

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 (to be used at the moment for livestreaming of liturgies):

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

**FATHER RICHARD'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**25<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**



**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 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.**

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:**

Sandra Harbut ([churchsecretarysandra@gmail.com](mailto:churchsecretarysandra@gmail.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.  
It is hoped they will re-open for Holy Week in 2023.**

### **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:**

May I wish you all a very Blessed and Peaceful Christmass. May the joy and peace of the Christ-Child be yours as we celebrate his Nativity. *Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world. Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.*

Thank you to all who worked so hard through Advent and towards Christmass. Our Christmass Hamper Raffle raised 210 euros – thank you to Sue and Joan. We had a very happy Nine Lessons and Carols – thank you to Sue and Peter. Thank you to everyone for their generosity in providing gifts for children via Reach Out which Liz took for us.

A very Happy New Year to you all as well.

God bless you all.

Your priest and friend, Father Richard

**FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHAPLAINCY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Spanish Bank details.** Banco Sabadell.

IBAN number ES65 0081 2061 7900 0106 0414

BSAB ESBB / Capellania Anglicana de Torrevieja

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

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

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



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 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!



DATES AHEAD:

## CHRISTMASS SERVICES



### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

2330 Midnight Mass at La Siesta

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**0930** Mass of the Day at La Siesta (*Please note the earlier time. This is because another church has a service later that morning.*)

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

1130 Mass for Mary, the Holy Mother of God

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January**



1130 Mass for The Epiphany of the Lord

*Followed by drinks and please bring some nibbles to share*

**From Joan Berry:**

**100 Club 2023**

Thank you to all those who bought subscriptions for the 100 Club in 2022. This helped to raise funds for charity and for the ongoing work of the chaplaincy.

The subscriptions for 2023 are now due and will be collected from **1<sup>st</sup> until 28<sup>th</sup> January.**

For those of you who are new and have not heard of the 100 Club this is a useful way of raising funds for charity and the chaplaincy. At the start of the year subscriptions are collected. It costs €20 per subscription and you can purchase as many as you want. You will get allocated a number.

There are then 6 main draws through the year plus one in December for Christmas. The prize money depends on how many of the numbers we sell as the money collected is split three ways, one third for the prize money, one third for charity and one third for chaplaincy funds. The more numbers we sell, the higher the prize money etc.

I shall be collecting subscriptions from both past and new members in church from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January.

We do ask for your support in this please. Thank you.

Joan Berry

**100 Club draw for December**

One prize of €40 was won by Anna Horsnell, number 61. This was donated back to church funds.

**Christmas Hamper winners**

1<sup>st</sup> Father Richard

2<sup>nd</sup> David Corfield

3<sup>rd</sup> Beth Kerr

4<sup>th</sup> John Dorsett



## 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.

Holy Communion will still be administered in one kind for the time being.

This will change in the near future.

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.

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 Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, Los Balcones we will need to wait.*
2. There is to be a building project to renovate the church at Los Balcones, Nuestra Señora de la Asunción. It is hoped this will re-open for Holy Week 2023.
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.

<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>2330 – MIDNIGHT MASS</b>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>0930 – Please note the time</b>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023	1130
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	1130 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	1700 - THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	1130
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	1700
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	1700

For the live-streamed liturgies from La Siesta:

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 FORTNIGHT AHEAD:**

Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	2330	Midnight Mass	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	0930	Mass of the Day	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	1130	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	1700	Holy Eucharist	<i>La Siesta / Live-streamed</i>

### **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 December 2022:**

*Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:* Tony Sage, Helen Parry, Raj Panchal, Peter Passey, John Meehan, David Doig, Charlotte, Val Donkin, Debbie von Niekerk, Ingrid Boutier, Martin Skillen, Pat Dooley, Bill Bennion, Karen Moon, William McDonald, Liz Shouksmith, Paul McNab, David, Anne John, Lesley Critchley, Charlie Smith, David, Justin Clarke, Peter John, Bernice, Luke Thompson, Gwen Simmons, Father Terence, John Mileham, Samantha Shaw, Alex, 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).*

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

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

#### **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.

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#### **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,  
God, for ever and ever.

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### **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.

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Make acceptable, O Lord, our oblation on this solemn day,  
when you manifested the reconciliation  
that makes us wholly pleasing in your sight  
and inaugurated for us the fullness of divine worship.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### **Communion Antiphon**

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

**Cf. Ps 97: 3**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O merciful God,  
that, just as the Saviour of the world, born this day,  
is the author of divine generation for us,  
so he may be the giver even of immortality.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

### **Sunday 1 January 2023**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King,  
who rules heaven and earth for ever.

### **Or:**

**Cf. Is 9: 1, 5; Lk 1: 33**

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us;  
and he will be called Wondrous God,  
Prince of peace, Father of future ages:  
and his reign will be without end.

### **Collect**

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary  
bestowed on the human race  
the grace of eternal salvation,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may experience the intercession of her,  
through whom we were found worthy  
to receive the author of life,  
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**

**Numbers 6:22-27**

**They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless  
them**

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to  
bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

### **Responsorial Psalm**

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

*O God, be gracious and bless us.*

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.

*O God, be gracious and bless us.*

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.

*O God, be gracious and bless us.*

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.

*O God, be gracious and bless us.*

## **Second reading**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

### **God sent his Son, born of a woman**

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Heb1:1-2**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
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.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

**Luke 2:16-21**

### **The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby lying in the manger**

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things  
and bring them to fulfilment,  
grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God,  
that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace,  
so one day we may rejoice in its completion.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### **Communion Antiphon**

**Heb 13: 8**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

### **Prayer after Communion**

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord:  
grant, we pray,  
that it may lead us to eternal life,  
for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary  
Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### **Homily**

Words are often a weak method of communication. However, we have to use words, and today's gospel is an attempt, in simple language, to describe what happened on that extraordinary day, so long ago. It speaks of Jesus being born, and of the second meeting of heaven and earth, on that same night, when the angels appeared to the shepherds. This was the beginning of a process that is still on-going, as I speak. It is an old story that is ever new. "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and always." With God there is no such thing as time. All of time is totally present to him right now. God's work among us is always in process, it never comes to an end. In God's eyes, Christmas is an everyday event, that involves Jesus knocking on the door of my heart, seeking admission. The God-dimension never changes, the offer is always there, the good news is delivered with greater consistency than the morning newspaper. What happens after that is totally dependent on whether I accept the offer, open the door, and make my heart available as a manger.

One important point: when the shepherds heard the message they said, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see it for ourselves." The life of the Christian is a journey of discovery. It involves coming to find out for myself the truth and the reality of what I had been told by my parents, teachers, or preachers in church. I have to cross that bridge. The gospel is in between two phrases. At the beginning, we are invited to "Come and see," and, at the end, we are instructed to "Go and tell."



## 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.**