



**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):

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FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

15th December 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY



***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

Today is Gaudete Sunday and there are two reflections on this week's sheet that focus on its meaning. Please do take time to look at these prayerfully and spend some time this Advent in watching and waiting for the Lord. We have rose as our liturgical colour today which expresses that reality in our lives – the joy of knowing the Lord is near!

From Sunday 5th January the list of people for whom we pray publicly will be started again. If you wish any names to be included *you will need to contact me in an email by Monday 30th December. No names will be carried across.* This ensures the prayer list to kept up to date. Remember if you have asked for people to be included *you must have had their permission so to do.* This is important.

May God bless you all this Advent.

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

Living Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday, based on the Introit for the day: *Gaudete in Domino semper, iterum dico, Gaudete*, from Philippians 4:4 ("Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, 'Rejoice'"). Today, this theme is developed most fully in the second reading, which is from 1 Thessalonians. Let's take a closer look at that reading and what is meant by the admonition to "rejoice." It is surely more than feeling mere emotional joy. The goal is a deep, serene, confident and stable joy of the Holy Spirit.

The text says, "Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit."

Prayer without ceasing is a discipline of the mind. St. Paul does not mean that we should stay in a chapel all day long. He means that we should be living in conscious contact with God at every moment of our day. To be grateful in all circumstances means that we must remember that "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28); even the painful things bring forth blessings. The Holy Spirit wants

this grateful spirit to be ours, and we ought not quench his gift to us of being always gratefully aware of God's goodness.

The text says, "Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good." First, the phrase "prophetic utterances" refers to Scripture. But there are also approved visions and prophecies that have been permitted us by the Church. Scripture is a prophetic declaration of reality. We ought not to despise God's word in any way, but should accept it wholeheartedly. "Prophetic utterances" also refers to the teachings of the Church, the words of the Fathers of the Church, and the teachings of the saints down through the ages. There is a great deposit of faith that has been carefully collected and lovingly handed down from apostolic times. We, too, ought to seek out every instruction prophetically uttered by Mother Church, allowing nothing to fall to the ground. Approved apparitions, prophecies and spiritual works are also a source for us too; and we should seek out the witness of Mary and the saints of old who kept and handed on the faith.

The text says, "Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy; and may you, entirely, spirit, soul and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it." The greatest source of sorrow in our life, the biggest killer of joy, is sin. To the degree that we indulge it, our joy is sapped, but to the extent that we allow the Lord to deliver us from sin and make us more and more holy, our joy becomes deeper and more lasting.

The words "holy" and "whole" are not far removed from each other. As we become more whole, more perfected, freer from sin, more holy and blameless, our joy deepens and we can increasingly "rejoice always." God will do this for us if we are willing and if we ask him. Thus the mandate, the exhortation, to "rejoice always" is a call to live a stable and serene joy rooted in prayerful gratitude.

Father Charles Pope, Washington DC

DATES AHEAD:

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



Thursday 19th December 1800 Nine Lessons and Carols
Friday 20th December 1700 Holy Hour

La Siesta
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

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 long tail is positioned above a wooden manger structure. Inside the manger, several figures are visible, including Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. In the background, three camels are silhouetted against the horizon. A crescent moon is visible on the left side of the sky.

**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!



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



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
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
Sunday 5 th January	1130	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	La Siesta
Saturday 11 th January	1700	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	La Siesta
Sunday 12 th January	1130	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	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 15th December 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Collect

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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

Zephaniah 3:14-18

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Isaiah 12

The rejoicing of a redeemed people

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second reading

Philippians 4:4-7

The Lord is very near

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Is61:1(Lk4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

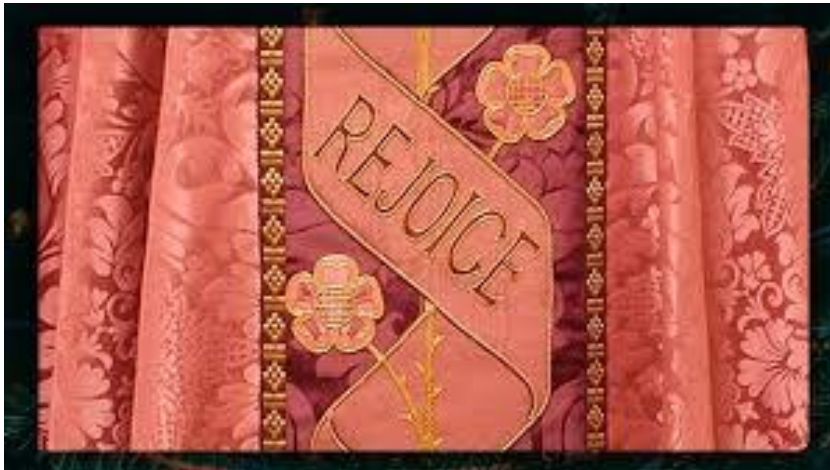
Luke 3:10-18

'Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire'

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Homily



This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel

continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a rose candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.



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.**