



**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):

Father Richard A. Seabrook SSC

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Chaplaincy Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/anglicantorrevieja>

Chaplain's Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja/>

FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

14th January 2024

SECOND 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 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 and Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council is:
Joan Berry (losbalconeswarden@gmail.com)**

**We take the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy
is displayed at La Siesta and is available on our website:
<https://www.c-of-e-torrevieja.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)**

**Our church Lago Jardín is in the process of being used again.
Nuestra Señora de la Asunción at Los Balcones 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. Obviously Covid circumstances are taken into consideration.

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

May the Lord bless you all throughout 2024. As this is the first newsletter of 2024 I would like to re-iterate my sincere thanks to all who worked so hard during Advent and Christmass for our liturgies and events leading up to and including The Nativity of the Lord. I am most grateful for all your commitment and contributions, in various ways, to our corporate life. Thank you.

Some important information

Some of you will know of the present situation here in the Chaplaincy regarding my working pattern. Some of you may not be aware so the start of 2024 is a good opportunity to share this information again. I invite you to read this carefully.

A priest receives a stipend (not a wage or salary). For this the priest works six days a week with one day off. Along with this, the parish / chaplaincy has a duty to house the priest either through a parish / chaplaincy house, renting, or housing allowance. This is the standard practice throughout all the chaplaincies in the Diocese in Europe.

However, not all chaplaincies are able to pay a full stipend. Unfortunately, for a number of years now, this Chaplaincy has not been able to afford to pay a full stipend and I receive (and live on) a half-stipend. This is far from ideal as it means the working times of the priest are halved as well. On a matter of fairness, you can't expect a priest paid a full stipend and a priest paid a half-stipend to minister in the same way. I made the choice, voluntarily, to live on a half-stipend because of our financial situation. We have a deficit situation year after year – we also had to sell the Chaplaincy house in November 2022 to give us some capital reserves. I now live in my own apartment and the Chaplaincy pays a housing allowance. We simply do not have enough income coming into the Chaplaincy at the moment to meet our financial requirements and even by paying a half-stipend we still have a deficit. I do acknowledge with thanksgiving the monies we receive from you to support the ministry of the church here.

The Churchwardens, Peter Maude and Jennifer Saville, will be talking about this in the next few weeks. To be able to have a Priest here there is a financial responsibility which goes beyond just the stipend. There is a Common Fund amount we have to pay to our Diocese, an Archdeaconry amount each year, payment for our representatives to be able to go to Archdeaconry Synod, my pension contributions, housing allowance, electricity bills at Lago Jardín, car maintenance, petrol, car insurance, social security costs for me, and even twenty five euros each time we have a liturgy at La Siesta plus the cost of the liturgical supplies for

the Eucharist – and this is not the end of the list. We are enriched with the blessings of God in our lives and in our church. God is generous to us all. For a church to be here it is totally reliant on our giving and fund-raising to maintain the priestly ministry. At the moment, even with the priest receiving a half-stipend, we still fall short each month.

What does a half-stipend mean? This means the priest “works” three days a week instead of six. This is far from ideal! Nevertheless, I hope that my commitment is obvious but we cannot get into the mindset of thinking a half-stipend will do and Father Richard will still do everything. I believe everything here is more than well-covered but it does mean that that is not a satisfactory way of ministering in the long term.

With our return to Lago Jardín it means that my working days are now Saturday (all day), Sunday morning (half day), Monday (all day), Tuesday (half day, until 1400). This makes for three working days and a half stipend covers one half day rest instead of a full day. Pastoral situations and emergencies that may occur on other days will, of course, be covered so will funerals when they occur; correspondence will be dealt with to stop a backlog building up and choosing to work in my “rest” time if I feel I need to. This I am happy to do but everyone needs to be aware of my working situation because of only a half-stipend. It is quite unsettling to talk about things in this term but it is best people know and understand the reality of the situation. You can’t expect a priest to achieve the same things on a half-stipend than you would on a full stipend and I like to think I try to achieve as much as possible in the time allotted on a half-stipend. I will often be at my desk at 0700 on working days. A lot, so much, goes on behind the scenes in a parish / chaplaincy.

I hope this gives you an explanation of where I am in my working pattern. I remain committed, content, and blessed in my priestly ministry here but elephants in rooms, sweeping things under the carpet do not serve our Christian stewardship and ministry well, therefore do not serve Our Lord well.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or the churchwardens.

With my prayers for you all as I ask you to pray for me.

Your priest and friend,
Father Richard



Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!

Dates ahead:

Monday 5th February 1700 – 1800

HOLY HOUR AT LAGO JARDÍN

**Blessed and praised be
Jesus Christ in the
Most Holy Sacrament!
Hosanna in excelsis!**



We spend an hour in quiet adoration and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Beginning with Evening Prayer, we come into the presence of the Lord with the Eucharistic Host being placed in the monstrance – you can see this in the photograph. There is silence, some singing, some prayers, some reflection. Everyone who comes says it is wonderful experience. The Blessed Sacrament is honoured with incense. It's a lovely devotional time. Why not try it?

We conclude with Benediction. The Priest makes the Sign of the Cross over us and truly we receive the blessing of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



Tuesday 13th February
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE PARTY
AT LA SIESTA (lunchtime)



SOUP, PANCAKES, STALLS...

More details to follow but please put the date in your diary now. We want to try and beat our 600 euros raised last year. Please see Sue Maude if you can help.



Wednesday 14th February
ASH WEDNESDAY
Day of Fasting and Abstinence

In preparation for this please return your palm crosses from last year. These are needed to burn to make the ash for Ash Wednesday.

Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes:

1030 at Lago Jardín

1600 at La Siesta

Please note the times.

An important Holy Day so start Lent well!



100 Club 2024 subscriptions

Thank you to everyone who were in the 100 Club scheme last year which helped to raise funds for the chaplaincy and for the Mission Possible charity.

Subscriptions are now due in January, starting on the 7th. David and Moira Corfield have kindly agreed to assist me in collecting the money and they will be approaching people on the current list to see if you wish to continue. (Please do so!)

I shall be at Lago Jardin Church on the Sundays when they have a service and you may give me the money if you are there.

If you are not yet part of the 100 Club but would be interested in joining, please see either Moira or myself. Please ensure any money is paid by 4th February.

Subscriptions cost €20 per year. You get an allocated number which is entered into seven draws per year. The final prize money will depend on the number of subscriptions we sell.

If you are not going to be in Spain during January you may transfer the amount in to the chaplaincy UK account, the details of which are in this newsletter.

If you do a transfer, please mark it clearly 100 Club and let myself and Peter Maude know.

Joan Berry

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 can join our envelope scheme to give a regular amount on a weekly basis – and set aside money for those weeks when you cannot be here.
3. **You are encouraged to set up a standing order to the Chaplaincy – this helps us budget more effectively.**

If you are a UK tax payer you can gift aid your giving.

If you are a Spanish tax payer you can have a tax offset by notifying your accountant when arranging your yearly tax along with the Spanish bank account number who will then arrange a claim and the money will be donated back to the Chaplaincy.

One off donations would be gratefully received to assist us at this difficult time.
Thank you for your help.

For more information contact Father Richard, the Churchwardens, or your Congregational Warden.

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 Torre Vieja

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)*



Church of England Chaplaincy of SS Peter and Paul, Torre Vieja

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 13 th January	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 14 th January	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 21 st January	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 27 th January	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 28 th January	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 4 th February	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 10 th February	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 11 th February	1130	Lago Jardín
Wednesday 14 th February	1030 <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	Lago Jardín
Wednesday 14 th February	1600 <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i>	La Siesta
Sunday 18 th February	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 24 th February	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 25 th February	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 3 rd March	1130	La Siesta

We now have three opportunities:

- 1. For those who prefer to worship on a Sunday we will have services every week for you.*
- 2. To grow the congregation at Lago Jardín especially with those around the church now it is re-opened.*
- 3. To continue to consolidate and grow the congregation at La Siesta as we are not lessening our commitment there.*

There is a liturgical Facebook group.

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplainitorrevieja> and ask to join the group.
2. You will be asked three questions. Please complete them and agree to the rules of the group.

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 January 2024:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time: Tanya Ziegler, Patricia Welch, Michael Sheriden, Gary Wilkes, Joey McNab, Keith Palmer, Jill and John Dorsett, Eileen Shaw, Anna Horsnell, Dick Horsnell, David Horsnell, Liz Shouksmith, Chloe and



Lorena, Peter John, Martin Skillen, Bert Nelson, Garth Sutherland, Andrew Little, Philip Howse, Jamie Hill, Raj Panchal, Peter Passey, Paul McNab, Lesley Critchley, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons.

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

Please pray for the recently departed:

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 14th January 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 65: 4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.
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

1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since

you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 39(40):2,4,7-10

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20

Do not sin against your own body

The body is not meant for fornication: it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never! But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel Acclamation

1S3:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Or:

Jn1:41,17

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have found the Messiah – which means the Christ –
grace and truth have come through him.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:35-42

'We have found the Messiah'

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

Homily

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptized by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a

sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him *Peter*, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?





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.