



**Diocese  
in Europe**

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

# **SS PETER AND PAUL, TORREVIEJA**

*We worship 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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**FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**



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

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

**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))  
Joan is also Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council.  
For Chaplaincy Council matters please use:  
[chapsec@gmail.com](mailto:chapsec@gmail.com)

We take the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy is displayed at La Siesta and Lago Jardín and is available on our website:  
<https://www.c-of-e-torre vieja.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))

The Congregational Warden at Lago Jardín is:  
Liz Shouksmith ([shouksmithliz@gmail.com](mailto:shouksmithliz@gmail.com))

Nuestra Señora de la Asunción at Los Balcones, our third church,  
is closed for a major rebuilding project.

### **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.

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.

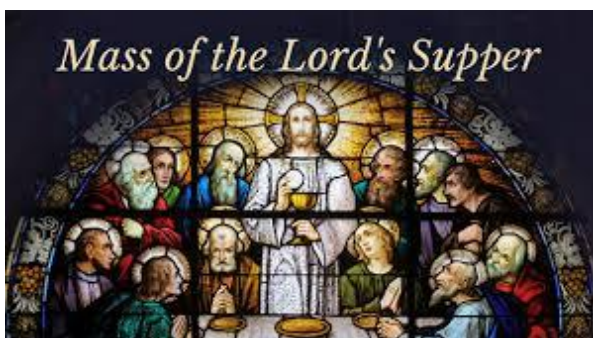
**Father Richard writes:**

Dear friends

Last week I wrote I would spend the next few weeks talking about the liturgies of Holy Week and their importance. But first of all, an introduction.

Throughout the season of the forty days of Lent we pray, fast and perform works of charity to train us, spiritually, for the the great Three Days, the Triduum – that extraordinary time like no other. Lent ends on Holy (Maundy) Thursday as we prepare for the start of Triduum – coming from the Latin *tri/duum* for three days and the word is resonant with the mysterious, solemn sound it makes. It conveys the gravity of this time. The Three Days begin on the evening of Holy Thursday when the Mass of the Lord's Supper begins and continues the celebration of the Resurrection *which begins on the evening of Holy Saturday when the Easter Vigil is celebrated*. Each of the days begin the night before. Though we call this time the Triduum is it really one event. What we start of Holy Thursday we finish on Easter Sunday: one long and glorious day. It is a liturgy in three parts. The invocation + *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit* is on Holy Thursday. The blessing and dismissal at the end of The Easter Vigil, for us, on Saturday evening when we have proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ.

Yes, we should make these days special. Think of them as a retreat from what you normally would do. Make these days special. Give full attention to the holiest days of the Christian year. This is all about what Jesus did for you!



*Mass of the Lord's Supper*

The first of the special liturgies is on Holy Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, at La Siesta at 7 p.m. This is the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** followed by **The Watch of the Passion**.

On Thursday night we cross over from Lent into the Triduum. With our brothers and sisters we gather to celebrate the first liturgy. Even though we have restrained from singing

the Glory to God at Mass during Lent, we sing it tonight as the celebration begins in joyful gratitude for this is the night Our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist. We are asked to bring bells from home and ring them during the Gloria in a cacophony of praise from Our Lord

giving us the gift of the Blessed Sacrament and to *do this memory of me*. In the first reading we hear of the Passover which Jesus took and made it his own. In the second reading we hear of the institution of the Eucharist from S. Paul. The gospel proclaims John's account of what happened at the Last Supper but we don't hear of *This is my Body, This is my Blood*. But do hear of the washing of feet and we are reminded we are not only called to share in the Lord's Body and Blood but in his servant ministry too. Jesus told his disciples they must wash each other's feet after his example. That's what we are called to do and, in a symbolic act, the priest washes feet of twelve of the faithful.

This celebration of the Eucharist is like no other. It is as if we are the Upper Room itself with Jesus. Even the words we hear in the Eucharistic Prayer echo this:

*On the day before he was to suffer for our salvation and the salvation of all, **that is today**, he took bread in his holy and venerable hands...*

We make our Holy Communion just as Our Lord shared his Body and Blood under the forms of bread and wine at the First Eucharist, the Last Supper. But this night the remaining consecrated hosts – The Body of Christ himself – are reserved for Holy Communion the next day. We fall to our knees to adore the Blessed Sacrament in the ciborium. The Watch of the Passion begins and we stay in church in absolute silence and complete stillness. We are no longer in the Upper Room; we are in the Garden of Gethsemane and there Jesus will be betrayed and arrested...

With my best wishes and prayers for you all,

Father Richard

#### **DATES AHEAD:**

#### **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

#### **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, HOLY EUCHARIST AT LA SIESTA AT \*1030\***



The Church celebrates the Annunciation of Our Lord on March 25<sup>th</sup> and recalls the moment when the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Here Mary accepted God's will for her with the Holy Spirit overshadowing her. Because of this, God was able to come into our world at the Incarnation. This Mass honours Mary's participation in God's plan for our salvation. Mary said "Yes" so we could find redemption through her Son. Come and celebrate this wonderful truth at this Mass.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!*



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**1700 La Siesta**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

**1130 Lago Jardín**

*Both celebrations of the Holy Eucharist will include the blessing and distribution of flowers for children to give their mothers and for all the ladies in church...*



**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April La Siesta Church**

**1030 ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY MEETING**

*This meeting is open to those who are on the new electoral roll.*

## EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH



**Bar Carmen, C.Fray  
Angelico 11, El  
Chaparral. Five minute  
drive from the Church.  
Lunch booked for  
1330. Please see Sue  
Maude.**

### **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 give through the UK gift aid scheme if you are a UK tax payer.
  3. **You are encouraged to set up a standing order to the Chaplaincy – this helps us budget more effectively.**
  4. You can make an offset against your Spanish tax
  5. if you are Spanish tax payer.
- One off donations are gratefully received.

For more information contact Father Richard or the Churchwardens.

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)*

### **GIVING ONLINE:**

<https://givealittle.co/c/3yXhRUWebr0Vqwf1OSVyV8>

### **GIVING BY QR CODE, APPLE PAY, GOOGLE WALLET:**

*Hover over the QR code and go from there!*

*See next page...*



***Thank you!***





## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

### In this Chaplaincy...

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 FOR HEALTH AND HYGIENE REASONS.

### ONGOING INFORMATION FOR OUR THREE CHURCHES SERVICES ARE SHARED BETWEEN LAGO JARDÍN AND LA SIESTA

Los Balcones, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción  
*remains closed for re-building.*

#### Services in the Chaplaincy:

Date	Time	Church
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	1130	Lago Jardín
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>La Siesta</b>
		<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	1130	La Siesta
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>La Siesta</b>
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>1130</b>	<b>Lago Jardín</b>
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	1030	Lago Jardín
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	1030	La Siesta
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	1030	Lago Jardín
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>La Siesta</b>
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>La Siesta</b>
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>La Siesta</b>
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>0930</b>	<b>Lago Jardín</b>
	<b>1130</b>	<b>La Siesta</b>



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

*burns this week for: Terry Harbut and Janice.* If you would like to dedicate the Blessed Sacrament for a week for a person, an intention, or in memory of a departed loved one, please see Father Richard. The cost is five euros for the week.



### **Father Richard's Prayer List for March 2025:**

*Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:* Pope Francis, Victoria Hudson, Moira Corfield, Michael Elliott, Lewis Elliott, Linda Thompson, Luke Thompson, Jamie Hill, Ed White, Rhys Miles, Gwen Simmons, Eileen Shaw, Sandra and Terry Harbut, Clíodhna pronounced Cliona Leydon, John Sunderland, Chris Hughes, Raj Panchal, Anna and Dick Horsnell, David Horsnell, Peter John, Martin Skillen, Paul McNab, Father Barry Smart, Gwyneth Manning, Lesley Critchley.

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

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

Avril Winifred Mitchell RIP

*Those killed as a result of the conflicts in Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza; for a lasting peace.*

+ 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Cf. Ps 24: 15-16**

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

### **Or:**

**Cf. Ezk 36: 23-26**

When I prove my holiness among you,  
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;  
and I will pour clean water upon you  
and cleanse you from all your impurities,  
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

### **Collect**

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,  
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving  
have shown us a remedy for sin,  
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,  
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,  
may always be lifted up by your mercy.  
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**

**Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15**

**' "I Am" has sent me to you.'**

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you." ' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

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### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R8a**

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

The LORD does deeds of justice,  
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
and his deeds to the children of Israel.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

*The LORD is compassionate and gracious.*

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## **Second reading**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**

### **The way of life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down for our instruction.**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

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## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Matthew 4:17**

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.  
Repent, says the Lord,  
for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

## Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

### **'Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'**

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

## Homily

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.



### 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.