

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA

The Church of England worshipping in Word and Sacrament at Lago Jardín, Los Balcones and La Siesta and ministering through the southern Costa Blanca and eastern Murcia.

A truly Eucharistic community of faith and love.

Chaplain (equivalent of Parish Priest):

Father Richard A. Seabrook SSC

+ 34 966 840 136

+ 34 693 932 438 – Chaplaincy Mobile

frras@c-of-e-torrevieja.com

www.c-of-e-torrevieja.com



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

19th December 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

25th December 2021

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

26th December 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY

2nd January 2022

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMASS



**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.**



Father Richard writes:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Christmas for when Christmas comes. May the joy of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts and homes once more. Please make sure you make your Christmas Holy Communion and do the right thing. By sharing in the Eucharist we celebrate the gift of Jesus in Bethlehem, the gift of Jesus in Holy Communion. Think of why he came. Think of why we celebrate his Nativity. Make Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament a priority this Christmas. The altar is another Bethlehem.

There will be refreshments after the Holy Eucharist on Christmas Day and on Sunday 26th, the Feast of the Holy Family.

This is a newsletter for three Sundays and the next one will be on Sunday 9th January 2022 so I wish you all a Happy New Year as well.

However, it is still Advent and we continue our Advent observances for one more Sunday and the week that follows right up until December 24th. Advent ends just before Evening Prayer on Christmass Eve.

I want to pay tribute to all those who have prepared the church during the year and cleaned it afterwards. This team of people: Peter and Sue Maude, Jennifer Saville, Joan Berry, Sandra Harbut, Liz Shouksmith, and Sue Brassington have done this week after week since July 2020. Their commitment is amazing and a shout out of thanks to them is well-deserved and appropriate. Please thank them. They are there every week so that our services can be held in a Covid safely way. Thank you to them all. Peter and Sue Maude are there every week to open up, make sure La Siesta is all secure and lock up. This also needs to be acknowledged and thank you to them and for the "team" who do all their different tasks before and after our services. I also want to thank Joan who assiduously proofreads this newsletter every week!

Thank you to Beth who comes every single week to play the organ at La Siesta. Her commitment is wonderful and, again, please take time to thank her as I do every week. She comes every week so that we can have organ music for our Eucharistic celebrations. Thank you, Beth for your ministry for us!

A Happy Christmass to them all too!

Can I please make a request, once more, that we observe the social-distancing in church and all wear our masks over our noses and mouths at all times (except when making our Holy Communion)? Everyone has done so well so far and we really do try and make the church as Covid safe as possible. Thank you for your help in this regard.

Thanks this week to:

Sandra, for the lovely Christmas Quiz which raised 154 euros as well for the Chaplaincy.

Liz, for organising the Tapas after the Lago Jardín carols. (Wait for the raffle result!)

Everyone who contributed to the shoe box appeal and various hamper and raffle prizes.

Jennifer, for selling the Christmass cards which raised 70 euros this year.

Joan, for getting the 100 club up and running. Joan has written something on the sheet this week. Thank you, from me, for taking out a share if you have.

Joan and Sue B., for organising the Christmas hamper which will be drawn on Sunday 19th.

May the Lord bless you with Christmass joy when Christmass comes and throughout the whole Christmass season. This year Christmass lasts until Sunday 9th January- the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Your priest and friend,
Father Richard

It has been suggested that, rather than sending Christmass cards to members of the congregation, you might like to use the money you would have spent and make a small donation in lieu to the Chaplaincy. This would be very much appreciated and received as a kind gesture. Please see Sandra Harbut about this.

 DIOCESE IN EUROPE

Our pledge on email use

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

www.europe.anglican.org

5Cs in 100 words

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

Considerate.
We respect people's time and workload.

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

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

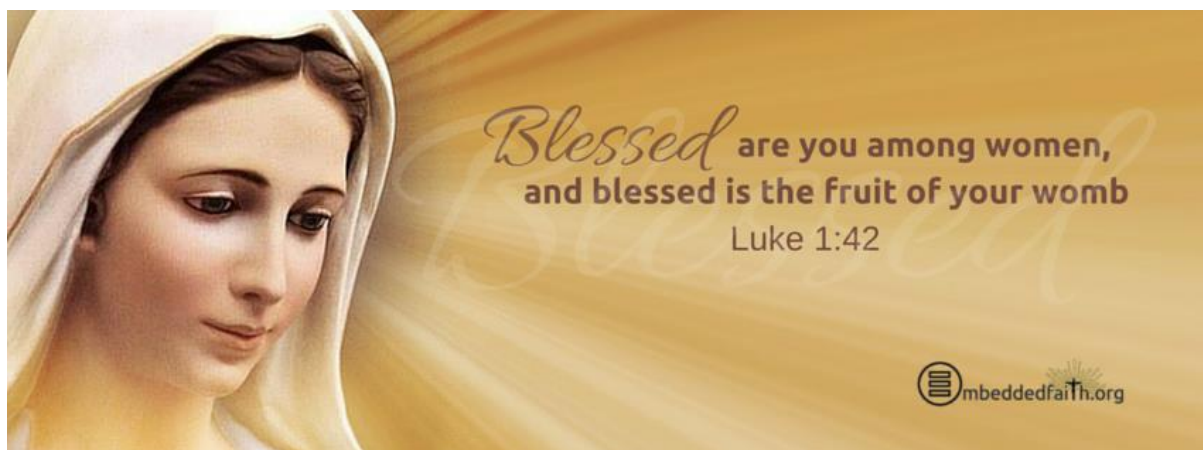
Concise.
We keep our emails short. We use other forms of written communication for longer pieces (attachments) ... and we talk to each other!

Sunday mornings...

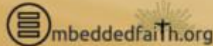
Faith & Fellowship

Refreshments after church are back on Sunday mornings. Please stay and chat!

You are invited to enjoy a glass of wine or a non-alcoholic drink outside La Siesta – as we always used to do. If anyone would like to help, please contact Sue Maude wardenlasiesta@gmail.com and donations of refreshments will be gratefully received. Please bring your own nibbles to consume as we won't be having the crisp bowl back!



Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb
Luke 1:42

 mbeddedFaith.org

DATES AHEAD:



Saturday 18th December 1700 Online Advent Holy Hour

All are welcome to join this time of watching and waiting upon the Lord in prayer and contemplation.

Monday 20th December 1800 Nine Lessons and Carols at La Siesta

This is the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service as we anticipate the celebration of Christmas later in the week.

*This will be followed by a Chinese meal at the Restaurante Gran China (on the right as you enter Urbanización for those who would like to come. Pay as you go **but please let Peter Maude you know if you are going.***

Christmass Hamper

Sunday December is the last opportunity to purchase a square (or even more squares!) for the Christmass Hampers as the draw will take place after the service. There are three hampers full of lovely goodies. Thank you to all those who donated items towards them and to Sue who always makes them look so beautiful. All monies raised from this goes towards the work of the Church in the Chaplaincy and we rely fully on your support and generosity to do this.

100 Club Draw for November and December

November

1st prize: 30€ Jen Copperwheat

2nd prize: 20€ Anna Sage (Donated to chaplaincy funds)

3rd prize: 10€ Zoe Thompson

December

Single Christmas prize: 40€ Father Richard (Donated to chaplaincy funds)

100 Club

Thank you to all those who continued to support the 100 Club by continuing to pay the subscription and also, thanks to the new members.

There are 45 members which raised a total of 900€ which is divided into three. One third goes as prize money, one third to Chaplaincy funds and the remaining third goes to local charities. The Chaplaincy Council voted to give the money to ReachOut, a very worthwhile charity who support many poor families as well as several homeless men in the Torrevejeja area. The first draw for 2022 will take place in January.



**The Church of England Chaplaincy of Ss Peter and Paul, Torrevieja
CHRISTMASS SERVICES**

Tuesday 14th December

1800 Carol singing outside Lago Jardín Church

Monday 20th December

1800 A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
(La Siesta)

Friday 24th December

There is no Midnight Mass this year

Saturday 25th December

1030 Holy Eucharist (La Siesta)
of the Nativity of the Lord

Sunday 26th December

1400 Holy Eucharist (La Siesta)

*All are welcome at any of these service to
celebrate the joy of Christ's birth!*

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 / Capellana Anglicana de Torrevieja

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

Account number: 40317039 Sort code: 20-06-13. Please state TORREVIEJA as the reference so the money is correctly applied. The IBAN number is: GB16 BUKB 2006 1340 31 70 39. Swiftbic: BUKBGB22

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 received orders for homemade marmalade. Thank you, Jill!





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.

THE PANDEMIC AND THE MONTHS AHEAD

1. Lago Jardín Church will remain closed until further notice. This is because of the difficulty of social distancing in the church and its already limited capacity.
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 19 th December	1130
<i>There is no Midnight Mass this year</i>	
Saturday 25 th December	1030
Sunday 26 th December	1400
Sunday 2 nd January	1130
Saturday 8 th January	1700
Sunday 16 th January	1130
Saturday 22 nd January	1700
Saturday 29 th January	1700

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 WEEKS AHEAD:

Saturday 18 th December	1700	Advent Holy Hour	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 19 th December	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Monday 20 th December	1100	Holy Eucharist	<i>Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Nine Lessons and Carols	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Tuesday 21 st December	0930	Holy Eucharist	<i>Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Wednesday 22 nd December	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Thursday 23 rd December	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Friday 24 th December	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
	2100	Mass during the Night	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Saturday 25 th December	1030	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
		<i>No live-streamed Evening Prayer</i>	
Sunday 26 th December	1400	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Monday 27 th December	1100	Holy Eucharist	<i>Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Tuesday 28 th December	1100	Holy Eucharist	<i>Live-streamed</i>
	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Wednesday 29 th December	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Thursday 30 th December	1800	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>

Friday 31 st December	1800	First Evening Prayer of Mary, The Holy Mother of God <i>Live-streamed</i>
Saturday 1 st January 2022	1000 1700	Holy Eucharist <i>Live-streamed</i> Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 2 nd January	1130 1800	Holy Eucharist <i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i> Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Monday 3 rd January	1800	Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Tuesday 4 th January	1800	Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Wednesday 5 th January	1800	Evening Prayer <i>Live-streamed</i>
Thursday 6 th January	1100 1800	Holy Eucharist <i>Live-streamed</i> Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary <i>Live-streamed</i>
Friday 7 th January	<i>No live-streaming today.</i>	
Saturday 8 th January	1700	Holy Eucharist <i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 9 th January	1100 1800	Holy Eucharist <i>Live-streamed</i> 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 December 2021 / January 2022:

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

Cathy Neil *in extremis*, Dionne Simons, Michael Elliott, 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, for all those suffering in mind, body and spirit as a result of the coronavirus.

Please pray for the recently departed:

*For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus. Veronica Helen Lusty RIP
+ 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.

Father Richard's Study Group... There will be an Advent Study Group on
Tuesday 21st December 1600 Spain 1500 UK

Please contact Father Richard if you would like to join. The sessions will be on Zoom.

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 19th December 2021

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 45: 8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Collect

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Micah 5:1-4

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power
to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

*You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.*

*You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;
then I said,*

*just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'*

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will*. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Saturday 25 December 2021

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 9: 5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

Collect

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature
and still more wonderfully restored it,
grant, we pray,
that we may share in the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
(one) God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Rejoice, for the Lord is consoling his people

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,

as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97(98):1-6

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Second reading

Hebrews 1:1-6

God has spoken to us through his Son

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is.

He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: *You are my Son, today I have become your father; or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me.* Again, when he brings the First-Born into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord,

for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:1-18

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us

In the beginning was the Word:

and the Word was with God

and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things came to be,

not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him

and that life was the light of men,

a light that shines in the dark,

a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light

that enlightens all men;

and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world

that had its being through him,

and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain

and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims:
'This is the one of whom I said:
He who comes after me ranks before me
because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –
yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.
No one has ever seen God;
it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart,
who has made him known.

Sunday 26 December 2021

Entrance Antiphon

Lk 2: 16

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
(one) God, for ever and ever.

First reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

This is the child I prayed for: he is made over to the Lord.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 83(84):2-3,5-6,9-10

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed.

They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second reading

1 John 3:1-2,21-24

We are called God's children, and that is what we are

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,

by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.
His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.
Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Ac16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

Mary stored up all these things in her heart

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence

and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.'

'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority.

His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

Sunday 2 January 2022

Entrance Antiphon

Wis 18: 14-15

When a profound silence covered all things
and night was in the middle of its course,
your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
splendour of faithful souls,
graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory,
and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
(one) God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12

From eternity, in the beginning, God created wisdom

Wisdom speaks her own praises,
in the midst of her people she glories in herself.
She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High,
she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One;
'Then the creator of all things instructed me,
and he who created me fixed a place for my tent.
He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob,
make Israel your inheritance."
From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,
and for eternity I shall remain.
I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle,
and thus was I established on Zion.

In the beloved city he has given me rest,
and in Jerusalem I wield my authority.
I have taken root in a privileged people,
in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 147:12-15,19-20

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

or

Alleluia!

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates
he has blessed the children within you.

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

or

Alleluia!

He established peace on your borders,
he feeds you with finest wheat.
He sends out his word to the earth
and swiftly runs his command.

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

or

Alleluia!

He makes his word known to Jacob,
to Israel his laws and decrees.
He has not dealt thus with other nations;
he has not taught them his decrees.

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

or

Alleluia!

Second reading

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18

Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.
Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ,
to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,
determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ
for his own kind purposes,

to make us praise the glory of his grace,
his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.1Tim3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans.

Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

The same as Christmass Day.

Homily – Fourth Sunday of Advent

The two pregnant women in our Gospel today are different in age, yet both full of joy and concern for each other. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth because of the dangers attendant on so late a pregnancy. That she went with haste, halfway across the country, to make the visit is a clear sign of Mary's generosity and goodness. Through the light of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognised Mary's privilege as the mother of the longed-for Messiah. She greets Mary in the words we are so familiar with in our *Hail Mary*. And Mary responds in the equally familiar words of the *Magnificat*. These two great women understand the miracle of conception and birth. But in each case there was divine intervention in a truly exceptional way. The Gospel says that both were informed of this fact by the words of an angel; they each had a message from God telling them so.

The fact that these two women had this divine intervention is a reminder that our own lives too are a gift of God; what we might call ordinary grace. It is from this understanding that the Church takes its position on all life issues.

At some moments we may recognise the hand of God in our lives. Maybe at the point when we felt we had a priestly or religious vocation or when we finally decided on our partner in marriage. Maybe it was at the birth of a child, a change in job circumstances, or the death of a parent. Maybe it was a moment in prayer, the grace of a sacrament, advice in the confessional, wise words from a friend or relative at a critical moment.

God continues to work with us and for us. God takes the long view and there are periods of seeming barrenness, seeming aloneness. But these are all part of that gestation which is life on earth. We were born into this world and we will be reborn into eternal life.

Every now and then like John the Baptist we leap in this womb which is our life on earth. Every now and then we recognise God's presence, as John recognised Jesus' presence, and we leap with joy. But life is always moving on and God is always with us. It was God caused us to come into being, who sustains and feeds us, and who will welcome us into life eternal. As well as the birth of Jesus, we celebrate our own birth too at Christmass — a birth, a life that flows towards death and final resurrection.

Homily – Christmass

In a scene called *Christ in the House of His Parents*, the 19th-century English painter John Everett Millais depicted Jesus as a boy of about eight or ten, helping in Joseph's carpentry workshop. In an accident, Jesus had gashed his finger so badly that his blood streamed down, while his mother tended to the wound. Though it's an imaginary incident, it portrays well what John means in his Gospel today, that the Word truly became flesh. The Fourth Gospel opens with a sublime statement about the origins of Jesus: "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God." It goes on to affirm that the Word became flesh for us. By becoming one of ourselves we might expect the Incarnate Word of God to share the same emotions as ourselves, and indeed he did. In the stories that follow, we read how Jesus showed his love to various people, to Martha, Mary and Lazarus, to his disciple John and to the rich young man who wanted to follow him. Equally, he shared our experience of distress. He could shed tears at times of loss and crisis, such as when his friend Lazarus died and before he publicly entered Jerusalem, knowing that the city would reject and execute him. The Gospels also tell how Jesus enjoyed social occasions and was a guest at so many dinners that his critics called him a glutton and a drunkard. He felt a strong empathy for people who suffered, and when they were hungry he provided the food that they needed. Like all of us, he needed companionship with others, so on several occasions he took Peter, James and John into his special confidence. When exhausted he could fall asleep, even in the stern of a boat being tossed by the wind and waves. He felt intense fear just before his passion, and openly admitted to his followers how troubled he felt in his soul. In his agony he prayed "Father let his cup pass me by." When the Word became flesh, he joined us on so many levels.

He *dwelt among us*, fully, passionately. He didn't just come to live a quiet life. He "pitched his tent among us" and shared the full range of our human experience, in order to draw us near to God. He was so much in touch with outsiders that his critics called him a friend of tax-collectors and sinners. To show his compassion for lepers, he physically touched them, laid hands on them, even at the risk of becoming ritually impure. Because he was a man of the people he spent most of his time among those who needed him most, and they were welcome in his company.

This Word became flesh to make the Eternal Father known to all of us. He came to let us know the Father. Indeed, he is God's personal message to us. How can we know the Father? Through Jesus who is "the way, the truth and the life." He is our surest way to the Father. To know the invisible God, we must link up with Jesus, think of him often, and identify with him

as children of God. "To those who did accept him, he gave power to become children of God, to those who believed in his name who were born not of human stock or human desire or human will but of God himself." We are the ones who are (re)born in this way.

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
Help us to live in the light of your coming

and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to your world as King of the nations.

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness and distress,

and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

Give us with all the faithful departed

a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you,

that with Mary, the Holy Mother of God; St Peter and Paul and all your saints and angels
we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;

give new courage to your people,

who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom

on earth as in heaven,

where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,

one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

During the Christmass season:

[in this holy night] can be added during the night of Christ's birth.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, *[in this holy night]* your Son our Saviour

was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in [...and in] all the world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

Father,
[in this holy night] angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.



CHRISTMASS HAMPER

Between 6th November and 19th December, there will be the opportunity to purchase numbered squares for the chance to win the Christmass Hamper or some wine.

Each square will cost €2.50 and you can buy as many as you want!

Donations of chocolate, biscuits, drink or other Christmas goodies to make up these prizes would be appreciated by the Chaplaincy Council.

This is an easy and profitable way to raise much needed funds for the chaplaincy and we hope you will do your best to support it.

The draw will be held on **Sunday 19th December.**



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.