



**Diocese
in Europe**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA

The Church of England worshipping 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

29th September 2024

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6th October 2024

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

13th October 2024

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20th October 2024

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



***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:

The last three months of this year, from October onwards, are filled with opportunities for our discipleship to take a further step in growth of holiness with a number of opportunities presented to us in the life of the Church and our Chaplaincy. Please note what is happening and look at each liturgy as a gift to grow so we may grow closer to the Lord in the Christian faith.

Our Holy Hour on October 21st gives us a time of prayer in the sacramental presence of the Lord. Over the years those who have come to the Holy Hours have commented on their beauty and prayerfulness. If you haven't been before, why not come and experience this sacred time for yourself?

Our Mass with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing on October 28th affords us a prayerful opportunity to come to the altar for a liturgy which is described as follows: *Christ is always present when we gather in his name; today we welcome him as physician and healer. Through this Eucharist and anointing we invoke his healing power.* We come to the Lord and seek his healing and comforting grace for those moments and conditions of life in which we turn to the Lord for healing of mind, body, and spirit.

Our offering of the Holy Rosary on October 8th gives us an opportunity to pray to the Lord and seek the prayers of his Blessed Mother and ours. If you have never prayed the Rosary before or have always wondered what the Rosary is now you have an opportunity to learn. Please bring your prayer requests with you and they will be offered. We meditate on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, the compendium of the gospel. Please bring your Rosary bead with you or try and obtain some if you don't have already.

Looking also into November, the Church looks beyond our pilgrim life on earth and sets her liturgical direction towards the hope that awaits us all. All Saints' Day on November 1st celebrates the triumph of Christ in the saints, the holy men and women of God in every time and place who fought for the faith and run the race. Now crowned with eternal glory, we celebrate their victory and communion with us.

On November 2nd, we come to the altar for a Requiem Mass to commemorate and pray for the faithful departed, our loved one who have gone before us. The obit lists will be available in both our churches from the last weekend of September and throughout October for you to write their names IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE FOR CLARITY and they will be prayed for at

Mass on November 2nd. Come and honour them through your prayers and presence at the Requiem Mass.

Then on the weekend of 9th/ 10th November we will have our usual Remembrance Sunday commemorations with the two minutes silence both at La Siesta and Lago Jardín.

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

DATES AHEAD:



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday 28th

September

1700 La Siesta

Sunday 29th September

1130 Lago Jardín

You are invited to bring tinned and packet food to our churches for distribution to those who are supported by Mission Possible in Torrevieja. Please do bring everything by ten minutes before the Masses begin so we can arrange them beautifully around our altars. Thank you.

THREE OPPORTUNITIES AT 1700

Three different opportunities to pray...



Monday 21st October

1700 – 1800

HOLY HOUR AT LAGO JARDÍN

An opportunity to be in the sacramental presence of the Lord. A time of quiet and led prayer beginning with Evening Prayer and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Priest makes the sign of the cross over the people with the Eucharistic Host,

the real presence of Christ and we receive the blessing of Jesus. If you've never been to a Holy Hour before it is beautiful liturgy.



Monday 28th October

1700 MASS WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING LA SIESTA

At this Mass we come to the Lord to seek his healing grace – for our sufferings and our sorrows, for healing and wholeness, for grace and strength in the brokenness of the human condition. The Lord comes to us through the laying on of hands by the Priest and then anointing with the Oil of the Sick. A time to place ourselves in the hands of Jesus the Healer and

Reconciler and feel the touch of his hands and the effect of his sacramental grace.



Friday 8th November

1700

HOLY ROSARY AT LAGO JARDÍN CHURCH

*Come and pray the compendium of the Gospel. If you have prayed the Rosary before or its new to you, you are invited to pray with Father Richard as we offer the Holy Rosary and meditate on the life of the Lord and join our prayers with his holy Mother. We name our petitions before the Lord and ask Our Lady to take up our prayers. **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. Please bring your Rosary beads with you or buy some if you don't have. Father Richard has a few spare sets you can use if not.

TWO IMPORTANT MASSES FOR NOVEMBER



Friday 1st November

ALL SAINTS

*****1030*** HOLY EUCHARIST**

Lago Jardín

This day is when the Church celebrates the great multitude of the Communion of Saints, the countless number of men and women of every time and place whose holiness is counted by God as a reward for their Christian witness.

"O Blest Communion! fellowship divine! We feebly struggle they in glory shine; Yet all are

one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluya! Alleluya!"

ALL SOULS DAY

"May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen."

1030 REQUIEM MASS *La Siesta*

We pray for the faithful departed, our loved ones whom we see no longer in this life.

*From October you will be able to write the names you wish to be remembered in prayer. Most importantly, **come and pray for them yourself.***



Remember that **Lago Jardín Church** is open for prayer, reflection, and visiting from 1030 - 1200 each Thursday.

Opposite the Dña Monse Hotel
CV95, Urb Lago Jardín. Torrevieja

All welcome to come and enjoy this lovely church...



La Siesta Church
Every Wednesday 1030 - 1230
COFFEE AND TEA
MORNING for everyone
A time for chat, fellowship, refreshments and the church will be open for silent prayer too...

Calle Granados
Urb La Siesta
Torrevieja

ALL WELCOME

BEGINNING OCTOBER 2ND AT LA SIESTA

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 28 th September	1700 HARVEST FESTIVAL	La Siesta
Sunday 29 th September	1130 HARVEST FESTIVAL	Lago Jardín
Sunday 6 th October	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 12 th October	1700 Liturgy of the Word	La Siesta

Sunday 13 th October	1130	Liturgy of the Word	Lago Jardín
Sunday 20 th October	1130		La Siesta
Saturday 26 th October	1700		La Siesta
Sunday 27 th October	1130		Lago Jardín
Monday 28 th October	1700	Mass with Laying on of Hands and Anointing	La Siesta
Friday 1st November	1030	ALL SAINTS	Lago Jardín
Saturday 2nd November	1030	ALL SOULS	La Siesta
Sunday 3 rd November	1130		La Siesta
Saturday 9 th November	1700	Eve of Remembrance Sunday	La Siesta
Sunday 10 th November	1130	Remembrance Sunday	Lago Jardín
Sunday 17 th November	1130		La Siesta
Saturday 23 rd November	1700		La Siesta
Sunday 24 th November	1130	Liturgy of the Word	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 September and October 2024:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:

His Majesty King Charles, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, Clíodhna pronounced Cliona Leydon, Michael, Gwyneth Manning, John and Cynthia Parkes, Michael Elliott, Lewis Elliott, David, Linda Thompson, Luke Thompson, Jamie Hill, Jamie Mack, Chris Hughes, Michelle Lane, Rhys Miles, Joey McNab, Eileen Shaw, Anna and Dick Horsnell, David Horsnell, Peter John, Martin Skillen, Raj Panchal, Paul McNab, Lesley Critchley, Gwen Simmons, Vicky,

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:

Tony Capewell RIP, Elizabeth Kaldor RIP (*Funeral, San Fulgencio Catholic Church, Saturday 28th September, 12 noon*)

Those killed as a result of the conflicts in Ukraine, Israel, 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 29th September 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Dn 3: 31, 29, 30, 43, 42

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Collect

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.
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

Numbers 11:25-29

If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 18(19):8,10,12-14

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,

it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

So in them your servant finds instruction;
great reward is in their keeping.

But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me.

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin.

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

Second reading

James 5:1-6

The Lord hears the cries of those you have cheated

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord:
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Do not stop anyone from working a miracle in my name

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

Homily

Today we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

Sunday 6 October 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Est 4: 17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.

For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
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 2:18-24

A man and his wife become one body

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127(128)

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace!

May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Second reading

Hebrews 2:9-11

The one who sanctifies is the brother of those who are sanctified

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord:
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

Or:

1Jn4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
As long as we love one another
God will live in us
and his love will be complete in us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 10:2-16

What God has united, man must not divide

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

Homily

Today we continue to read from the Gospel according to Mark. For the past three Sundays, we have been hearing Mark's reports of conversations between Jesus and his disciples. Recall that in Mark's Gospel, Jesus uses these private moments to teach his disciples in greater detail about the Kingdom of God. Beginning with today's Gospel, Jesus returns to Judea, Jewish territory, and resumes his public ministry. The first verse of chapter 10 of Mark's Gospel tells us that crowds gathered around Jesus, and he taught them, as was his custom. Immediately, the Pharisees approach Jesus to test him.

The Pharisees question Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce. Under specific conditions, divorce was an accepted practice among the Jewish people during the time of Jesus. It was regulated by the Law of Moses, as found in Deuteronomy 24:1-5. This law only permits that a husband may divorce his wife if he finds her to be indecent. This is the justification that the Pharisees reference when Jesus inquires about the commandment of Moses. In reply, Jesus quotes from the Book of Genesis and counters that God's original intention was that men and women would become one flesh in marriage. Jesus describes the teaching of Moses as a concession made to God's original intention because of human stubbornness.

At first glance, the final part of today's Gospel seems unconnected to the previous teaching about divorce. When read together, however, these passages present a strong picture of Jesus' emphasis on the importance of family. God intended for women and men to be joined together in marriage. Among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children. By welcoming children and fostering their relationship with God, parents and families bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of today's Gospel, the people were bringing their children to Jesus, and again Jesus' disciples show that they just don't get it. Recall that in the Gospel for each of the past two Sundays, Jesus has taught his disciples the value and importance of these "little ones" in the Kingdom of God. Yet in today's Gospel, the disciples try to prevent people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus reprimands his disciples and welcomes these children. Again Jesus offers these children as an example of the kind of complete trust and dependence upon God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

Sunday 13 October 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 129: 3-4

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

Collect

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
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

Wisdom 7:7-11

I esteemed Wisdom more than sceptres or thrones

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89(90):12-17

Fill us with your love so that we may rejoice.

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

Fill us with your love so that we may rejoice.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune.

Fill us with your love so that we may rejoice.

Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

Fill us with your love so that we may rejoice.

Second reading

Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God cuts more finely than a double-edged sword

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

Or:

Mt5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!

How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 10:17-30

Give everything you own to the poor, and follow me

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

Homily

Today we continue reading the Gospel of Mark from where we left off last Sunday. Last Sunday our Gospel told how Jesus was tested by the Pharisees about the requirements for divorce. Recall that these chapters come from the second part of Mark's Gospel, which chronicles the beginning of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.

In today's Gospel, an unnamed man approaches Jesus and inquires about what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus replies that one must follow the commandments of the Law of Moses. The man acknowledges that he has observed all of these since his childhood. Jesus then says that only one thing is lacking: he must give his possessions to the poor and follow Jesus. The man leaves in sadness, and Mark tells us that this is because he had many possessions.

The belief in resurrection and eternal life was a relatively recent development in Jewish thought at Jesus' time, and it wasn't shared by everyone. The Pharisees taught that there would be a resurrection from the dead; the Sadducees did not share this belief. Jesus taught that there would be a final judgment for everyone and eternal life (the Kingdom of God) for believers.

Jesus makes two requirements of the wealthy man who approaches him. First, he must give up his possessions. Throughout history, some Christians have taken this literally. Their example witnesses to us a radical commitment to the Gospel of Jesus. Some have read this as a particular requirement directed to this specific individual. Still others have sought to explain the meaning intended by the word *possessions* as those things that prevent one from following Jesus. Christians have generally understood that at the least, following Jesus requires that believers hold material possessions loosely and remain vigilant against seeking security in accumulating possessions.

The second requirement Jesus makes of this man is the invitation that Jesus extends to all would-be disciples: "follow *me*." Jesus very much wants this man to be his disciple. We believe that the Christian faith is one in which each believer is in a personal relationship with Jesus. Just as this Gospel tells us that Jesus loves the man and is sad when he departs, so too, Jesus loves us and is saddened when we are unable to follow him.

We see in this Gospel reading another example of Mark's pattern, which shows Jesus offering further elaboration about his message and meaning to his disciples. To his disciples, Jesus laments the challenges faced by those who are rich in following him and entering the Kingdom of God. In reply to the disciples' astonishment at the strictness of the standard that Jesus speaks about today, Jesus reminds his disciples that nothing is impossible with God. Salvation is determined by our ability to rely completely upon God.

Peter replies to Jesus by boasting that the disciples have already given up everything. Jesus acknowledges that those who have given up everything for the sake of the Gospel will be rewarded. This reward begins now, in the new community that one will gain in this life, and will continue in the eternal age to come. Our personal relationship with Jesus is also an invitation to the community of faith, the Church.

Sunday 20 October 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 16: 6, 8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
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

If he offers his life in atonement, what the Lord wishes will be done

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.
If he offers his life in atonement,
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life
and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over,
he shall see the light and be content.
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,
taking their faults on himself.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32(33):4-5,18-20,22

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second reading

Hebrews 4:14-16

**Our high priest is one who has been tempted in every way that we
are**

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
No one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

Or:

Mk10:45

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for many.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 10:35-45

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Homily

In this Sunday's Gospel, we continue to read from the section of Mark's Gospel that reports Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Last Sunday we heard Jesus lament the particular challenges those with many possessions face in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus then predicts his passion to the Twelve, who are amazed and afraid. In this part of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words to his closest disciples seem to be intended to prepare them for the events that will occur in Jerusalem.

In today's Gospel, James and John ask to be given seats of honour when Jesus enters into his glory. Once again, the disciples seem to be selective in what they hear Jesus say. They want to share Jesus' glory, but do not appear to understand that his glory will be preceded by his suffering. Jesus notes their lack of understanding and predicts the suffering they will endure

for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus says that the honor they seek is not his to give. When the other ten hear what James and John have asked, Mark reports that they are indignant. Jesus takes the opportunity to teach them.

Jesus explains the importance of service and sacrifice in the life of a disciple. In particular, he seems to be preparing the Twelve for their leadership roles in the emerging Christian community. Echoing the Gospel we heard several weeks ago (on the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mark 9:33-37), Jesus acknowledges that his teaching is countercultural. In today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the dynamics within the community of disciples with those shown by the rulers of the Gentiles.

Following Jesus' example of sacrificial love continues to be countercultural in our day as well. We might take this opportunity to consider our models of authority and examine our own exercise of authority. On whose example do we model our leadership?



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.