

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.*

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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/>

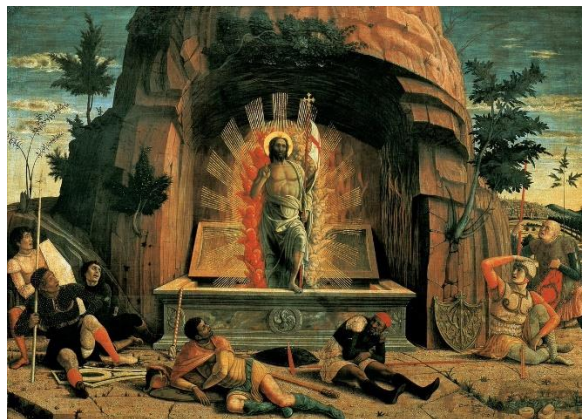
### FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

17<sup>th</sup> April 2022

EASTER SUNDAY

24<sup>th</sup> April 2022

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



**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:**



A very Happy and Blessed Easter to you all. The Lord has risen indeed, alleluia! May the joy of Christ's victory over death be the source of joy and celebration during these fifty days of Easter triumph.

Thank you for all who have worked so hard in the days leading up with Easter with the various ministries / tasks that needed to be undertaken. I am very grateful indeed.

Please do read the updated guidelines on page four regarding the anticipated changes after April 20<sup>th</sup> regarding Covid 19 guidelines. It is important that we all make ourselves aware of them.

Thank you to Joan and Sue for organising the Easter hamper raffle which will be drawn on Easter Sunday.

Some encouraging news from the Ermita de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción at Los Balcones. The rebuilding work has commenced. I will update you with more details when I have them.

Once again, a very Happy Easter to you all.

Your priest and friend,  
Father Richard

**FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHAPLAINCY**

There are various ways of giving financially to the Chaplaincy for the work of the Church:

1. You can give in the plate each week.
2. You can join our envelope scheme to give a regular amount on a weekly basis - and set aside money for those weeks when you cannot be here.
3. **You are encouraged to set up a standing order to the Chaplaincy - this helps us budget more effectively.**

If you are a UK tax payer you can gift aid your giving.

If you are a Spanish tax payer you can have a tax offset by notifying your accountant when arranging your yearly tax along with the Spanish bank account number who will then arrange a claim and the money will be donated back to the Chaplaincy.

One off donations would be gratefully received to assist us at this difficult time.  
Thank you for your help.

For more information contact Father Richard, the Churchwardens, or your Congregational Warden.

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

**Spanish Bank details.** Banco Sabadell.

IBAN number ES65 0081 2061 7900 0106 0414

BSAB ESBB / Capellania Anglicana de Torrevieja

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

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

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



### **Sue's Homemade Lemon Curd and Jill's Homemade Marmalade**

Sue Brassington is now selling homemade lemon curd after each service. Please see her if you would like to buy / order some. Thank you, Sue!  
Jill Dorsett is receiving orders for homemade marmalade. Thank you, Jill!



**UNTIL APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 2022:**



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

We are a Covid 19 secure Chaplaincy. Please bear in mind your own self-care, your level of vulnerability and your age according to the risks involved. If you have COVID-19 symptoms please stay at home. You will be recorded as attending for track and trace purposes.

**A STRICT 1.5 METRE SOCIAL DISTANCING RULE IS IN PLACE. Please continue to observe this.**

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK OVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE AT ALL TIMES (unless medically exempt).**

**You will be shown to and escorted (when it is really busy) from your seat.**

Thank for your understanding and co-operation.

### **FROM APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 2022**

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

Social distancing in church will come to an end. There will be no more track and trace. Hand sanitizer will still be available as you enter the church.

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

Holy Communion will still be administered in one kind for the time being until we see the effects of the new dispensation in Spain regarding infection.

You will be able to line up for Holy Communion instead of coming up individually. Holy Communion will once again be offered with the words "The Body of Christ" to which you say **Amen** before consuming the Sacred Host.

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

Regarding the sharing of the Sign of Peace, we will remain with the status quo for the time being until we see what happens with infection rates.

## THE PANDEMIC AND THE MONTHS AHEAD

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.

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	1900 – HOLY THURSDAY
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>1400</b> – GOOD FRIDAY <i>(Please note the change in time this year)</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	1130 – EASTER SUNDAY
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	1700
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	1130
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	1700
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	1130
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	1700
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	1700
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	1130

The live-streamed liturgies continue:

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

*"Participants in a streamed service of Holy Communion should not be encouraged to place bread and wine before their screens. Joining together to share in the one bread and the one cup as those physically present to one another is integral to the service of Holy Communion; ... and it is not helpful to suggest otherwise. Any idea of the 'remote consecration' of the bread and wine should be avoided."*

The words above are an extract from a letter from Bishop Robert and Bishop David from 2nd April 2020. Under Church of England formularies the Priest himself must set the bread and wine upon the Altar which is going to be consecrated during the Eucharist.

This post underlines The Church of England position.

**WORSHIP FOR THE WEEK FORTNIGHT AHEAD:**

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April <b>MAUNDY (HOLY) THURSDAY</b>	1900 Mass of the Lord's Supper <i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i> <b>Please bring bells to ring at the Gloria in excelsis</b>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	1000 Morning Prayer and Stations of the Cross <i>Live-streamed</i> 1400 Celebration of the Lord's Passion <i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i> <b>Please note the change of time this year to 1400 (normally 1500)</b>
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> April <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	0930 Office of Readings and Morning Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i> 1840 Evening Prayer for Holy Saturday <i>Live-streamed</i> 1900 Office of Readings for Easter <i>Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> April <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	1130 Holy Eucharist <i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i> 1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<i>No live-streaming</i>
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	1700 Holy Eucharist <i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	1100 Holy Eucharist <i>Live-streamed</i> 1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	1100 Holy Eucharist <i>Live-streamed</i> 1800 Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary <i>Live-streamed</i>
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	1800 Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>No live-streaming</i>



Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	1700	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>



**The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín**

Because Lago Jardín is not going to be used for the foreseeable future (until social distancing rules change) the Blessed Sacrament has been removed from Lago Jardín to be kept safely at the Chaplaincy House.

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

**Father Richard's Prayer List for April 2022:**

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

Patricia Gilbert, Geoff Critchley, Marie Creighton, Jennifer Moody, Faras, Justin Clarke, Peter John, Mo and Bryan Bailey, Bernice, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons, Kathryn Moore, Isaac Jalal, Father Terence, John Mileham, Samantha Shaw, Alex, Gerry Hopkins, Father Helge, Solveig Petterson, Eileen Catlin.

**Please pray for the recently departed:**

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

*For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus.*

+ 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.*

**Making a Spiritual Communion. Something recommended for us all each day when we cannot participate in the Holy Eucharist.**

Even if we are watching a livestreamed Mass (and the times of our Chaplaincy livestreamed celebrations of the Eucharist are listed in the newsletter) we are invited to pause when the Priest receives Holy Communion and make our own spiritual communion. We can say it silently to ourselves or speak it out loud. In this way we are joined with Our Lord in his suffering and death for the world and we are united to His Most Sacred Heart. In these most worrying of days we know Our Lord is there and we can join ourselves to him just as he joins himself with us. This is a great blessing, comfort and strength.

Choose one of these prayers:

*My Jesus,*

*I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love You above all things,*

*and I desire to receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,*

*come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*As though you have already come, I embrace You as if You were already there*

*and unite myself wholly to You.*

*Never permit me to be separated from You.*

*Amen.*

or,

*Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you. I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 138: 18, 5-6**

I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia.

You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia.

Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

**Or:**

**Lk 24: 34; cf. Rv 1: 6**

The Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

To him be glory and power

for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.

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### **Collect**

O God, who on this day,

through your Only Begotten Son,

have conquered death

and unlocked for us the path to eternity,

grant, we pray, that we who keep

the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection

may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,

rise up in the light of life.

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**

**Acts 10:34,37-43**

**'We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection'**

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

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**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 117(118):1-2,16-17,22-23**

*This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.*

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

*This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.*

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds.

*This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.*

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

*This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad.*

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

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## **Second reading**

**Colossians 3:1-4**

### **Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is**

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

## **Sequence**

### **Victimae Paschali Laudes**

Christians, to the Paschal Victim  
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;  
and Christ, the undefiled,  
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended:  
combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain,  
yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary:  
say what thou didst see  
upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;  
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;  
shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen:  
he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen  
from the dead we know.

Victorious king, thy mercy show!

---

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**1Cor5:7-8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed:

let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.  
Alleluia!

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## **Gospel**

**John 20:1-9**

### **He must rise from the dead**

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

**Sunday 24 April 2022**

## **Entrance Antiphon**

**1 Pt 2: 2**

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk,  
that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**Or:**

**4 Esdras 2: 36-37**

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God,  
who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

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## **Collect**

God of everlasting mercy,  
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast  
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,  
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,  
that all may grasp and rightly understand  
in what font they have been washed,  
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,  
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.  
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**

**Acts 5:12-16**

**The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord  
increased steadily**

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

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**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 117(118):2-4,22-27**

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Let the sons of Israel say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let the sons of Aaron say:

‘His love has no end.’

Let those who fear the Lord say:

‘His love has no end.’

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;  
we rejoice and are glad.

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

O Lord, grant us salvation;  
O Lord, grant success.

Blessed in the name of the Lord  
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
the Lord God is our light.

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

**or**

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

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## **Second reading**

**Apocalypse 1:9-13,17-19**

### **I was dead, and now I am to live for ever and ever**

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One, I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

## **Sequence**

### **Victimae Paschali Laudes**

Christians, to the Paschal Victim  
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;  
and Christ, the undefiled,  
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended:  
combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain,  
yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary:  
say what thou didst see  
upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;  
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;  
shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen:  
he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen

from the dead we know.  
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

---

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn20:29**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'  
Alleluia!

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### **Gospel**

**John 20:19-31**

#### **Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them**

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

### **Homily – Easter Sunday**

Faith in Jesus, raised by the Father, didn't spring up easily or spontaneously within the hearts of the disciples. Before their meeting with him, now full of new life, the Gospel writers talk about their confusion, their search around the tomb, their questions and uncertainties. Mary of Magdala is the best prototype of what probably happens to all of them. According to John's story, she seeks the crucified in the shadows, "when it was still dark." Naturally she seeks him "in the grave." She still doesn't know that death has been conquered. That's why the emptiness of the tomb leaves her upset. Without Jesus, she feels lost.

The other Gospel writers gather a different tradition that describes a search by the whole group of women. They can't forget the Master who has welcomed them as disciples: their love brings them to the tomb. They don't find Jesus there, but hear the message that points out to them where they need to direct their search: "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He isn't here. He has risen."

Faith in the risen Christ isn't born spontaneously in us either today, just because we have listened from childhood to catechists and preachers. In order to open us to faith in Jesus' resurrection, we need to make our own way. It's decisive to not forget Jesus, to love him passionately and to seek him with all our energies, but not in the world of the dead. The one who lives must be sought where real life is.

If we want to meet the risen Christ, full of life and creative energy, we need to seek him, not in a dead religion, one that is reduced to fulfilling and observing external laws and norms, but there where people live according to Jesus' Spirit, where people are welcomed with faith, love and responsibility for Jesus' followers.

We need to seek him, not among people who are divided and engaged in sterile battles, empty of Jesus' love and of Gospel passion, but there where we go about building communities that put Christ in their centre because they know that "where two or three gather in his name, there he will be also."

We won't meet the one who lives in a faith that is stuck in routine, wasted in every kind of topic and formula separate from experience, but in a faith that seeks a new quality in our relationship with him and in our identification with his project. A Jesus who is obscure and inert, who doesn't fall in love or seduce, who doesn't touch hearts or spread freedom, is a "dead Jesus." He isn't the living Christ, risen by the Father, the one who lives and who gives life. (J A Pagola)

### **Homily – Second Sunday of Easter**

When we come together for the Eucharist every Sunday we come to remember Jesus. Our presence and participation in the Eucharist is an act of faith — an act of personal faith and an act of shared faith. In praying together we also help one another believe, hope and love more strongly. So we become a stronger Christian community. It might be said of us what was said in our First Reading today about the infant Church in Jerusalem: "... the number of people who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily."

Our shared faith is above all faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that he has risen from the dead, that he is alive in himself and alive in us, and that he is our Teacher, Lord and Leader. But nobody can do our believing for us. This is powerfully illustrated in our gospel story today.



It's Easter Sunday and the disciples are huddled together in a locked room. After what happened to Jesus just two days before, they dare not venture out because of fear for their lives. But Jesus himself does not hide away. Suddenly he comes among them. His greeting is peace. Their response is joy. For the story-teller John, Easter Sunday is Pentecost, and the gift of the Spirit is the breath of the Risen Christ. The disciples breathe in the Spirit and the Spirit becomes part of their lives. Soon they will leave the Upper Room changed persons — fearless and courageous, energetic and zealous people. In short they will leave as persons animated, fired and propelled outwards by the Holy Spirit.

But one of their group is missing. His name is Thomas. He is one of the apostles, part of the group. But he is also a distinct, independent self, a real individual. He cannot be both loyal to the group and disloyal to his own inner self. That would make his loyalty deceitful and worthless. For Thomas honesty and sincerity are, in fact, more important than loyalty and belonging. So when the others say, 'We have seen the Lord', he declares strongly and emphatically that before he is willing to believe that Jesus is really risen and alive he must see and test the evidence for himself. He won't accept that claim just on their say-so. So it's his honesty that makes him doubt and leads to him being called ever afterwards 'Doubting Thomas'.

We learn from the gospel story that Thomas comes to believe in the Risen Jesus in the same way as the other disciples, i.e. when he sees the Lord for himself. But in the way John tells the story Thomas stands for all those who have not yet seen the Lord in the flesh but who are called to believe in him just the same. That's where we come into the story. We are among those many generations of believers ever afterwards of whom it may be said: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

It's understandable that Thomas was so slow to believe. One reason is that he was such a rugged individual, a real self-starter. The other is because he was not present when Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into his fellow-disciples.

But Jesus has given the Spirit to you and me, first at Baptism, then at Confirmation, and subsequently at every Eucharist we celebrate. The Spirit which Jesus gives is the Spirit of truth. It's the same Spirit that empowers us to say to Jesus with Thomas: 'My Lord and my God!'

Our faith is one of the main gifts the Spirit has given us. But it is not a one-off gift that we lock away in a safe like some precious jewel. As a form of life we must let our faith grow and mature. On the other hand, like other forms of life, our faith can wither and die from neglect and lack of exercise. We need to pray about our faith, think about our faith, and express it in works of love.

This does not mean that we will never have any doubts. After all even great and saintly characters like Mother Teresa had to struggle with doubts her whole life long. But if like Thomas we care about what we believe, surely sooner or later our faith, revived by the Holy Spirit, will bring us into the presence of God in the person of Jesus, whom our 2nd Reading today calls 'the Living One'. (B. Gleeson)

## **The Nicene ("Niceno-Constantinopolitan") Creed**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
*At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **The General Intercessions**

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.  
That our risen Saviour may fill us [and ...] with the joy of his  
glorious and life-giving resurrection ...  
we pray to the Father.

#### **Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches  
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...  
we pray to the Father.

#### **Hear our prayer.**

That God may grant us humility  
to be subject to one another in Christian love ...  
we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ...  
we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...  
we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,  
the weak and the dying,  
to comfort and strengthen them ...  
we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises,  
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection  
may be raised on the last day ...  
we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,  
so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,  
we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,  
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**DIOCESSE IN EUROPE**

**Our pledge on email use**

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

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

**3Cs in 300 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!



## 2022 Lent and Easter Appeal for Aid to Ukraine

Usually, I write to you several weeks before the start of Lent to introduce my Lent appeal. This Lent, however, we find ourselves in exceptional and grave circumstances with war in Ukraine. Working with our partners USPG, we have therefore taken some time to set up a special appeal fund for the crisis in Ukraine.

Our fund will be managed by USPG. The fund will be open to all who wish to give to it across the Church of England and beyond. Money raised in our diocesan 2022 appeal will go into this fund along with money given by other donors. Our intention this year is to raise a really significant sum that will make a difference in a situation of

great need in Eastern Europe. To find out more about our partners at USPG you can visit the USPG Website

There are now over a million refugees in Europe and thousands of internally displaced in Ukraine. They have left everything behind to escape the conflict. Christian Charities and our Churches need our help as they support these people in all aspects of their lives.

This appeal will provide critical financial resources towards the urgent and immediate needs of people in Ukraine and those who have fled as well as supporting the long-term work of recovery in the country.

We are working with partners on the ground who are geared up to provide food, medicine, shelter, care for children and internally displaced people in Ukraine. With refugees they are supplying care at the border and beyond, including attention to those from Africa and Asia who, besides Ukrainians, are fleeing the war

War is horrible. It injures, destroys and kills in an often indiscriminate and uncontrollable way. And now, we face war in Europe. The people of our little church, Christ Church Kyiv, find themselves in the midst of this crisis. They are typical of so many others. Some have fled the city whilst others are still there; praying for their safety and for peace as they shelter as best they can. These people are our brothers and sisters. Those still in Ukraine and those who have fled need our help.

This year, we are calling this a 'Lent and Easter' appeal. Partly that just reflects the timing. But more profoundly, we want to signal that our donations are a sign of hope. The Christian story ends not with crucifixion but with the hope of resurrection. However frightening and tragic the circumstances, we believe in a God who brings life out of death and who brings peace where there has been war. By giving to the people of Ukraine, we express our solidarity with them and we become part of the divine plan which everywhere and always intends justice and peace.

Please give what you can now to support the people of Ukraine. Donations can, as always, be given to the Diocese via your chaplaincy treasurer with the note 'Bishop's Lent Appeal'.

With my sincere prayers for peace in all our hearts and peace in the world for which Christ died,

Yours in Christ,

+ Robert Gibraltar in Europe

+Robert Gibraltar in Europe

**HOW TO RESPOND IN THE CHAPLAINCY**

There will be a basket left each Saturday or Sunday for you to put monetary donations in. Thank you.

**The Regina Cæli**  
*(used during Eastertime)*



Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia!  
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia!  
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia!  
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!  
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Let us pray.

O God , who by the resurrection of thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ, didst vouchsafe to give joy to the whole world, grant, we beseech thee, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**