



**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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**[www.c-of-e-torrevieja.com](http://www.c-of-e-torrevieja.com)**



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

Chaplain's Facebook Group:

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

**FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**THIRTY-FIRST 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.**

**Please remember to turn off your mobile phone before our services begin. Please don't use a mobile phone in church.**

**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](mailto:churchwardenpeter@gmail.com))

Jennifer Saville ([chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com](mailto:chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com))

They also act as Joint Treasurers.

**The Vice-Chairman of the Chaplaincy Council is:**

Joan Berry ([losbalconeswarden@gmail.com](mailto:losbalconeswarden@gmail.com))

**The Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council is:**

Mary Western ([honsectorrevieja@yahoo.com](mailto:honsectorrevieja@yahoo.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](mailto:safeguardingtorrevieja@gmail.com)

**The Congregational Warden at La Siesta is:**

Sue Maude ([wardenlasiesta@gmail.com](mailto:wardenlasiesta@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 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. 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

#### *Why do we come to the Eucharist? (1)*

From the time of the Apostles the Christian community has kept Sunday as the Lord's Day. Every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection, not just at Easter, and Sunday (including Saturday night) is our fundamental feast day. Not only is Sunday the first day of the week, it is also the eighth day which represents the promise of eternal life. At the heart of Sunday is the Eucharistic assembly, for the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, feeding and forming the Church. As the "epiphany" of the Church, the celebration of the Eucharist opens us up to communion with each other and the universal Church throughout the world.

When the people of God gather to celebrate the Eucharist, Christ's Spirit is then present and active in the community, and is the source of their prayer, praise and proclamation of God's wonderful works.

When the priest greets the people with the words "The Lord be with you", he is stating a fact – the Lord is with his people as they gather to celebrate the Eucharist. The Eucharist is a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. We obey the command of Christ, given to his Apostles at the Last Supper, to do this in his memory. In the Mass, Christ offers himself to the Father as the sacrificial lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and Calvary's sacrifice is made present on the altar. In the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ offers **us** who, by the Holy Spirit, are made into the one Body of Christ, a living sacrifice of praise.

In your preparation and prayer at the Eucharist I invite you to be still and contemplate these great things.

May the Lord bless you all and keep you in his gracious love.

Your priest and friend,  
Father Richard



### **Our pledge on email use**

We will be Correct, Considerate, Constructive, Collaborative and Concise.

[www.europe.anglican.org](http://www.europe.anglican.org)

5Cs in 100 words

#### **Correct.**

What we write is correct. We put errors right and we do so as soon as possible after sending.

#### **Considerate.**

We respect people's time and workload.

#### **Constructive.**

We are polite, we check our drafts before we click 'send', and we avoid long email chains.

#### **Collaborative.**

We include in emails all those and only those who are needed in the conversation. We are clear about who is expected to respond to a query or request, and who is copied in for information.

#### **Concise.**

We keep our emails short. We use other forms of written communication for longer pieces (attachments) ... and we talk to each other!

**Dates ahead:**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, La Siesta Church**

**1030 - 1130 (please note time) Praying The Holy Rosary**



During the Pandemic many of us were introduced to praying the Holy Rosary each week online. Now we have an opportunity to come together as a group of praying Christians and bring our intentions of prayer together. More details will be given nearer the time and full teaching given. If you don't have a Rosary Father Richard has some spares but you might like to try and get one yourself (or ask him to get one for you).

**100 Club Draw for October**

1<sup>st</sup> prize, €30 number 21 - David Corfield. Donated back to church funds.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize, €20 number 100 - John Dorsett.

3<sup>rd</sup> prize, €10 number 18 - Anna Sage. Donated back to church funds.

**Christmas Hamper**

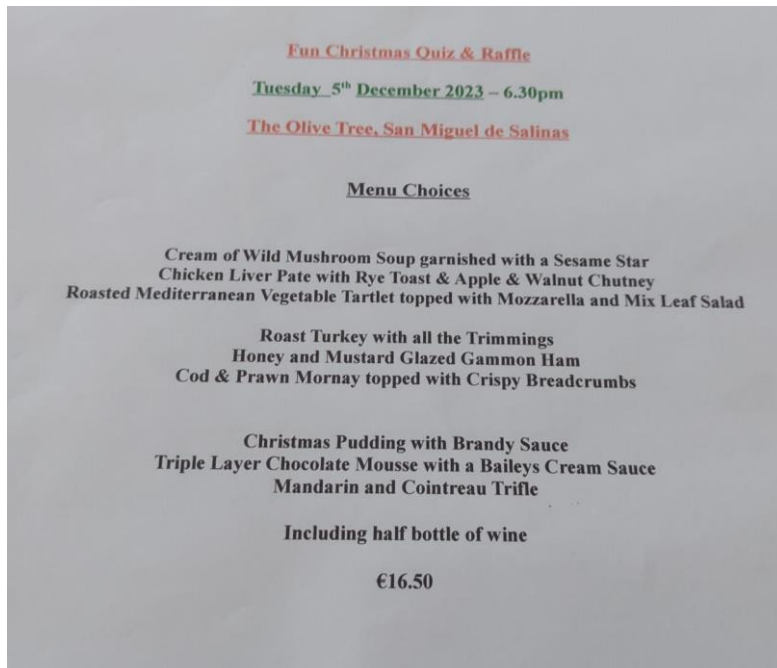
Tickets for the Christmas Hampers will be on sale from 12<sup>th</sup> November. €2 per square. Please see Joan or Sue Brassington. Donations of chocolates/biscuits or wine would be most appreciated. All funds raised go towards the work of the chaplaincy.

**Dates ahead for Advent and Christmass for your diaries now.**

Advent Carol Service at La Siesta:  
Monday 4th December at 10.30am.

Chaplaincy Christmass Quiz:  
Olive Tree, San Miguel de Salinas  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 p.m. Cost 15,50€ euro plus 1€ tip.  
*Names and payment to Sandra Harbut as soon as possible please. Menu on the next page...*





Holy Eucharist for the Immaculate Conception at La Siesta or Lago Jardín:  
*Church venue to be confirmed.*  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.

Carol singing outside Lago Jardin:  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6 until 7pm.  
*Followed by drinks and tapas at the Pool Bar. Please see Liz Shouksmith.*

Chaplaincy Christmass Lunch:  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm, La Marina Bar, 20 euros.  
*Bookings and payment to Sue Maude as soon as possible please.*

Holy Eucharist, Fourth Sunday of Advent, La Siesta:  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 5.00pm.

Nine lessons and Carols, La Siesta:  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm.  
*Followed by shared buffet supper.*

Vigil Mass, Lago Jardín:  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm

Midnight Mass at La Siesta:  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11.30pm.

Christmass Day, Mass of the Day at La Siesta  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.



**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)

DIOCESE IN EUROPE  
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



**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 NOT PERMITTED.**

**ONGOING INFORMATION FOR OUR THREE CHURCHES**

1. **Lago Jardín Church** is in the process of being re-opened. Services will be advertised as and when they happen.
 

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	1800 – 1900 – <i>CAROL SINGING</i>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	1700 – <i>VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMASS</i>
2. There is a building project to renovate the church at **Los Balcones, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción**. There is no indication when this will be completed.
3. **La Siesta:**

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	1130
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	1700 – <i>Eve of Remembrance Sunday</i>
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	1130
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	1700
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	1130
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>1030</b> – <i>ADVENT CAROL SERVICE</i>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>1030</b> – <i>IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	1700
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1130
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1800 – <i>NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS</i>
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	1700
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	2330 – <i>MASS DURING THE NIGHT</i>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>1030</b> – <i>MASS OF THE DAY</i>
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	1700

There is a liturgical Facebook group.

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.

### **The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín**

The Blessed Sacrament has been returned to Lago Jardín Church.

### **Father Richard's Prayer List for November 2023:**

*Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time: Deborah Warren in extremis, Tony Sage in extremis, Jill and John Dorsett, Keith Palmer, Eileen Shaw, Anna 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 5th November 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 37: 22-23**

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!

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**Collect**

Almighty and merciful God,  
by whose gift your faithful offer you  
right and praiseworthy service,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may hasten without stumbling  
to receive the things you have promised.  
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**

**Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10**

**You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble  
by your teaching**

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

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**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 130(131)**



*Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.*

O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me.

*Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.*

Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul.

*Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.*

O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and forever.

*Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.*

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## **Second reading**

**1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13**

### **We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives**

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**1S3:9,Jn6:68**

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

**Or:**

**Mt23:9,10**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You have only one Father, and he is in heaven;  
you have only one Teacher, the Christ!  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 23:1-12

### They do not practise what they preach

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

### Homily

Today's Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week's reading from Matthew and this week's, we find Jesus' question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being "David's son." Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew's Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew's Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honoured and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church.

Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. *Phylacteries* are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. *Tassels* refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person's garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honour in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of 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.