



**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

+ 34 966 840 136

+ 34 693 932 438 – Chaplaincy Mobile

Email: frras@c-of-e-torrevieja.com

www.c-of-e-torrevieja.com



@sspandptorrevieja

Instagram



@anglicantorrevieja

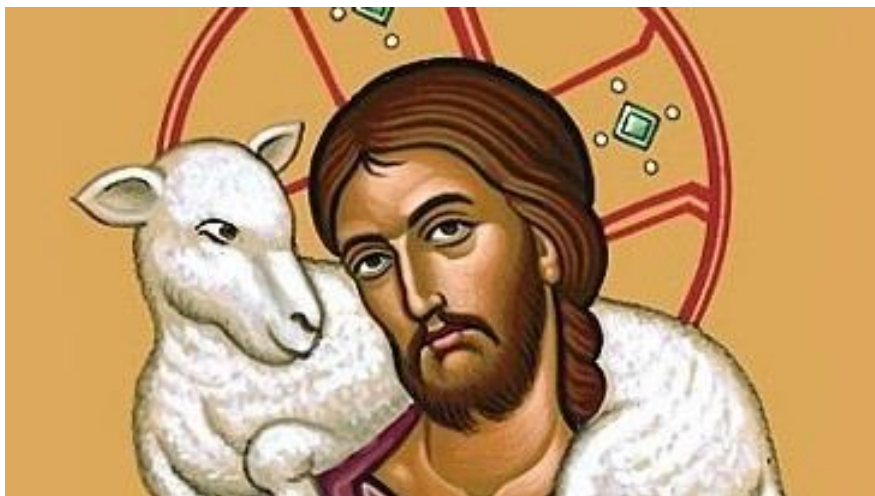
FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

21st April 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

28th April 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**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 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 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 Communion

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

Thank you to Father Martin for celebrating the Eucharist and preaching on Sunday 21st April. It is a great joy to have him as a Priest with Permission to Officiate and I am personally grateful for him so that the Eucharist can be celebrated for you when I am on holiday. Please do pray for Father Martin.

There is a message from Father Robert at the of this message.

About ten years ago Michael Elliott became our Chaplaincy Communications Officer and during that time he has assiduously and keenly watched over many different communication matters in the Chaplaincy: distributing notices, sending media releases to various local newspapers and magazines, maintaining our Facebook page, sharing information, dealing with our website, and communicating with Mike Parker who hosts our website and email server. I am sure there are other things as well done in the background. He has undertaken these tasks willingly, enthusiastically and professionally. During this time social media has changed so very much. Michael has decided the time is right to step aside from these duties and I would like place on record my grateful thanks for all his magnificent and tireless work. He has ensured that there has been a seamless handover, as I would have expected from him. He is going to continue to be our press release person. I know you will also be thankful for all the work he has done. Michael, we really appreciate all you have contributed in this ministry, Thank you!!!

A continuing blessed Easter to you all.

Your priest and friend,

Father Richard

Father Robert writes:

My dear friends,

It is with great sadness that I have decided not to renew my 'Permission To Officiate' (PTO) when it expires in June.

One of the reasons is that my health isn't up to it at the moment.

I know that many in your lovely growing congregation have not met me, and this is because of my darling wife's death in April 2023. I came out last May to put our apartment on the market which has now been sold and I did meet some new members then which was lovely.

I have so many fond memories of my time in the Chaplaincy. For me, celebrating Mass in the various churches and taking part in so many wonderful events in the life of the Chaplaincy was always a joy and a privilege. On many occasions Val would be playing the organ while I was celebrating Mass so I cannot imagine taking a service without breaking down!

I have been assisting the Chaplaincy for ten wonderful years and this decision has not been an easy one, especially as Father Richard and I have become such good friends. However, I look forward to better health and visiting the Chaplaincy in the future.

As I said, during these 10 years, Father Richard and I have become close friends, and we will continue to be via all the technological means available, to say nothing of him visiting God's own country of Wales, where he has never been 🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬🇧🇬!

Anyone wishing to befriend me on Facebook please do as I will be delighted to keep up to date with your news! I am a member of the Chaplaincy Facebook group anyway.

I feel it is the right time now for me to make this break as you have Father Martin to assist in the Chaplaincy and help Father Richard. If I can overcome these health problems, then I can hopefully make a visit which will be lovely. I could even apply for another PTO in the future. It all depends on my health!

God bless you all and may you continue to grow under the wonderful leadership of Father Richard and his priestly, caring, loving ministry.

Love & Prayers,
Father Robert

100 Club draw for April

1st prize €20; number 80 Gareth Griffiths

2nd prize €15; number 11 Anna Sage Donated to church funds

3rd prize €10; number 15 Father Martin

The Vocal Group

LYRICAL

Invite You To A

Springtime Serenade

Wednesday 15th May 7:30pm



**Featuring a programme of
well known classic songs,
show tunes
and popular
music loved
by all**

**La Siesta Church
Calle Granados
El Chaparral**



Tickets 10€ - Proceeds to Support Church Funds

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 Torreveija

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)*

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Church of England Chaplaincy of SS Peter and Paul, Torreveija

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
Sunday 21 st April	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 27 th April	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 28 th April	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 5 th May	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 11 th May	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 12 th May	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 19 th May	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 25 th May	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 26 th May	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 2 nd June	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 8 th June	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 9 th June	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 16 th June	1130	La Siesta

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 April 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, Father Robert, Barbara Cooper, Fiona, Chris Hughes, Michelle Lane, David Corfield, Neil Harrison, Rhys Miles, Tanya Ziegler, Patricia Welch, Gary Wilkes, Joey McNab, Keith Palmer, Eileen Shaw, Anna and Dick Horsnell, David Horsnell, Liz Shouksmith, Chloe and Lorena, Peter John, Martin Skillen, Garth Sutherland, Andrew Little, 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.

Bill Bennion, Ellen Bedford.

+ 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 21st April 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 32: 5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Acts 4:8-12

The name of Jesus Christ is the only name in which we can be saved

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 117(118):1,8-9,21-23,26,28-29

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

or

Alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men;
it is better to take refuge in the Lord

than to trust in princes.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

or

Alleluia!

I will thank you for you have answered

and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,

a marvel in our eyes.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

or

Alleluia!

Blessed in the name of the Lord

is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;

You are my God, I thank you.

My God, I praise you.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;

for his love has no end.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

or

Alleluia!

Second reading

1 John 3:1-2

We shall be like God because we shall see him as he really is

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,

by letting us be called God's children;

and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,

therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God

but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed

we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:11-18

The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man
and has no concern for the sheep.

'I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me,
just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have
that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well.
They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock,
and one shepherd.

'The Father loves me,
because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again.
No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Homily

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when he declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.

This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31,39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes his relationship with his followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. In the verses following Jesus' teaching, we learn that the Pharisees and the other religious leaders understand that Jesus is referring to them when he describes the hired shepherds.

The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. Jesus says, however, that the actions of the good shepherd are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

As with so much of John's Gospel, one hears in this passage John's particular focus on Christology. As the sheep are known by the Good Shepherd, the Father knows Jesus and Jesus knows the Father. There is an essential unity between the Father and the Son. The freedom with which Jesus acts when he lays down his life is rooted in the unity that he shares with his Father.

In this context, Jesus also refers to others with whom he shares a relationship. By this reference, John probably understands the eventual inclusion of the Gentiles in the Christian community. Our modern ears hear this as a reference to Christian unity. The work of ecumenism is to restore unity among all Christians so that we form one flock under one shepherd, as God desires.

Sunday 28th April 2024

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 97: 1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.

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

Acts 9:26-31

**Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his
journey**

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21(22):26-28,30-32

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

or

Alleluia!

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever!

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

or

Alleluia!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,

all families of the nations worship before him;

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

or

Alleluia!

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,

declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:

'These things the Lord has done.'

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

or

Alleluia!

Second reading

1 John 3:18-24

The commandment of faith and love

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain
that we are children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.
My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.
Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn15:4,5

Alleluia, alleluia!
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1-8

I am the vine, you are the branches

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

Homily

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence

with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.

Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbor. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

The Regina Cæli (used during Eastertime)



Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia!
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Let us pray.

O God, who by the resurrection of thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, didst vouchsafe to give joy to the whole world, grant, we beseech thee, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.