

# 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
frras@c-of-e-torrevieja.com
www.c-of-e-torrevieja.com



Chaplaincy Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/anglicantorrevieja">https://www.facebook.com/anglicantorrevieja</a>
Chaplain's Facebook Group:

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

FATHER RICHARD`S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMASS)





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 (<a href="mailto:churchwardenpeter@gmail.com">churchwardenpeter@gmail.com</a>)
Jennifer Saville (<a href="mailto:chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com">chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com</a>)
They also act as Joint Treasurers.

The Vice-Chairman of and Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council is: Joan Berry (<a href="losbalconeswarden@gmail.com">losbalconeswarden@gmail.com</a>)

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
<a href="mailto:safeguardingtorrevieja@gmail.com">safeguardingtorrevieja@gmail.com</a>

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

The Congregational Warden at Lago Jardín is: Liz Shouksmith (<a href="mailto:shouksmithliz@gmail.com">shouksmithliz@gmail.com</a>)

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

Preparing for Lent
Lent begins on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>
February with Ash Wednesday. It
is an important holy day and we
are invited to make this a priority
in our day – to do penance with
the placing of the blessed ashes
on our heads as a sign of desire
to return to the Lord in
preparation for the Paschal
Mystery of Christ's death and
resurrection. But I haven't left the
Lord you might say. Our Lenten



penance invites us to look at the quality of our Christian pilgrimage and ask the Lord to help us to grow. All of us – yes all of us – are invited to *fast and weep before the Lord, that our God, rich in mercy, might forgive us our sins.* (Ash Wednesday antiphon). When we come to the Eucharist on Ash Wednesday we come so that ashes are blessed and placed on our heads as a sign of that penance, our contrition and mindful of our mortality. The words used by the priest are clear and direct: *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* From that point, our acknowledgement of our sins, Lent gives us a period of forty days of grace to grow. The word *Lent* comes from the word *lengthen.* As the days lengthen it is the springtime of the Church. A Lenten hymn echoes this:

Jesus, the sun of ransomed earth, Shed in our inmost souls thy light, As in spring days a fairer birth Heralds, each morn, the doom of night.

The day is come, the accepted day, When grace, like nature, flowers anew; Trained by thy hand the surer way Rejoice we in our spring-time too.

Lent is characterized by three disciplines: Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Each of these disciplines is a way by which that grace can take deep root in us to prepare. We prepare

during the weeks of Lent for the Sacred Triduum of the liturgical celebration of the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

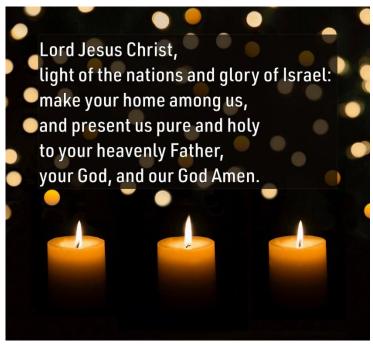
During Lent the liturgy is very restrained. The *Glory to God in the highest* is not sung and the *Alleluia* is absent waiting its solemn proclamation at the Easter Vigil when we celebrate, in that holy night, the Lord's rising from the dead. The organ sustains only the singing and there is no incidental music before, during, and after the liturgy. The liturgy reflects the sense of the season.

If you think Lent is about giving up chocolate or alcohol, then think again!

Please pray for me as I pray for you. The Lord bless you all.

Your priest and friend, Father Richard





We'll be celebrating The Presentation of the Lord on February 4th.

Dates ahead:

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 1700 – 1800 HOLY HOUR AT LAGO JARDÍN



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 13<sup>th</sup> February 12 noon SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE PARTY AT LA SIESTA – 5 euros





SOUP, PANCAKES, STALLS...

We would like to try and beat our 600 euros raised last year. Please see Sue Maude if you can help with items for a cake stall, bric a brac, preserves, the raffle, and anything you might suggest could help us on the day.



## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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

1700 at La Siesta (please note the change of time)

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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)



#### Church of England Chaplaincy of SS Peter and Paul, Torrevieja

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 <u>NOT</u> 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 27 <sup>th</sup> January   | 1700 |                  | La Siesta   |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January     | 1130 |                  | Lago Jardín |
| Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> February     | 1130 |                  | La Siesta   |
| Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> February  | 1700 |                  | La Siesta   |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February    | 1130 |                  | Lago Jardín |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February | 1030 | ASH WEDNESDAY    | Lago Jardín |
| Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February | 1700 | ASH WEDNESDAY    | La Siesta   |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February    | 1130 |                  | La Siesta   |
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February  | 1700 |                  | La Siesta   |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February    | 1130 |                  | Lago Jardín |
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March        | 1130 |                  | La Siesta   |
| Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March      | 1700 | MOTHERING SUNDAY | La Siesta   |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March       | 1130 | MOTHERING SUNDAY | Lago Jardín |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja">https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja</a> 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: Ellen Bedford, Garth Sutherland, 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, 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:

Enid Buswell, Bert Nelson, Gordon Bristow, Violet Smith, William John Dougan RIP. *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 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

Ps 105: 47

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

#### Collect

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth 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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

#### I will raise up a prophet and put my words into his mouth

Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I

have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks,

with songs let us hail the Lord.

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us: for he is our God and we

the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

O that today you would listen to his voice!

'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

\_\_\_\_

#### Second reading

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

#### Give your undivided attention to the Lord

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Mt4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.
Alleluia!

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

#### Unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

\_\_\_\_

#### **Prayer over the Offerings**

O Lord, we bring to your altar these offerings of our service: be pleased to receive them, we pray, and transform them into the Sacrament of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

#### **Communion Antiphon**

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Cf. Ps 30: 17-18

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase. Through Christ our Lord.

#### **Homily**

Today's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes'. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed, Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

#### **Sunday 4th February 2024**

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 47: 10-11

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

#### Collect

Almighty ever-living God, we humbly implore your majesty that, just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh, so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure. 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

Malachi 3:1-4

#### The Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of Hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 23(24):7-10

Who is the king of glory? He, the Lord, he is the king of glory.

O gates, lift high your heads;

grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory? He, the Lord, he is the king of glory.

Who is the king of glory?

The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war.

Who is the king of glory? He, the Lord, he is the king of glory.

O gates, lift high your heads;

grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory? He, the Lord, he is the king of glory.

Who is he, the king of glory?

He, the Lord of armies,

he is the king of glory.

Who is the king of glory? He, the Lord, he is the king of glory.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Second Reading** 

Hebrews 2:14-18

#### He took to himself descent from Abraham

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Christ too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Lk2:32

Alleluia, alleluia! The light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people. Alleluia!

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

#### My eyes have seen your salvation

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

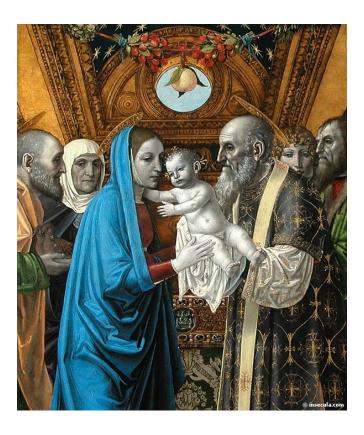
When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

#### **Homily**

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish rite of presentation and purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles.

Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel.

Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all.





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.