.

God bless you all for your support. *Peter and Jennifer (Churchwardens)*

GIVING ONLINE:

<https://givealittle.co/c/3yXhRUWebr0Vqwf1OSVyV8>

GIVING BY QR CODE, APPLE PAY, GOOGLE WALLET:

Hover over the QR code and go from there!

See next page...



Thank you!



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

In this Chaplaincy...

The Chalice containing the Precious Blood of Christ is offered for those who wish to receive it. Holy Communion is offered with the words "The Body of Christ" to which you say **Amen** before consuming the Sacred Host. The words "The Blood of Christ" are said to which you say **Amen** before receiving from the Chalice. The Chalice is optional.

**INTINCTION IS NOT PERMITTED
FOR HEALTH AND HYGIENE REASONS.**

**ONGOING INFORMATION FOR OUR THREE CHURCHES
SERVICES ARE SHARED BETWEEN LAGO JARDÍN AND LA SIESTA
Los Balcones, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción
*remains closed for re-building.***

Services in the Chaplaincy:

Date	Time	Church
Saturday 7 th December	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 8 th December	1130	Lago Jardín
Monday 9 th December	1700 Holy Hour	Lago Jardín
Friday 13 th December	1800 Carol Singing	Lago Jardín
Sunday 15 th December	1130	La Siesta

Thursday 19 th December	1800	Nine Lessons and Carols	La Siesta
Friday 20 th December	1700	Holy Hour	Lago Jardín
Saturday 21 st December	1700		La Siesta
Sunday 22 nd December	1130		Lago Jardín
Tuesday 24 th December	1700	VIGIL MASS	Lago Jardín
Tuesday 24 th December	2330	MASS DURING THE NIGHT	La Siesta
Wednesday 25 th December	1030	MASS OF THE DAY	La Siesta
Saturday 28 th December	1700		La Siesta
Sunday 29 th December	1130		Lago Jardín

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín

burns this week for: The Chaplaincy. If you would like to dedicate the Blessed Sacrament for a week for a person, an intention, or in memory of a departed loved one, please see Father Richard. The cost is five euros for the week.

Father Richard's Prayer List for December 2024:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time: Barbara *in extremis*, Father Barry Smart, Sarah Brain, Clíodhna *pronounced Cliona* Leydon, Michael, Gwyneth Manning, John and Cynthia Parkes, Robert Gilbert, Michael Elliott, Lewis Elliott, David, Linda Thompson, Luke Thompson, Jamie Hill, Jamie Mack, Chris Hughes, David, Michelle Lane, Rhys Miles, Eileen Shaw, Anna and Dick Horsnell, David Horsnell, Peter John, Martin Skillen, Raj Panchal, Paul McNab, Lesley Critchley, Vicky, Gwen Simmons, John Sunderland.

Please help Father Richard by letting him know when people can be taken off the prayer list. Please notify Father Richard of any corrections.



Please pray for the recently departed:

Gary Wilkes, Eileen Mary Penhaul.
Those killed as a result of the conflicts in Ukraine, Israel, Lebanon and Gaza.
 + Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Please advise Father Richard if there are any corrections to the above list.

If you wish a name to be added to the list of the sick you need to email Father Richard or write to him giving permission for yourself or ensure permission has been granted by someone else for their name to appear on this list. (GDPR regulations).

Sunday 8th December 2024

Entrance Antiphon

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,
 in my God is the joy of my soul;
 for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation,

Is 61: 10

and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bride adorned with her jewels.

Collect

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Genesis 3:9-15,20

The mother of all those who live

After Adam had eaten of the tree the Lord God called to him. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden;' he replied 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.'

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, 'Be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts. You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life. I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel.'

The man named his wife 'Eve' because she was the mother of all those who live.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97(98):1-4

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

Sing a new song to the Lord

for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

Second reading

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

May you become pure and blameless in preparation for the day of Christ

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes; and God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Lk1:28

Alleluia, alleluia!
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!
Blessed art thou among women.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

'I am the handmaid of the Lord'

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Homily



Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast celebrates God's choice of Mary to be the mother of Jesus. God preserved Mary from the stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. Thus, Mary was the first to receive the benefit of the redemption that her Son would merit for all.

To reflect upon this mystery, the Gospel reading for today presents to us the story of the Annunciation. It is through her exchange with the angel Gabriel that Luke, the Evangelist, introduces the person of Mary. The

Annunciation begins in the context of Luke's account of the birth of John the Baptist. "In the sixth month," referring to Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel appears to a virgin of Nazareth—Mary. Indeed, there are many parallels in Luke's accounts of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus.

In this passage, Luke tells us much about Mary and the child she is to bear. We learn that Mary is a virgin from Nazareth who is betrothed to a man named Joseph, who was of the house of David. The angel greets Mary in the most glowing of terms, acknowledging the favour she has found with God. The son Mary is to conceive is described in messianic terms. He will be called "Son of the Most High" and the "Son of God."

Mary is bold in her exchange with the angel. She is troubled by his greeting and questions the message, asking "How am I to bear a son if I have no relations with a man?" Mary is told that she will conceive through the power of the Holy Spirit and is offered a sign in the miraculous pregnancy of her elder cousin Elizabeth.

Mary's affirmative response to this seemingly impossible message gives evidence to the grace we know that she possesses from God. Only one who is "full of grace" can be so receptive to and cooperative with the will of God. Because of this, Mary is the model of discipleship for all Christians.



The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it unto me according to Thy Word.

Hail Mary, (as above)

And the Word was made flesh,
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, (as above)

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that as we have
known the incarnation of thy son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by
His + cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.