



**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:

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

FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

8th October 2023

TWENTY-SEVENTH 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)
Jennifer Saville (chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com)
They also act as Joint Treasurers.

The Vice-Chairman of the Chaplaincy Council is:

Joan Berry (losbalconeswarden@gmail.com)

The Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council is:

Mary Western (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**

The Congregational Warden at La Siesta is:

Sue Maude (wardenlasiesta@gmail.com)

Our other two churches remain temporarily closed.

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

First of all I would like to thank all those who helped with the initial clearing up and cleaning at Lago Jardín Church and for those who have been ongoing in their work. Whilst there is still a lot to do the church has been returned to looking like a church and properly honouring God as a sacred space and place of worship. The church is one hundred years old this year and I am hoping we can at least celebrate this in some form later in the year once it has been returned fully to the glory of God.

Secondly, something rather lovely happened to me when I was in the UK visiting my mother. An old junior school teacher (I was at junior school from 1975 – 1979) had found, amongst her possessions, my old hymn book from that school – with my name written in it - and gave it to my mother. The hymnal "Hymns for Junior Schools" was first published in 1933 and this was a reprint from 1971. I found it extraordinarily emotional to have it in my hands again, the first time since 1979. I realised how important that book had been to me as a young Christian boy and it was the first hymn book I can remember before going on to join the church choir probably around 1977 when we used the English Hymnal – also the edition from 1933. There is something in the preface to my school hymn book which I found interesting: *Many so-called 'children's hymns' were not hymns which children liked, but hymns which grown-up people thought that children not to like; and in the end it has transpired that that young folk are not so unsophisticated, and really enjoy the best of 'grown-up' hymns.*

As a young boy I enjoyed 'grown-up' hymns and so much of my approach to worship and liturgy was formed through "Hymns for Junior Schools" and "The English Hymnal" which had depth, beauty, poetry, rich theology, and spirituality in the words of the hymns which both challenged and delighted. They still do today and we have such a great and wonderful treasure chest of hymnody that we lose it at our peril. Our hymns of praise to God help form our faith and express, through words and music. *The sooner young people learn the hymns which will last them all their life, the better for them* as it says in the preface of my school hymn book.

This is not to say that all "modern" hymnody is bad. Of course it is not. But we have such a rich heritage of hymnody – still unknown by many people – that it has been a passion of mine to introduce it and encourage it wherever I am. Being given my old school hymnbook not only awakened a deep sense thanksgiving to God in something so pivotal in my formation in the faith but renewed a sense of mission to keep this alive.

We have a great musical inheritance; and it is surely well worth recovering.

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

Your priest and friend,
Father Richard

Dates ahead:

Friday 27th October, 1700, La Siesta Church

HOLY HOUR – A time of prayer in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament (*sunset is at 1912 so there is plenty of time to get home before it gets dark*)



You are invited to come and pray in the presence of the Lord. We begin this hour of prayer by celebrating Evening Prayer together and then a period of silent prayer follows. The Blessed Sacrament, the Sacred Host, is placed in the monstrance (*see image to the left*) and we are truly close to Christ in his sacramental presence. Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. A time of silent prayer is interspersed with

hymns and prayers. At the end the Priest blesses us with the Blessed Sacrament as he makes the sign of the cross with the monstrance. We then praise God for the presence of his son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Eucharist:

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

Come quietly and in silence and be still. For the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Wednesday 1st November, ALL SAINTS’

1030 (please note time)

Holy Eucharist at La Siesta Church



On this day the Church and her faithful people give praise to God for the witness of the saints and their prayers, this great community of heaven who never cease praying for us day and night. We offer Mass to honour the saints of God, that countless number whose faith inspires us still.

*For all the saints who from their labours rest,
O Blest Communion, fellowship divine, alleluia!*

Thursday 2nd November, ALL SOULS'

1030 (please note time)

Requiem Mass at La Siesta Church



This is the day in the life of the Church where we pray for our departed brothers and sisters and remember at the altar by name. This yearly commemoration enables us to give thanks for them and pray for them that they may be forever with God in eternity. If you would like a loved one remembered by name please write their name IN CLEAR CAPITAL LETTERS on the sheet at the back of church. Most importantly, don't leave it up to others to pray for them. You are invited to hear their names read out *and pray for them*. It is the greatest way we can honour those who have gone before us.

+ *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace. Amen.

Monday 6th November, La Siesta Church

1030 (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).

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 NOT PERMITTED.

ONGOING INFORMATION

1. Lago Jardín Church will remain closed until further notice.
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.
2. La Siesta - these services will be for the whole Chaplaincy until our other churches are opened again so please make every effort to be there and support the liturgical life of the Chaplaincy.

Saturday 7 th October	1700
Sunday 15 th October	1130
Saturday 21 st October	1700
Saturday 28 th October	1700
Wednesday 1 st November	1030 - ALL SAINTS
Thursday 2 nd November	1030 - ALL SOULS
Sunday 5 th November	1130
Saturday 12 th November	1700 – <i>Eve of Remembrance Sunday</i>
Sunday 20 th November	1130
Saturday 26 th November	1700
Sunday 3 rd December	1130

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 removed from Lago Jardín to be kept safely with Father Richard until the church re-opens.



Father Richard's Prayer List for September 2023:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time: Tony Sage, 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, Gerry Hopkins. *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 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).

Sunday 8th October 2023

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Est 4: 17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us

to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
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

Isaiah 5:1-7

Against the Lord's vineyard

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones
and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes.
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.
I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 79(80):9,12-16,19-20

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Second reading

Philippians 4:6-9

If there is anything you need, pray for it.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

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:

cf. Jn 15:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
I chose you from the world
to go out and bear fruit,
fruit that will last,
says the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

This is the landlord's heir: come, let us kill him

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders
that became the keystone.
This was the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'



Homily

Today's Gospel follows directly after last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus was questioned by Jewish religious leaders about the source of his teaching authority. After refusing to answer their questions, Jesus tells the parable of the two sons and then criticizes the priests and elders for their lack of belief in John the Baptist.

In today's Gospel, Jesus once again speaks to the priests and elders with a parable. In this parable, the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants and sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest that the tenants owe to him. Several times the servants are sent to collect payment, and each time they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the landowner sends his son to collect his rent. The tenants, believing that they will inherit the vineyard if the landowner dies without an heir, plot together and kill the landowner's son.

After telling the parable, Jesus questions the chief priests and elders about what the landowner will do to the wicked tenants. They all agree that the landowner will kill the wicked tenants and give the land to new tenants who will pay the rent.

In telling the parable, Jesus is clearly drawing upon Isaiah 5:1-7, which is today's first reading and one that the priests and elders would have known well. Jesus doesn't, therefore, have to explain the symbolism of the parable; the Pharisees would have understood that the vineyard represented Israel, the landowner represented God, the servants represented the prophets, and the bad tenants represented the religious leaders. Yet Jesus nonetheless explains the meaning of the parable for his audience: the Kingdom of God will be taken from the unbelieving and given to the faithful. The chief priests and elders have condemned themselves with their answer to Jesus' question.

Today's Gospel has a parallel in Mark 12:1-12. There are some notable differences, however. In Matthew's version, the religious leaders condemn themselves; in Mark's Gospel, Jesus answers his own question. Matthew names the religious leaders as Pharisees and chief priests. Clearly this Gospel shows the tension that was mounting between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders who thought that his message was dangerous. Matthew's Gospel was written about 70 years after Jesus' death and reflects the conflicts and tensions found in the Christian community for whom Matthew was writing. Many biblical scholars believe that the tension between Matthew's community and their Jewish neighbours can also be heard in today's reading.

This Gospel reminds us of the importance of listening to God's word. God speaks to us in many ways—through Scripture, through our Church tradition, in our Church's teaching, and through modern-day prophets. Are we attentive and receptive to God's word to us through these messengers?



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.**