



**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  
27<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
TWENTY-FIRST 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 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

Last week I wrote about the priest accompanying you on your spiritual journey and my availability to come and pray with you and spend time with you if you need any help on your Christian pilgrim path.

A further reflection on the priestly ministry to the people of God is as celebrant of the Sacrament of Reconciliation or, as it is often known, Confession. This has formed part of the priestly ministry ever since, on the day of the resurrection, Our Lord said to the disciples *Whosoever sins you forgive they are forgiven. Whosoever sins you retain they are retained.* People often have (wrong) misconceptions about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is a time of grace, liberation, forgiveness and joy, a time to celebrate and receive the forgiving love of God through the ministry of priests. It is a time of trust and peace.

Confessing our sins to God, in the presence of a priest, is a significant step on the Christian journey. Is it something you have thought about? You may not feel it is right for you but, as your priest, *it is the offer of a sacramental ministry to you which is there.* Some people carry a burden of sin for many years. The joy of the sacrament is that this burden is not only lifted but it is forgiven and to be remembered no more. It may be that it can be part of a review of the spiritual life where forgiveness is sought – with a contrite heart – for a number of failings in life which mar or hinder your Christian progress.

The priest hears confessions *under the seal.* This means he will not divulge to anyone the contents of a confession. Neither will he judge you. Neither will he look at you differently in the future which can often be a concern of the penitent – the name given to the person making his or her confession. You may not have even been aware of this sacrament and if you wish to know more I am happy to spend time with you in explanation or preparation. It is an important part of the priest's ministry.

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.

I send you warmest wishes and the assurance of my prayers, as always and in thanksgiving for his many blessings.

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.

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	1700
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	1130
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	1700
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	1700
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	1130 - ALL SAINTS
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	1130 – ALL SOULS
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	1130

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:* Chloe, 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 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

### **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.

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### **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.

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### **First reading**

**Isaiah 22:19-23**

#### **I place the key of the House of David on my servant's shoulder**

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant  
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.  
I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

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### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 137(138):1-3,6,8**

*Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.*

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple.

*Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.*

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul.

*Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.*

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly



and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands.  
*Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.*

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## **Second reading**

**Romans 11:33-36**

**All that exists comes from him; all is by him and from him.**

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

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## **Gospel Acclamation**

**2Co5:19**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself,  
and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.  
Alleluia!

**Or:**

**Mt16:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are Peter  
and on this rock I will build my Church.  
And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.  
Alleluia!

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## **Gospel**

**Matthew 16:13-20**

**You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be

considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

### **Homily**

It is important to read today's Gospel and next week's Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew's Gospel. This week we hear Jesus name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus' prediction about his passion and death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter's response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today's Gospel, Peter's recognition of Jesus' identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus' rebuke of Peter in next week's Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus' prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term *church* in today's Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew's Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus' identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.





## 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.