



**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**

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Chaplaincy Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/anglicantorrevieja>

Chaplain's Facebook Group:

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

**FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**20<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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

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

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

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

**Our Churchwardens are:**

Peter Maude ([churchwardenpeter@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardenpeter@gmail.com))  
Jennifer Saville ([chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com](mailto:chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com))  
They also act as Joint Treasurers.

**The Vice-Chairman of the Chaplaincy Council is:**

Joan Berry ([losbalconeswarden@gmail.com](mailto:losbalconeswarden@gmail.com))

**The Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council is:**

Mary Western ([honsectorrevieja@yahoo.com](mailto:honsectorrevieja@yahoo.com))

**We take the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy is displayed at La Siesta and is available on our website:**

<https://www.c-of-e-torrevieja.com/safeguarding-policy/>

**Our Safeguarding Officer is Anna Horsnell who can be contacted at [safeguardingtorrevieja@gmail.com](mailto:safeguardingtorrevieja@gmail.com)**

**The Congregational Warden at La Siesta is:**

Sue Maude ([wardenlasiesta@gmail.com](mailto:wardenlasiesta@gmail.com))

**Our other two churches remain temporarily closed.**

### **Home Communion**

Father Richard will take Holy Communion to people at home according to their circumstances. This is a privilege and enables for prayer in the home at difficult times and for the communicant to receive Holy Communion at home. Please never hesitate to contact me if you would like Holy Communion at home if you are unable to come to church because of sickness or being housebound. Obviously Covid circumstances are taken into consideration.

Here are some guidelines to assist you:

1. If you can, please arrange a surface with a white cloth upon which I can place the Blessed Sacrament. If this is difficult please do not worry too much but it is appreciated.
2. The Priest will not enter into general conversation until after the celebration which lasts about ten minutes. Then he would appreciate a cup of tea and chat with you but if your circumstances don't allow, please do not worry.
3. Please consider giving a donation to the Church for the Priest's ministry. He will have had to drive to you and it also enables you to give your weekly collection to support the

priestly ministry in the parish / chaplaincy. This means there can be a Priest available for you and for others with a priestly presence in the parish / chaplaincy.

It is a long-established custom – if you can – to make an offering to the Church in thankfulness for the ministry of the Church.

4. You don't have to tidy up before the priest arrives! Just prepare spiritually for an encounter with Christ in the Eucharist by being prayerful before his arrival.

**Father Richard writes:**

Dear friends

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30 p.m. we are going to have a *Hymns and Pimms* afternoon at La Siesta Church as a social and fund-raising event with the enjoyment of singing your favourite hymns. Normally I choose the hymns but these will be your choice!

The tickets are 10 euros to include refreshments – Pimms or a non-alcoholic cocktail. There will be a raffle and the tickets are included in the 10 euros. Forms to write your hymn choices need to be returned by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September please and are available when you purchase your ticket. We will collate them and the ten most popular will be sung accompanied by Beth on the organ. I shall say a few words about each hymn before we sing it. Funds raised are to support the ministry of the chaplaincy.

This is a good outreach opportunity to bring friends along to show them something of our Chaplaincy so please invite others along.

Thank to those of you who are in the process of setting up standing orders for giving to the Chaplaincy either here Spain or into the Diocese in Europe's bank account. It really makes us a tremendous difference to us and I do thank you for arranging this. The Chaplaincy Council – the equivalent of a Parochial Church Council (PCC) in England – recently had a meeting with Juliet Evans, the Diocesan Fundraising Adviser, to discuss ways of trying to increase our giving so your standing orders are a vital part of this.

I constantly give thanks for all of you! As members of this worshipping community you all have your part to play in building up the faith, the life, and the ministry of our Chaplaincy. I hold you in prayer. Remember a priest is there for YOU. If there is anything to do with the spiritual life and the journey of Christian faith you want to talk about then please do contact me. I am more than happy to visit and sit down with you and help you in your pilgrim path as best I can. I will also come and pray with you. Please remember that is what a priest is for and let no one be hesitant to contact me.

I send you warmest wishes and the assurance of my prayers, as always.

Your priest and friend,  
Father Richard

Dates ahead:

## Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 3.30 p.m at La Siesta Church HYMNS AND PIMMS!



Tickets €10 each to include Pimms Cocktails / Father Richard's non-alcoholic cocktail and nibbles. Raffle tickets are included in the 10 euro ticket. **Proceeds to support the ministry of the Church here.**

Please choose ten hymns. Forms available



once you have bought your ticket. The top ten hymns will be sung so start thinking about your favourite hymns! These will be collated. Do invite folks from outside the church to come along as a way of outreach. Tickets from Sue and Joan.

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



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

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

**INTINCTION IS NOT PERMITTED.**

#### **ONGOING INFORMATION**

1. Lago Jardín Church will remain closed until further notice.

There is a building project to renovate the church at Los Balcones, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. There is no indication when this will be completed.

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

Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	1130
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	1700
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	1130
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	1700
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	1130
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	1700
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	1130 – HARVEST THANKSGIVING
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	1130
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	1700
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	1130
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	1130 - ALL SAINTS
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	1130 – ALL SOULS

There is a liturgical Facebook group.

1. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chaplaintorrevieja> and ask to join the group.
2. You will be asked three questions. Please complete them and agree to the rules of the group.

### **The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín**

The Blessed Sacrament has been removed from Lago Jardín to be kept safely with Father Richard until the church re-opens.

### **Father Richard's Prayer List for August 2023:**

*Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:* Peter John, Martin Skillen, Bert Nelson, Garth Sutherland, Andrew Little, Philip Howse, Jamie Hill, Carol and family, Raj Panchal, Peter Passey, Paul McNab, Lesley Critchley, Charlie Smith, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons, Gerry Hopkins.

*Please help Father Richard by letting him know when people can be taken off the prayer list.*



### **Please pray for the recently departed:**

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

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

### **Please advise Father Richard if there are any corrections to the above list.**

*If you wish a name to be added to the list of the sick you need to email Father Richard or write to him giving permission for yourself or ensure permission has been granted by someone else for their name to appear on this list. (GDPR regulations).*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon**

**Ps 83: 10-11**

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;  
and look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts  
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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**Collect**

O God, who have prepared for those who love you  
good things which no eye can see,  
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love,  
so that, loving you in all things and above all things,  
we may attain your promises,  
which surpass every human desire.  
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**

**Isaiah 56:1,6-7**

**I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain**

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

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**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 66(67):2-3,5-6,8**

*Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

O God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him.

*Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.*

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## **Second reading**

**Romans 11:13-15,29-32**

### **With Israel, God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice**

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

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## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn10:27**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,  
says the Lord,  
I know them and they follow me.  
Alleluia!

**Or:**

**cf.Mt4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom  
and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.  
Alleluia!

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## **Gospel**

**Matthew 15:21-28**

### **The Canaanite woman debates with Jesus and saves her daughter**



Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

### **Homily**

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.



## 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.**