

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](http://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**

**21<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**28<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



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

## **Home Communions**

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

Here are some guidelines to assist you:

1. If you can, please arrange a surface with a white cloth upon which I can place the Blessed Sacrament. If this is difficult please do not worry too much but it is appreciated.
2. The Priest will not enter into general conversation until after the celebration which lasts about ten minutes. Then he would appreciate a cup of tea and chat with you but if your circumstances don't allow, please do not worry.
3. Please consider giving a donation to the Church for the Priest's ministry. He will have had to drive to you and it also enables you to give your weekly collection to support the priestly ministry in the parish / chaplaincy. This means there can be a Priest available for you and for others with a priestly presence in the parish / chaplaincy. It is a long-established custom – if you can – to make an offering to the Church in thankfulness for the ministry of the Church.
4. You don't have to tidy up before the priest arrives! Just prepare spiritually for an encounter with Christ in the Eucharist by being prayerful before his arrival.

## **Father Richard writes:**

Dear friends

I've mentioned recently – and you've heard me mention it before – the four types of prayer there are that we summarise using the words ACTS – Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, Supplication and I'm spending these few weeks looking at each of these. So today we look at **Contrition**.

Contrition may well be the hardest one of the four types of prayer because it involves taking a look at who we are and our relationships with God and each other. Contrition, as an act of prayer, doesn't leave us in that state of being sorry – it seeks that we should do something about it. Contrition causes us to examine our consciences and then come to our merciful and loving God and confess our sins for which we feel contrition. There might well be things we discover that make us uncomfortable but God, who knows the secrets of our hearts anyway, offers us a way of prayer so we might seek to move ahead in our Christian life. Sins are like blockages – they need removing before we can move on. It is funny how often we can think that everyone else sins but we don't! In the Christian tradition we can use what is called *An Examination of Conscience* to prompt us in our prayers of contrition. An Examination of Conscience asks questions of us not to make us feel bad but so that we can, with the help and grace of God, seek to make amends and grow in our faith. Sins can get us stuck. Contrition is the first stage of moving us on again with the right disposition to help us grow.

Here is an example of an Examination of Conscience based on the Ten Commandments. Perhaps you've never heard of such an examination before.

## **My Relationship With God**

*What steps am I taking to help me grow closer to God and to others? Do I turn to God often during the day, especially when I am tempted?*

*Do I participate in the Holy Eucharist with attention and devotion on Sundays and holy days? Do I pray often and read the Bible?*

*Do I use God's name and the names of Jesus, Mary, and the saints with love and reverence?*

## **My Relationships With Family, Friends, and Neighbours**

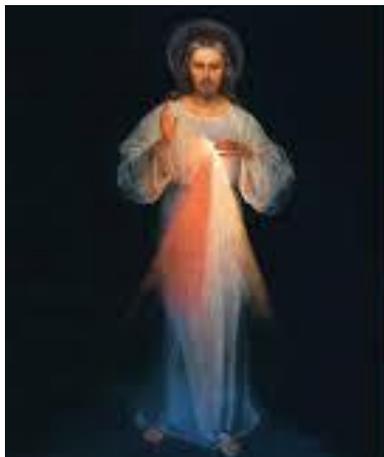
*Have I set a bad example through my words or actions? Do I treat others fairly? Do I spread stories that hurt other people?*

*Am I loving of those in my family? Am I respectful of my neighbours, my friends, and those in authority?*

*Do I show respect for my body and for the bodies of others?*

*Have I taken or damaged anything that did not belong to me? Have I cheated, copied homework, or lied?*

*Do I quarrel with others just so I can get my own way? Do I insult others to try to make them think they are less than I am? Do I hold grudges and try to hurt people who I think have hurt me?*



### **Act of Perfect Contrition**

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

The Ten

Commandments form a pretty good basis for the Examination of Conscience:

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to a new life and are asked to make moral choices that keep us united with God. With the help and grace of the Holy

Spirit, we can choose ways to act to keep us close to God, to help other people, and to be witnesses to Jesus.

The Ten Commandments guide us in making choices that help us to live as God wants us to live. The first three commandments tell us how to love God; the other seven tell us how to love our neighbour.

1. *I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.*
2. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*
3. *Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.*
4. *Honour your father and your mother.*
5. *You shall not kill.*
6. *You shall not commit adultery.*

7. *You shall not steal.*
8. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.*
9. *You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.*

So that gets us to the stage of contrition and I am sure during all our lives we feel bad for what we have done – the things we have said or not said, the things we have done or not done – all the trip ups, the stumbles and the falls of life. Some we carry for many years.



**But God loves us!** He wants us to turn from our sins and LIVE! So the Church gives three ways of dealing with our sins and offering our prayer of contrition.

1. Private prayer of confession to God.
2. Liturgical prayer of confession to God.
3. The Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession

Three ways by which we can take those sins, confess them, seek forgiveness and then move on and progress in our Christian life. God forgives those who are truly penitent. That's a given!

Here is the classic prayer from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer which I believe is spot on for this despite its antiquity:

*ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we*

*ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.*

Or another such prayer from the Prayer Book:

*Almighty God,  
 Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 maker of all things, judge of all men:  
 We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,  
 which we from time to time most grievously have committed,  
 by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,  
 provoking most Justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
 We do earnestly repent,*

*and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,  
the burden of them is intolerable.*

*Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honour and glory of thy Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Or this prayer:

*Almighty God,  
long-suffering and of great goodness:  
I confess to you,  
I confess with my whole heart  
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,  
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;  
the hurts I have done to others,  
and the good I have left undone.  
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;  
and raise me to newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

It is all too easy to ignore the challenging parts of the Christian life. Next time I move onto the thanksgiving.

God bless you all.

Your priest and friend, Father Richard



## Ministry of a Lector

Thank you to those who have replied and I will be in further contact with you about this. *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)



We are always grateful for your giving to the Chaplaincy. It is the main way by which the Priestly Ministry and Chaplaincy life is sustained. Without your giving there would be no Chaplaincy. Thank you to all who give so generously.

If you don't already, please would you consider a monthly standing order to either our UK to Spanish bank accounts? This would help us enormously in our financial planning.

It means your giving happens on a regular basis and we would be so grateful for this. Think of what the Chaplaincy means not only to you but the wider church community and the Church of England presence in this area.

Please see Peter or Jennifer or send Father Richard an email if you could help. Thank you.

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE RESPONDED POSITIVELY AND GENEROUSLY ABOUT THIS.



### Sue's Homemade Lemon Curd and Pickled Onions and Jill's Homemade Marmalade

Sue Brassington is selling *made to order* homemade lemon curd after each service. Please see her if you would like order some. Thank you, Sue! (She also taking orders for pickled onions available in six weeks.) Jill Dorsett is receiving orders for homemade marmalade. Thank you, Jill!



**DATES AHEAD:**



**Tuesday 27th  
September at  
4.30 p.m.**

A Spanish themed social event at the home of Sue Brassington (Los Altos, Orihuela Costa)

Tapas, Spanish quiz, Spanish music  
Tickets 10€ each to include food and  
1st drink.

Raffle

Tickets will be on sale from Sunday  
21st August. Donations of raffle prizes  
would be most welcome.

Please contact Sue ([councillorlosbalcones@gmail.com](mailto:councillorlosbalcones@gmail.com)) or  
Joan Berry ([losbalconeswarden@gmail.com](mailto:losbalconeswarden@gmail.com))



DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



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

We are a Covid 19 secure Chaplaincy.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms please stay at home.

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).

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.

You will be able to line up for Holy Communion instead of coming up individually.

Holy Communion is offered with the words "The Body of Christ" to which you say **Amen**  
*before* consuming the Sacred Host.

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.

### POST-PANDEMIC INFORMATION

1. Lago Jardín Church will remain closed until further notice. *In due course the Chaplaincy Council will decide the way forward. However, as the Church is being used to store so much stuff from Los Balcones we will need to wait.*
2. There is to be a building project to renovate the church but **Los Balcones church is now closed for the foreseeable future. It will re-open but it is impossible to say when. All services for the Chaplaincy will be held at La Siesta.**
3. La Siesta - these services will be for the whole Chaplaincy so please make every effort to be there and support the liturgical life of the Chaplaincy.

Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> August	1130
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	1700
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	1130
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	1700
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	1130
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	1700
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	1130
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	1700
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	1130
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	1700

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

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.

#### WORSHIP FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	1700	Evening Prayer	<i>Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> August	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
<i>There is no Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary this week.</i>			
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	1700	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	1100	Holy Eucharist	<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 Los Balcones is re-opened) 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 August 2022:**

*Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:* Wendy, Liz Shouksmith, Paul McNab, David, Anna Horsnell, Anne John, Lesley Critchley, Charlie Smith, Allan Harris, David, Theo, Patricia Gilbert, Marie Creighton, Jennifer Moody, Erol Moody, Faras, Justin Clarke, Peter John, Mo and Bryan Bailey, Bernice, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons, 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.*

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

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

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

*Please pray for the Anglican Church in Perú, for Bishop Jorge Aguilar, and the Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Laity there.*

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 85: 1-3**

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

---

### **Collect**

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful  
to unite in a single purpose,  
grant your people to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed on that place  
where true gladness is found.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

---

**First reading**

**Isaiah 66:18-21**

**They will bring all your brothers from all the nations**

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

---

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 116(117)**

*Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.*

**or**

*Alleluia!*

O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples!

*Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.*

**or**

*Alleluia!*

Strong is his love for us;  
he is faithful for ever.

*Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.*

**or**

*Alleluia!*

---

**Second reading**

**Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13**

**The Lord trains the one he loves**

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? *My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons.* Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and

far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. *So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread;* then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

---

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel**

**Luke 13:22-30**

#### **The last shall be first and the first last**

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 85: 3, 5**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.  
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,  
full of mercy to all who call to you.

---

### **Collect**

God of might, giver of every good gift,  
put into our hearts the love of your name,  
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,  
you may nurture in us what is good  
and, by your watchful care,

keep safe what you have nurtured.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

---

### **First reading**

**Ecclesiasticus 3:19-21,30-31**

#### **Behave humbly, and you will find favour with the Lord**

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,  
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.  
The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,  
and then you will find favour with the Lord;  
for great though the power of the Lord is,  
he accepts the homage of the humble.  
There is no cure for the proud man's malady,  
since an evil growth has taken root in him.  
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables,  
an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

---

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 67(68):4-7,10-11**

*In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.*

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God,  
they shall exult and dance for joy.

O sing to the Lord, make music to his name;  
rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence.

*In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.*

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow,  
such is God in his holy place.

God gives the lonely a home to live in;  
he leads the prisoners forth into freedom:

*In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.*

You poured down, O God, a generous rain:  
when your people were starved you gave them new life.

It was there that your people found a home,  
prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

*In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.*

---

### **Second reading**

**Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24**

**You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God**

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant and a blood for purification which pleads more insistently than Abel's.

---

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.  
Alleluia!

**Or:**

**Mt11:29**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Shoulder my yoke and learn from me,  
says the Lord,  
for I am gentle and humble in heart.  
Alleluia!

---

**Gospel**

**Luke 14:1,7-14**

**Everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled**

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they

cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

### Homily 21<sup>st</sup> August

As Jesus went walking toward Jerusalem it was not as a pilgrim going up to the Temple to fulfil a religious duty. According to Luke, Jesus went around the cities and villages 'teaching'. He needs to communicate to his people that God is a good Father who offers salvation to everyone. All are invited to receive God's forgiveness. His message surprises everyone. Sinners are filled with joy to hear him speak of God's unfathomable goodness: even they can hope for salvation. In the Pharisee camp, however, they criticize his message and also his welcoming of tax-collectors, prostitutes and sinners: isn't Jesus opening up a road to the watering-down of religion and to unacceptable morals?

Someone from the crowd interrupts Jesus, to ask him about how many people will be saved, in the end. Will they be few? many? everyone? only the just? Jesus doesn't answer his question directly. What's important isn't knowing exactly how many will be saved. What's decisive is living with a clear and responsible attitude in order to welcome salvation from that Good God. Jesus reminds them all: *'Try your hardest to enter by the narrow door'*. In this way Jesus undercuts the reaction of those who understand his message as an invitation to laxity. That makes fun of the Father. Salvation isn't something one receives irresponsibly from a permissive God. It also isn't the privilege of an elect few. It's not enough to be children of Abraham. It isn't sufficient to have known the Messiah, to have heard and seen him. One needs also to follow him.

The invitation to 'enter by the narrow door' can be read in light of another saying of Jesus: *'I am the door; the one who enters through me, will be saved'* (John 10:9). Entering by the narrow door is 'following Jesus'; learning to live as he did; taking up his cross and trusting the Father who has raised him from the dead. In following him, not everything counts, not everything is equal; we need to respond to the Father's love faithfully. What Jesus asks isn't legalistic rigorism, but a radical love for God and neighbour. That's why his call is a source of demand, but not of anxiety. Jesus Christ is a door that is always open. No one can close it, only ourselves if we close ourselves to his forgiveness. (José Antonio Pagola)



## Homily 28<sup>th</sup> August

What is wisdom, according to the mind of Christ? The gospel poses this challenge within the context of a parable. In it, Jesus wants his disciples to be counter-cultural, regarding status-seeking and all ambition. They must stand out against prevailing social *mores* based on class, status, aggression and dominance. The woman or man who, as a believing Christian takes their guidance from Christ, will live by a different vision.

In order to follow Jesus, gentleness, compassion, acceptance of the other, must be part of our way of life. In a society based on ambition, aggression, "going for it" regardless of consequences, being meek and humble can seem like a recipe for social disaster. But this is the point. What the Gospel presents the direction we must take in order to build a just society with room in it for all. Violence of whatever kind is a recipe for disaster for humanity. Yet this is a hard lesson to learn. We are afraid to lose face or status. We connive in an unjust *status quo*, while pretending to be Christian.

Jesus wants his followers to live life to the full. "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10). But our *joie de vivre* should include gratitude and humility. Real humility is not weakness. Gentleness is not cowardice. Humility is based on genuine self-awareness. We need these qualities if we are to live at peace with our neighbours. They are essential if we are serious about changing our world to better reflect the will of God.



### 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.