

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

16th October 2022

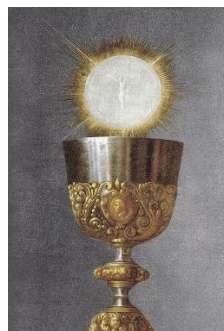
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

23rd October 2022

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

30th October 2022

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.**

Home Communions

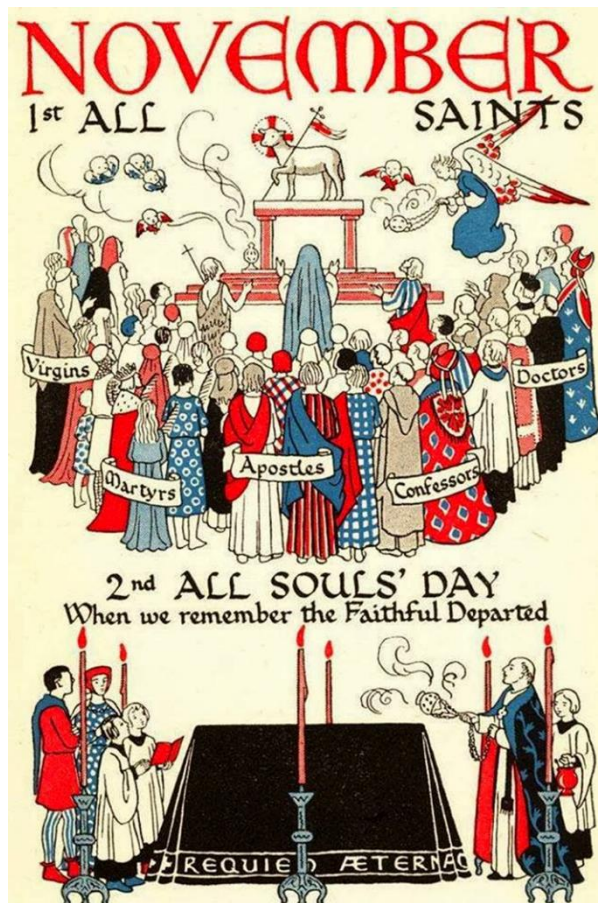
Father Richard will take Holy Communion to people at home according to their circumstances. This is a privilege and enables for prayer in the home at difficult times and for the communicant to receive Holy Communion at home. Please never hesitate to contact me if you would like Holy Communion at home 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



We recently learnt of the death of Eileen Catlin who was a long-time worshipper at Los Balcones. She was a lovely lady, always cheerful despite her health challenges along the way. We send our condolences to Keith and family at this sad time. Many of you would have known Eileen and I know would want to say a prayer for the repose of her soul and give God thanks for her life.

As the year moves on (and November approaches) the liturgy of the Church looks to the end of time and our final destiny. Please remember to make a special effort to be at the Eucharist for both All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day at La Siesta at 1130. Both days speak to us very profoundly of the Church on her way to glory (the Church Expectant) and the Church already in heavenly glory (the Church Triumphant). The seriousness of our Christian faith means, already in this life, we should be contemplating and preparing for the next. All

Saints' Day is a celebration of the Church Triumphant and the Communion of Saints who intercede for us and to whom we look "Give us thy grace so to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living". They are our interceding friends in heaven. All Souls' Day is a reminder that the Church Expectant longs for the glories of heaven and we pray for the souls of the faithful departed that perpetual light and rest may shine upon them.

Our Christian lives look to the next already during this pilgrimage on earth. We are invited to think about these things now in readiness to live in the light of eternity.

Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and the grace to use aright the time that is left to us on earth. Lead us to repent of our sins, the evil we have done and the good we have not done; and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son, in the way that leads to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless you all.

Your priest and friend, Father Richard

September 100 Club draw

The lucky winners for September are:

1st prize 30€ number 34 - Joan Berry *Donated back to church funds*

2nd prize 20€ number 100 - Sue and Ernie Bennett

3rd prize 10€ number 30 - Margaret Crowther

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 1st November
ALL SAINTS' DAY
1130 Holy Eucharist
The Church's day of praise and thanksgiving for all the holy men and women of every time and place now interceding for us in heavenly glory. Please make a special effort to celebrate their witness and place in the life of the Church.



Wednesday 2nd November
ALL SOULS' DAY
1130 Requiem Mass
On this day the Church prays for the holy souls gone before us. It is an important day to remember our loved ones at the altar in prayer. Please place the names of the faithful departed on the sheet at the back of church and please write their name in BLOCK CAPITALS. They will be remembered in prayer and please come and pray for them that day too.



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.

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

This will change in the near future.

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.

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 16 th October	1130
Saturday 22 nd October	1700
Saturday 29 th October	1700
Tuesday 1 st November	1130 - ALL SAINTS
Wednesday 2 nd November	1130 - ALL SOULS
Sunday 6 th November	1130
Saturday 12 th November	1700 – EVE OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Sunday 20 th November	1130
Saturday 26 th November	1700 – VIGIL MASS OF FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Tuesday 29 th November	1130 – ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
Sunday 4 th December	1130
Thursday 8 th December	1130 – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

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

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplainctorrevieja> 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 WEEKS AHEAD:

Saturday 15 th October	1700	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 16 th October	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Saturday 22 nd October	1700	Liturgy of the Word	<i>La Siesta</i>
Thursday 27 th October	1800	Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Saturday 29 th October	1700	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 30 th October	1100	Holy Eucharist	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Tuesday 1 st November	1130	Holy Eucharist	ALL SAINTS' DAY <i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Wednesday 2 nd November	1130	Requiem Mass	ALL SOULS' DAY <i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 6 th November	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</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.

Father Richard's Prayer List for October 2022:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:

Charlotte, Val Donkin, Finn Husebekk *in extremis*, Debbie von Niekerk, Ingrid Boutier, Martin Skillen, Pat Dooley, Solveig Pettersson, Bill Bennion, Karen Moon, William McDonald, Wendy, Liz Shouksmith, Paul McNab, David, Anne John, Lesley Critchley, Charlie Smith, David, Patricia Gilbert, Marie Creighton, Jennifer Moody, Erol Moody, Faras, Justin Clarke, Peter John, Bernice, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons, Isaac Jalal, Father Terence, John Mileham, Samantha Shaw, Alex, Gerry Hopkins.



Please pray for the recently departed:

Eileen Catlin RIP

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 16th October 2022

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 16: 6, 8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Exodus 17:8-13

As long as Moses kept his arm raised, Israel had the advantage

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 120(121)

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord

who made heaven and earth.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

May he never allow you to stumble!

Let him sleep not, your guard.

No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,

Israel's guard.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord is your guard and your shade;

at your right side he stands.

By day the sun shall not smite you

nor the moon in the night.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord will guard you from evil,

he will guard your soul.

The Lord will guard your going and coming

both now and for ever.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Second reading

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

The man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Ep1:17,18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

enlighten the eyes of our mind,

so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

Or:

Heb4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is something alive and active:
it can judge secret emotions and thoughts.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

The parable of the unjust judge

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, Lord, we pray,
a sincere respect for your gifts,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 32: 18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Or:

Mk 10: 45

The Son of Man has come
to give his life as a ransom for many.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray,

that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,
we may be helped by what you give in this present age
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

Sunday 23rd October 2022

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 104: 3-4

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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

Ecclesiasticus 35:12-14, 16-19

The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds

The Lord is a judge
 who is no respecter of personages.
He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man,
 he listens to the plea of the injured party.
He does not ignore the orphan's supplication,
 nor the widow's as she pours out her story.
The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted,
 his petitions will carry to the clouds.
The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds,
 until it arrives he is inconsolable,
And the Lord will not be slow,
 nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33(34):2-3,17-19,23

This poor man called; the Lord has heard him.

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

This poor man called; the Lord has heard him.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The just call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.

This poor man called; the Lord has heard him.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

This poor man called; the Lord has heard him.

Second reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

**All there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for
me**

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was *rescued from the lion's mouth*. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

Or:

2Co5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself,
and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

The tax collector, not the Pharisee, went home justified.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else: 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Look, we pray, O Lord,
on the offerings we make to your majesty,
that whatever is done by us in your service
may be directed above all to your glory.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 19: 6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

Or:

Eph 5: 2

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,
as a fragrant offering to God.

Prayer after Communion

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,
perfect in us what lies within them,
that what we now celebrate in signs
we may one day possess in truth.
Through Christ our Lord.

Sunday 30th October 2022

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!

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.

First reading

Wisdom 11:22-12:2

You are merciful to all, because you love all that exists

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales,
like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.
Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things
and overlook men's sins so that they can repent.
Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence,
for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.
And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist,
how be conserved if not called forth by you?
You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life,
you whose imperishable spirit is in all.
Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend,
you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned,
so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144(145):1-2,8-11,13b-14

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

I will give you glory, O God my king,

I will bless your name for ever.

I will bless you day after day

and praise your name for ever.

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,

slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God.

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down.

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

Second reading

2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

The name of Christ will be glorified in you, and you in him

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Lk19:38,2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!

Or:

Jn3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

Salvation comes to the house of Zacchaeus

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance: he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
become for you a pure oblation,
and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 15: 11

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

Or:

Jn 6: 58

Just as the living Father sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so whoever feeds on me
shall have life because of me, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

May the working of your power, O Lord,
increase in us, we pray,
so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments,

we may be prepared by your gift
for receiving what they promise.
Through Christ our Lord.

Homily

Rome was not built in a day: No great work can ever be achieved without long and patient effort. Look at the art of Michaelangelo, the Beethoven concertos, the great Cathedrals of England etc... (How many chisel-strokes to release the Pieta from its marble shroud? How many brush-strokes to transfer the Last Judgment from Michaelangelo's teeming imagination to the sanctuary wall of the Sistine?.) Not just the world's teeming artists and leaders, but everyman, are/is involved in a work of great significance, needing persevering courage to see it through to a successful conclusion; and that work is our salvation. To achieve it, we must co-operate vigorously with God, and in a sense struggle with Him. Today's liturgy invites us to consider two picturesque examples of perseverance in prayer, and the final success that this achieves.

Moses, the man of God, stands on the hilltop interceding for his people who are struggling for their survival in the valley below, attacked by the violent tribe of Amalek. His arms are raised in the classic gesture of intercession (later immortalised in the Cross of Christ, and still used by the celebrant at Mass.) When, out of sheer weariness, his arms begin to droop, Israel fares badly in the battle. With the help of friends he manages to persevere in his mediating prayer, until victory is won. A beautiful prophetic image for Christ, whose prayer continued even when his soul was sorrowful, even unto death. It supports the ideal of intercessory prayer on behalf of others-not, however, in a superficial way or for petty requests; but for matters of life and death, for salvation, release from sin, recovery from depression, strength to cope with problems, perseverance. And when we pray these things for others, we must do so seriously, with a love that is ready for practical service too.

The widow's dogged perseverance is reflected in the lives of many strong women. History recalls the struggle of various women to achieve particular aims. Think of the persistence of Joan of Arc, of the suffragettes, the feminists who protest at all inequalities based on gender; the mothers who face up to all bureaucratic barriers on behalf of their family. Their styles of campaign may be different; but the perseverance and the courage are the same. Today we have the story of the widow, who kept up her petition until finally she forced the judge to try her case and give her justice. Her situation was that of a poor person under threat, but with the law firmly on her side. There was no doubt about the justice of her case, but the problem was to get a judge to hear it.

That persevering widow encourages us to pray constantly, for ourselves and for others. We recognise our needs (especially for peace, love, grace and salvation), and ask for them. Our God is not like the unheeding judge of the parable, though it may often seem so. We need to persevere and never abandon hope. In this spirit, eventually all will be well, and into his presence we will come, happy to have reached our final destiny.



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.