



**Diocese
in Europe**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA

*We worship 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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FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

16th March 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



**WELCOME TO THE CHAPLAINCY OF SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH IN THIS CHAPLAINCY.**

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

**Please remember to talk to God in prayer before our services begin.
There is plenty of time to talk to each other afterwards.
Your talking may distract someone else's praying.
Please keep a devotional silence.**

Father Richard's contact details are on the front of this newsletter.

Our Churchwardens are:
Peter Maude (churchwardenpeter@gmail.com)
Jennifer Saville (chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com)
They also act as Joint Treasurers.

The Vice-Chairman of the Chaplaincy Council is:
Joan Berry (losbalconeswarden@gmail.com)
Joan is also Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council.
For Chaplaincy Council matters please use:
chapsec@gmail.com

We take the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy is displayed at La Siesta and Lago Jardín and is available on our website:
<https://www.c-of-e-torre vieja.com/safeguarding-policy/>
Our Safeguarding Officer is Anna Horsnell who can be contacted at
safeguardingtorrevieja@gmail.com

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

The Congregational Warden at Lago Jardín is:
Liz Shouksmith (shouksmithliz@gmail.com)

**Nuestra Señora de la Asunción at Los Balcones, our third church,
is closed for a major rebuilding project.**

Home 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.

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 am writing this the day before Shrove Tuesday. I know I will have reported on the weekend of March 8th and 9th about a successful and joyful Pancake Party and given thanks in the notices. But this is my written thank you for all those who organised and helped as I like to record my thanks in this way. (Addendum, we raised 600 euros! Thank you everyone.)

Planning ahead for HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Holy Week is the most important week of the Christian year as we journey with Christ: His entrance into Jerusalem; his institution of the Holy Eucharist on Maundy Thursday and his praying in the Garden of Gethsemane; his crucifixion on Good Friday and the great event of the Resurrection which we celebrate at The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (the most important liturgy of the year). The culminates with our celebration on Easter Sunday.

This year I want to highlight a few things. This year will be my tenth Holy Week and Easter in the Chaplaincy and I am pleased to say, for the first time, we will be able to have a daily Mass during Holy Week. On the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week there will be a celebration of the Eucharist in one of our churches with an address. I hope that you will see the importance of the week and respond to the invitation to share in the Eucharist during Holy Week to underline its importance.

We will become for one week a Daily Mass community. Up until coming here ten years ago I had always been in parishes with a daily celebration of the Eucharist. No collections are taken up at the Masses during the week. Many of us will not have had experience in being in daily Mass parishes. Though a good number of us did experience this for many weeks, five years ago, online during the Pandemic. So there won't be a collection on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in Holy Week. On Holy Thursday the collection always goes to the poor and never the parish.

On Maundy Thursday the Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated, as usual, at La Siesta at 1900. This Mass commemorates the night when Jesus instituted the Eucharist and that is why we ring bells at the Gloria. At the end of the Eucharist, we are with Christ in his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane where he says to his disciples: *Could you not watch with me one hour?*

We call this the **Watch of the Passion** and, if I am honest, we haven't quite got this right yet and I really think we should. I know we can! It is so important. Previous parishes in which I have been have concluded the Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Watch of the Passion lasting until *midnight* where people have stayed or gone home and then come back. At midnight the Gospel of Jesus's arrest is read in the candlelit church and then the candles extinguished.

I am not suggesting that we have a watch until midnight. But last year it barely lasted ten minutes. This was very disappointing and we missed the opportunity to be with the Lord. There was also a lot of noise of chatter outside the church which disrupted the silent prayer in the church. There was also some activity at the back of the church. We have to remember that the Blessed Sacrament is on the altar and all our focus should be on the sacramental presence of Christ.

So, a new start for the Watch, please! I will be putting a list at the back of the churches for people to sign up and make a commitment to stay and pray in church for thirty minutes at the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. I need a minimum of twelve people please – more would be excellent. Jesus prayed in agony in the garden – it is the least we can do.

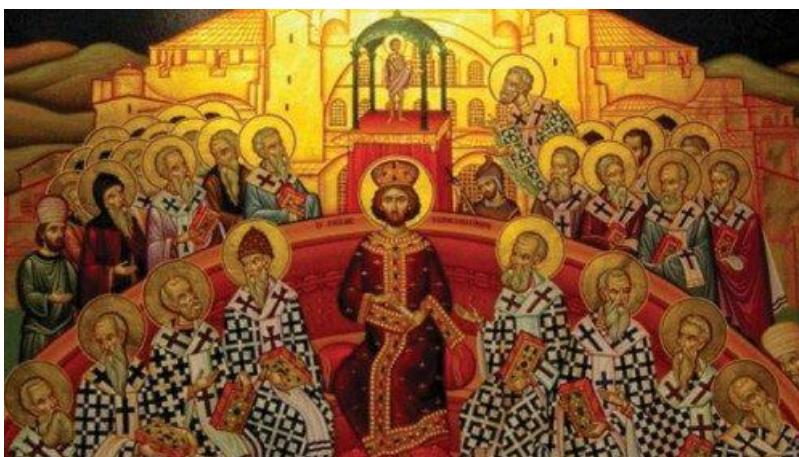
But I would also ask for a commitment, please, that you will leave in silence, total silence this year and not engage in chatter outside the church when people are praying in silence. I would also ask for a commitment for there to be no other activity in church (no clearing away at the back, no putting away of the hymn books etc) until the Watch of the Passion is concluded. It will conclude with the Gospel of Jesus's arrest being read by me. Then we leave in silence.

Over the next few weeks I will be writing about the significance of the liturgies of Holy Week. But that is just a start off on the practicalities for Holy Thursday.

With my best wishes and prayers for you all,

Father Richard

OUR LENT COURSE THIS YEAR will be the first of two I am leading this year about the Nicene Creed, the Creed we proclaim during the Holy Eucharist which was formulated in 325 AD. Therefore, it is the 1700th anniversary of the Creed this year. We profess the Creed each



week. But how much do you really know about it? How much do you understand it? Why is it important? Have you ever thought about its significance in the light of our faith?

The first course will be during Lent and will be an introduction to more exploration later this year.

The sessions will be as follows and will take place from 1600 – 1700 Spain time:

Monday 10 th March	Introduction
Monday 17 th March	The nature of faith
Monday 24 th March	The history of the Church's creeds
Monday 31 st March	Why the creeds matter
Monday 7 th April	The role of creeds in liturgy

They will take place via Zoom. Please do contact me if you would like to take part.



100 Club 2025.

Thank you to all those who have taken out subscriptions to the 100 Club. Your support to the chaplaincy and charitable causes is very much appreciated.

Although we had several new subscribers, we also lost some members for various reasons so the number remains at 51 and the prize money will remain the same at 20€ 1st prize, 15€ 2nd prize and 10€ 3rd prize with a single prize of 40€ in December. If you are a new subscriber you will be notified of your number in the week. The first draw will be on 16th March.

Joan

DATES AHEAD:

Wednesday 19th March

SOLEMNITY OF S. JOSEPH, HOLY EUCHARIST AT LAGO JARDÍN AT *1130*



A statue of S. Joseph (*left*) has been presented to the Chaplaincy in memory of Jill Dorsett who died on March 14th last year. As you look at the altar in Lago Jardín, it will be placed on the right hand side in the space occupied by an ikon. This will "balance" the altar which already has a statue of Our Lady on the left hand side. I hope as many as possible will share in this Mass as we remember Jill at the time of her first anniversary of death and the anniversary of her Funeral Mass which was celebrated on March 18th last year. I will bless the statue and place it in the church, March 19th being the Solemnity of S. Joseph. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Tuesday 25th March

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, HOLY EUCHARIST AT LA SIESTA AT *1030*



The Church celebrates the Annunciation of Our Lord on March 25th and recalls the moment when the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Here Mary accepted God's will for her with the Holy Spirit overshadowing her. Because of this, God was able to come into our world at the Incarnation. This Mass honours Mary's participation in God's plan for our salvation. Mary said "Yes" so we could find redemption through her Son. Come and celebrate this wonderful truth at this Mass.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Saturday 29th March

1700 La Siesta

Sunday 30th March

1130 Lago Jardín

Both celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will include the blessing and distribution of flowers for children to give their mothers and for all the ladies in church...



Tuesday 1st April La Siesta Church

1030 ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY MEETING

This meeting is open to those who are on the new electoral roll.



EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH

Sunday carvery

Starters

Beer Battered Brie with Salad and Cranberry Sauce
Onion Rings with Garlic Dip
Prawn Cocktail
Beer Battered Chicken Goujons with Sweet Chilli Dip
House Salad (Tuna, Egg and Cheese)
Egg Mayonnaise
Pate with Toast
Smoked Mackrel (€1 Supplement)
Homemade tomato and veg Soup
Beer Battered Mushrooms with Garlic Mayo
Potato Wedges with Garlic Mayo
duck spring rolls wit sweet chilli sc

Mains

Roast Beef, Turkey, Pork Or Gammon
Selection of Fresh Vegetables(OR Salad), Yorkshire, Stuffing and Gravy

Other options must be ordered with starters:

- Nut Roast
- Homemade tomato onion quiche

1 Course €10.95

2 Courses €14.95

3 Courses 16.95

Bar Carmen, C.Fray Angelico 11, El Chaparral. Five minute drive from the Church. Lunch booked for 1330. Please see Sue Maude.

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 give through the UK gift aid scheme if you are a UK tax payer.
3. **You are encouraged to set up a standing order to the Chaplaincy – this helps us budget more effectively.**
4. You can make an offset against your Spanish tax
5. if you are Spanish tax payer.

One off donations are gratefully received.

For more information contact Father Richard or the Churchwardens.

The Chaplaincy relies on generous and sacrificial giving in response to a generous God who sacrificed his Son for us all on the cross.

Spanish Bank details. Banco Sabadell.

IBAN number ES65 0081 2061 7900 0106 0414

BSAB ESBB / Capellania Anglicana de Torreveija

UK Bank details. Barclays Bank PLC Account name: Diocese in Europe Fund

Account number: 40317039 Sort code: 20-06-13. Address : Tufton Street,London Please state TORREVIEJA as the reference so the money is correctly applied. The IBAN number is: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 31 70 39.

God bless you all for your support. *Peter and Jennifer (Churchwardens)*

GIVING ONLINE:

<https://givealittle.co/c/3yXhRUWebr0Vqwf1OSVyV8>

GIVING BY QR CODE, APPLE PAY,

GOOGLE WALLET:

Hover over the QR code and go from there!

See next page...



Thank you!





THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

In this Chaplaincy...

The Chalice containing the Precious Blood of Christ is offered for those who wish to receive it. Holy Communion is offered with the words "The Body of Christ" to which you say **Amen** before consuming the Sacred Host. The words "The Blood of Christ" are said to which you say **Amen** before receiving from the Chalice. The Chalice is optional.

INTINCTION IS NOT PERMITTED FOR HEALTH AND HYGIENE REASONS.

ONGOING INFORMATION FOR OUR THREE CHURCHES SERVICES ARE SHARED BETWEEN LAGO JARDÍN AND LA SIESTA

Los Balcones, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción
remains closed for re-building.

Services in the Chaplaincy:

Date	Time	Church
Sunday 16 th March	1130	La Siesta
Wednesday 19th March	1130	S. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Saturday 22 nd March	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 23 rd March	1130	Lago Jardín
Tuesday 25th March	1030	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Saturday 29 th March	1700	MOTHERING SUNDAY La Siesta
Sunday 30 th March	1130	MOTHERING SUNDAY Lago Jardín
Sunday 6 th April	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 12th April	1700	PALM SUNDAY La Siesta
Sunday 13th April	1130	PALM SUNDAY Lago Jardín
Monday 14 th April	1030	Monday in Holy Week Lago Jardín
Tuesday 15 th April	1030	Tuesday in Holy Week La Siesta
Wednesday 16 th April	1030	Wednesday in Holy Week Lago Jardín
Thursday 17th April	1900	HOLY THURSDAY La Siesta
Friday 18th April	1500	GOOD FRIDAY La Siesta
Saturday 19th April	1900	HOLY SATURDAY La Siesta
Sunday 20th April	0930	EASTER SUNDAY Lago Jardín
	1130	EASTER SUNDAY La Siesta

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín

burns this week for: Terry Harbut and Janice. 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 March 2025:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time: Pope Francis, Victoria Hudson, Moira Corfield, Michael Elliott, Lewis Elliott, Linda Thompson, Luke Thompson, Jamie Hill, Ed White, Rhys Miles, Gwen Simmons, Eileen Shaw, Sandra and Terry Harbut, Clíodhna pronounced Cliona Leydon, John Sunderland, Chris Hughes, Raj Panchal, Anna and Dick Horsnell, David Horsnell, Peter John, Martin Skillen, Paul McNab, Father Barry Smart, Gwyneth Manning, Lesley Critchley.

Please help Father Richard by letting him know when people can be taken off the prayer list. Please notify Father Richard of any corrections.

Please pray for the recently departed:

Those killed as a result of the conflicts in Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza; for a lasting peace.
+ 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 16th March 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 26: 8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

Or:

Cf. Ps 24: 6, 2, 22

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.
Let not our enemies exult over us.
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

Collect

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,

be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
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

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

God enters into a covenant with Abram, the man of faith.

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 27(26):1. 7-8b. 8c-9c. 13-14. R1a

The LORD is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread?

The LORD is my light and my salvation.

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer me.

Of you my heart has spoken,
'Seek his face.'

The LORD is my light and my salvation.

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;

you have been my help.

The LORD is my light and my salvation.

I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong;
be stout-hearted, and wait for the LORD!

The LORD is my light and my salvation.

Second reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Christ will configure us to his glorious body.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:

'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

Gospel

Luke 9:28b-36

'As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face was altered.'

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And

when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Homily

On the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as his appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before his Passion and death.

As they awake, Peter and the disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the disciples listen to him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness his Passion and death will the disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and death.



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.