

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

Chaplain's Facebook Group (to be used at the moment for livestreaming of liturgies):

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

**FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**TWENTY-THIRD 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 OF ENGLAND IN  
THIS CHAPLAINCY.**

## **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

I've mentioned recently – and you've heard me mention it before – the four types of prayer there are that we summarise using the words ACTS – Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, Supplication and I'm spending these few weeks looking at each of these. So today we look at **Thanksgiving**,

One of the best loved prayers of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer is the **General Thanksgiving**. Rather than being considered a old-fashioned language prayer from a bygone age, I believe it is as superb and as fresh today as it was when it was first written.

*ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; [\*particularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thanksgivings for thy late mercies vouchsafed unto them.] We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we shew forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.***

It sums up beautifully why we thank God:

1. His goodness and loving kindness is to all – not just a few.
2. There is an opportunity in the prayer to name before God individual thanksgivings. This is a good idea and causes us to reflect on our lives and offer our daily thanks for all the blessings we receive. Do we ever do that? Counting our blessings one by one, naming them and giving God thanks for them.
3. The thanksgiving due to God because we are created in his own very image. Our creation – the very fact that the gift of life is from God. When we wake up do we thank God for each and every new day? *All the blessings of this life*. The beauty of the earth, the beauty of skies, the love which from our birth over and around us lies. Look at the hymns: *For the beauty of the earth* and *Now thank we all our God* for some inspiration!
4. The redemption of the world. God has rescued us and given us the gateway to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the means of grace and hope of glory. We thank God for our Saviour, Redeemer, Lord, Master, Shepherd, King, Teacher, Friend, Master, Guide. The means of grace – the grace of the Sacraments - our Baptism, our Confirmation, the gift of the Holy Eucharist, Ordination – *for some of us*, forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Matrimony and the gift of knowing Christ the Healer in anointing. Jesus is present in the sacraments and we give thanks for this. The hope of glory: being thankful that we shall live for ever with Christ, his Holy Mother, the angels and the saints in eternity. What thanksgiving there is there!
5. Due sense – that we will carefully and prayerfully become aware of God in all things. That we may see him in each other and honour that. That we may honour gifts of God through our thanksgiving.
6. *Unfeignedly thankful*. Well, it's not a word I ever use except in this prayer. *With sincerity, without pretence*. Our thanksgiving must be more than skin deep. A real intense thankfulness for what we receive from God's almighty hand.
7. That our thanksgiving is shown not only with our prayers but in the way we live our lives to express our gratitude. Honest Christian giving in the collection is a result of our thankfulness to what we receive from God not just a token tribute!
8. We walk in holiness and righteousness. I want to be holy and I hope you do too. Not a pious empty holiness but a real sense of the presence of God at work in us all the way. A life lived in thankfulness to God for all that he gives us.

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One!*

So that's my take on thanksgiving. Be a disciple of thanksgiving!

God bless you all.

Your priest and friend, Father Richard

### 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)





We are always grateful for your giving to the Chaplaincy. It is the main way by which the Priestly Ministry and Chaplaincy life is sustained. Without your giving there would be no Chaplaincy. Thank you to all who give so generously.

If you don't already, please would you consider a monthly standing order to either our UK to Spanish bank accounts? This would help us enormously in our financial planning.

It means your giving happens on a regular basis and we would be so grateful for this. Think of what the Chaplaincy means not only to you but the wider church community and the Church of England presence in this area.

Please see Peter or Jennifer or send Father Richard an email if you could help. Thank you.

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND GENEROUSLY ABOUT THIS.



### Sue's Homemade Lemon Curd and Pickled Onions and Jill's Homemade Marmalade

Sue Brassington is selling *made to order* homemade lemon curd after each service. Please see her if you would like order some. Thank you, Sue! (She also taking orders for pickled onions available in six weeks.) Jill Dorsett is receiving orders for homemade marmalade. Thank you, Jill!



### DATES AHEAD:



Tuesday 27th  
September at  
4.30 p.m.

A Spanish themed social event at the home of Sue Brassington (Los Altos, Orihuela Costa)

Tapas, Spanish quiz, Spanish music  
Tickets 10€ each to include food and  
1st drink.

Raffle

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday  
21st August. Donations of raffle prizes  
would be most welcome.

Please contact Sue ([councillorlosbalcones@gmail.com](mailto:councillorlosbalcones@gmail.com)) or  
Joan Berry ([losbalconeswarden@gmail.com](mailto:losbalconeswarden@gmail.com))



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

We are a Covid 19 secure Chaplaincy.  
If you have COVID-19 symptoms please stay at home.

You no longer have to wear a mask in church  
(though if you chose to that is perfectly acceptable to protect yourself and protect others).

Hand sanitizer will still be available as you enter the church.

*You are encouraged still to use this to protect yourself and others.*

Holy Communion will still be administered in one kind for the time being.

You will be able to line up for Holy Communion instead of coming up individually.

Holy Communion is offered with the words "The Body of Christ" to which you say **Amen**  
*before* consuming the Sacred Host.

Holy Communion (in one kind still for the time being) will continue to be offered in front of  
the altar as we have been doing since the Pandemic.

Regarding the sharing of the Sign of Peace,  
we will remain with the status quo for the time being.

#### POST-PANDEMIC INFORMATION

1. Lago Jardín Church will remain closed until further notice. *In due course the Chaplaincy Council will decide the way forward. However, as the Church is being used to store so much stuff from Los Balcones we will need to wait.*
2. There is to be a building project to renovate the church but **Los Balcones church is now closed for the foreseeable future. It will re-open but it is impossible to say when. All services for the Chaplaincy will be held at La Siesta.**
3. La Siesta - these services will be for the whole Chaplaincy so please make every effort to be there and support the liturgical life of the Chaplaincy.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 1130

Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	1700
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	1130
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	1700
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	1130 – HARVEST THANKSGIVING
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	1700
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	1130
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	1700
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	1700

The live-streamed liturgies continue in a limited form now:

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja> and ask to join the group.
2. You will be asked three questions. Please complete them and agree to the rules of the group.
3. When the livestream starts it will appear on your device in the Facebook stream. The stream will start a few minutes before the broadcast so you can get settled in. You can only see this when I start the livestream.

**WORSHIP FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:**

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	1700	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	1800	Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	1700	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	<i>No live-streaming.</i>		

**The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín**

Because Lago Jardín is not going to be used for the foreseeable future (until Los Balcones is re-opened) the Blessed Sacrament has been removed from Lago Jardín to be kept safely at the Chaplaincy House.

If you would like a Mass intention, please contact Father Richard.

**Father Richard’s Prayer List for September 2022:**

*Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:* Finn Husebekk *in extremis*, Bill Bennion, Karen Moon, William McDonald, Jennifer Saville, Johanna McNab, Wendy, Liz Shouksmith, Paul McNab, David, Anna Horsnell, Anne John, Lesley Critchley, Charlie Smith, David, Patricia Gilbert, Marie Creighton, Jennifer Moody, Erol Moody, Faras, Justin Clarke, Peter John, Mo and Bryan Bailey, Bernice, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons, Isaac Jalal, Father Terence, John Mileham, Samantha Shaw, Alex, Gerry Hopkins, Father Helge, Solveig Petterson, Eileen Catlin.



**Please pray for the recently departed:**

*Those killed as a result of the conflict in Ukraine.*

+ 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).*

*Please pray for the Anglican Church in Perú, for Bishop Jorge Aguilar, and the Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Laity there.*

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Ps 118: 137, 124**

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

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**Collect**

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,  
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,  
that those who believe in Christ  
may receive true freedom  
and an everlasting inheritance.  
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.

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**First reading**

**Wisdom 9:13-18**

**Who can divine the will of God?**

What man indeed can know the intentions of God?  
Who can divine the will of the Lord?  
The reasonings of mortals are unsure  
and our intentions unstable;  
for a perishable body presses down the soul,  
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.  
It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,  
laborious to know what lies within our reach;  
who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?  
As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom  
and sent your holy spirit from above?



Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened  
and men been taught what pleases you,  
and saved, by Wisdom.

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### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 89(90):3-6,12-14,17**

*O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.*

You turn men back to dust  
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'  
To your eyes a thousand years  
are like yesterday, come and gone,  
no more than a watch in the night.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.*

You sweep men away like a dream,  
like the grass which springs up in the morning.  
In the morning it springs up and flowers:  
by evening it withers and fades.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.*

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.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.*

In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands.

*O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.*

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### **Second reading**

**Philemon 9-10,12-17**

#### **He is a slave no longer, but a dear brother in the Lord**

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-

brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

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### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn15:15**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!

**Or:**

**Ps118:135**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let your face shine on your servant;  
and teach me your decrees.  
Alleluia!

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### **Gospel**

**Luke 14:25-33**

#### **Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple**

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

### **Homily**

The ways of God are mysterious, and our inability to understand them is stressed in Today's reading from the book of Wisdom, and were we seriously to consider the message of the other two readings we should perhaps find ourselves asking the question, why should S. Paul, having devoted most of his life to the spread of the gospel of Christ, end up a prisoner in chains, with death by violence to follow. Or indeed, why should it be, as stated in the gospel reading, that in order to be a disciple of his Christ says we should carry a cross. Again

and again, on our journey through life, we come up against the mystery of suffering, the mystery of the path of the cross which Christ calls us to tread.

One of the saints who suffered all her days, and despite this led a most active life, never allowing herself to be overcome by her troubles, was S. Teresa of Avila, foundress of the Discalced Carmelite Sisters. She was an extraordinary person, uniting sublime and mystical holiness with practical good sense and humour. When she heard that her close associate, St John of the Cross, was imprisoned, and being punished as a renegade from the Carmelite Order, she wrote, "God has a terrible way of treating his friends, and in truth he does them no wrong, since that was the way he treated his own Son, Jesus Christ." If Christ then, the all-holy Son of God, submitted to suffering and death, then we his servants cannot expect to be treated any differently from our Master. And this he states for us quite categorically. "Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

We should not picture God as being one who takes an unholy delight in seeing his children suffer. If no earthly father worthy of the name would adopt such an attitude, then how much more so our heavenly Father, who sent his Son to show his love for us, to the extent of sacrificing himself for us. This raises the question, why did Christ, in compliance with the Father's will, have to suffer? Indeed, why should any of us have to suffer? We can approach the problem differently by saying that all sufferings, especially those associated with death, are concrete evidence of the mystery of evil, our tendency to upset God's purpose, in other words to commit sin. At the end of the creation story in Genesis (1:31), we are told that "God saw all he had made and indeed it was good." We can therefore say that everything is truly good in so far as it serves God's purpose. It is blindingly obvious that, both physically and morally, the world is not all good. The culprit is sin, which is not only the root of all evil, but whose very existence is now denied by so many.

Nowhere do the gospels suggest that Jesus wanted suffering for its own sake. His prayer in Gethsemane was, "Father if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me" (Mt 26:39). But the example of Jesus, as well as that of his sinless mother, shows us that it is impossible, even for just and virtuous people, to avoid suffering and the effects of sin in the world. When Paul begged God to cure him of his ailments the answer he got was, "My grace is all you need." (2 Cor 12:9f). Later he would write: "I gladly to suffer for you, and in my body do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church" (Col 1:24).





## 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.