

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



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

Chaplain's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/chaplainortorrevieja>

Chaplain's Facebook Group (to be used at the moment for livestreaming of liturgies):

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

THE CHAPLAIN'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 25th December

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Sunday 27th December

THE HOLY FAMILY



**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.**

FINANCIAL GIVING TO THE CHAPLAINCY

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

You can give in the plate each week.

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.

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 PANDEMIC AND THE MONTHS AHEAD

Church services have resumed in accordance with Spanish Law, the advice of the Bishops of the Diocese, the advice of the Spanish Episcopal Conference and FEREDE.

1. Lago Jardín Church will remain closed until further notice. This is because of the difficulty of social distancing in the church and its already limited capacity.
2. There is to be a building project to renovate the church but **Los Balcones church is now closed until April 2021. 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 as we begin again in limited circumstances.

Future celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at La Siesta are:

Friday 25 th December	1030 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Sunday 27 th December	1400 – Please note the change in time
Sunday 3 rd January	1130
Saturday 9 th January	1700
Sunday 17 th January	1130
Saturday 23 rd January	1700
Saturday 30 th January	1700

The live-streamed liturgies continue:

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. You can see and hear me but I cannot see you.

We will very much be adopting a hybrid approach for the foreseeable future.

On the Sundays where there is a Mass at La Siesta, there will be a live-streamed Mass on Saturdays at 1700 so that those unable to come to church will still be able to see Mass celebrated.

On the Saturdays where there is a Mass at La Siesta, there will be a live-streamed Mass on Sundays at 1100 so that those unable to come to church will still be able to see Mass celebrated.

The weekday live-streams will continue. The general pattern is:

Monday	1100	EP	1800
Tuesday	0930	EP	1800
Wednesday	1100	EP and Rosary	1800
Thursday	0930	EP	1800
Friday	no live stream (Father Richard's rest day)		
Saturday	no live stream in the morning, Mass when indicated.		

There will also be a liturgy still included in the weekly sheet for those unable to access the internet. This means there will be "physical" worship, live-streamed worship and "printed" worship.



Church of England Chaplaincy of SS Peter and Paul, Torrevieja

We are a Covid 19 secure Chaplaincy.

The list of full instructions can be obtained from Father Richard, the Churchwardens, the Secretary or Joan Berry. Please bear in mind your own self-care, your level of vulnerability and your age according to the risks involved.

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

Under present regulations, the maximum number permitted at La Siesta is 32.

You need to let Sue Maude know (wardenlasiesta@gmail.com) each week if you are coming.

This is so we can implement the regulations correctly.

Worship for the week ahead:

Thursday 24th Dec 0930 Holy Eucharist *Live-streamed*

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

1800 Evening Prayer *Live-streamed*

1930 Vigil Mass *Live-streamed from the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham*

2200 Mass during the Night
Live-streamed

Friday 25th Dec 1030 Holy Eucharist *La Siesta*
No Live-streamed Evening Prayer

Saturday 26th Dec 1100 Holy Eucharist *Live-streamed*
S. STEPHEN, PROTOMARTYR *No Live-streamed Evening Prayer*

Sunday 27th Dec 1000 Mass *Live-streamed from the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham*

THE HOLY FAMILY 1400 Holy Eucharist *La Siesta*

1800 Evening Prayer *Live-streamed*

Monday 28th Dec 1100 Holy Eucharist *Live-streamed*

THE HOLY INNOCENTS 1800 Evening Prayer *Live-streamed*

Tuesday 29th Dec 0930 Holy Eucharist *Live-streamed*

S. THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP AND MARTYR 1800 Evening Prayer and Holy Rosary *Live-streamed*

Wednesday 30th Dec *No live-streaming today (Father Richard's rest day)*
SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY

Thursday 31st Dec 0930 Holy Eucharist *Live-streamed*

SEVENTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY 1800 First Evening Prayer: Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Friday 1st January 1000 Mass *Live-streamed from the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham*

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD 1740 Evening Prayer *Live-streamed*

1800 Holy Eucharist *Live-streamed*

Saturday 2nd January 1700 Vigil Mass *Live-streamed*

Sunday 3rd January 1130 Holy Eucharist *La Siesta*

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMASS *No live-streamed Evening Prayer*

Father Richard writes:

I wish you all a very Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Christmass. May the joy of the Incarnation fill your hearts and homes this Christmass. God has come among us, alleluia. Praise be to God for the Holy Virgin Mother. Thanks be to God for the gift of the Christ Child, the Saviour of Mankind, the Prince of Peace.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard for months now with all the necessary work to keep La Siesta Covid-19 safe. Your indefatigable work is outstanding – Peter Maude, Jennifer Saville, Sue Maude, Joan Berry, Sandra Harbut, Liz Shouksmith and to Sue Brassington for assisting as well. Thank you to the Wendy (now sadly left us for the UK) and Beth for their playing of the organ. I wish you all a Joyful Christmass.

I also wish to express my thanks to those who have been so financially generous during the year. As you know our financial situation is very difficult and extremely challenging. I particularly want to thank those who in addition to their giving also give of their time and talents and seek no reimbursements for expenses. Thank you.

Thank you to those who, even though they are not coming to church at this time because of the Pandemic, have continued to show principled stewardship and generosity in keeping their collections going through giving financially to the Chaplaincy.

May God bless us this Christmass - a difficult Christmass – but nevertheless a joyful one. Glory to the new-born King.

Your priest and friend, Father Richard

Christmas prayer to The Virgin Mary, Noel, by J. R. R. Tolkien

Grim was the world and grey last night:
The moon and stars were fled,
The hall was dark without song or light,
The fires were fallen dead.
The wind in the trees was like to the sea,
And over the mountains' teeth
It whistled bitter-cold and free,
As a sword leapt from its sheath.
The lord of snows upreared his head;

His mantle long and pale
Upon the bitter blast was spread
And hung o'er hill and dale.
The world was blind, the boughs were bent,
All ways and paths were wild:
Then the veil of cloud apart was rent,
And here was born a Child.
The ancient dome of heaven sheer



Was pricked with distant light;
 A star came shining white and clear
 Alone above the night.
 In the dale of dark in that hour of birth
 One voice on a sudden sang:
 Then all the bells in Heaven and Earth
 Together at midnight rang.
 Mary sang in this world below:
 They heard her song arise
 O'er mist and over mountain snow
 To the walls of Paradise,
 And the tongue of many bells was stirred
 in Heaven's towers to ring
 When the voice of mortal maid was heard,
 That was mother of Heaven's King.
 Glad is the world and fair this night
 With stars about its head,
 And the hall is filled with laughter and light,
 And fires are burning red.
 The bells of Paradise now ring
 With bells of Christendom,
 And Gloria, Gloria we will sing
 That God on earth is come.



Jill's Homemade Marmalade

Jill Dorsett is now selling homemade marmalade after each service. Please see her if you would like to buy / order some. Thank you Jill!

Some aids to worship:

For Evening Prayer, if you wish to join in the common texts they are follows:

Angelus – *see later in the newsletter*

Introduction - + O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Alleluia!

Magnificat: + **My soul glorifies the Lord,
 my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
 He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
 henceforth all ages will call me blessed.**

**The Almighty works marvels for me.
 Holy his name!**

**His mercy is from age to age,
 on those who fear him.**

**He puts forth his arm in strength
 and scatters the proud-hearted.
 He casts the mighty from their thrones**

and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

"Participants in a streamed service of Holy Communion should not be encouraged to place bread and wine before their screens. Joining together to share in the one bread and the one cup as those physically present to one another is integral to the service of Holy Communion; ... and it is not helpful to suggest otherwise. Any idea of the 'remote consecration' of the bread and wine should be avoided."

The words above are an extract from a letter from Bishop Robert and Bishop David from 2nd April. Under Church of England formularies the Priest himself must set the bread and wine upon the Altar which is going to be consecrated during the Eucharist.

This post underlines The Church of England position.



The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín

Because Lago Jardín is not going to be used for the foreseeable future (until social distancing rules change) 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.

The Chaplain's Prayer List for December 2020:

Please pray for the sick and those in particular need at this time:

Laura Riskey and her family, Penny Elliott, Keith Simmons, Luke Thompson, Andrew, Kathryn Moore, Fr Brian, Andrew, Isaac Jalal, Cathy Neil, Danny Gidman, Denise Taylor, Dorothy Hanson, Eileen Catlin, Father Helge, Solveig Pettersson, Gwen Simmons, Gerry Hopkins, Benjamin Saville, for all those suffering in mind, body and spirit as a result of the coronavirus.

Please pray for the recently departed:

For all those who have died as a result of the coronavirus.

+ 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.

Father Richard's Study Group... will resume when we can.

From the Churchwardens:

It has been so good to see so many of our congregations returning to Church and we thank the dedicated team who prepare for worship and deep clean afterwards. We must also thank those who have been putting their giving away and have now brought it back to Church. This is really needed as is the continued giving to maintain the life of our Chaplaincy. The ideal for the Chaplaincy would be for people to set up standing orders or direct debits. This allows us to have a good idea of what we can expect to receive and plan our finances.

If you feel you can manage to set up a standing order. The bank details to do this are as follows:

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. Please state TORREVIEJA as the reference so the money is correctly applied.

Thank you so very much for your help,

Peter and Jennifer

Making a Spiritual Communion. Something recommended for us all each day when we cannot participate in the Holy Eucharist.

Even if we are watching a livestreamed Mass (and the times of our Chaplaincy livestreamed celebrations of the Eucharist are listed in the newsletter) we are invited to pause when the Priest receives Holy Communion and make our own spiritual communion. We can say it silently to ourselves or speak it out loud. In this way we are joined with Our Lord in his suffering and death for the world and we are united to His Most Sacred Heart. In these most worrying of days we know Our Lord is there and we can join ourselves to him just as he joins himself with us. This is a great blessing, comfort and strength.

Choose one of these prayers:

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

*I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you have already come, I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.*

or,

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you. I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen.

Prayer resources

1. Look at the pages of the Church Union, a well-established organisation in the Church of England: <https://www.churchunion.co.uk/news.php>
2. You are invited to say the *Angelus* at 0600 (!), or better still 1200 and 1800. The services of livestreamed Evening Prayer begin with this.
3. Lastly, and most importantly, make a Spiritual Communion. There is more about this in this newsletter.
4. *Praying at home with the Blessed Virgin Mary*
The Society of Mary has produced a booklet of readings, reflections and prayers that focus on some of the themes that are important at these times; and how Mary is an example for us, as well as someone who prays with us and for us.
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/SoM_May_2020_Marian_Devotional_Booklet.pdf
5. Devotions and Prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
https://www.sswsh.com/uploads/Sacred_Heart_of_Jesus_Devotions_and_Prayers.pdf
6. Praying in Church.
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/Praying_in_Church_FINAL.pdf
7. Praying with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/Blessed_Sacrament_Resource_FINAL.pdf
8. A series of homilies. **Homilies from an SSC Priest**
As lockdown began, it became clear that the way in which we worshipped as communities, and the way in which we taught the faith were going to have to change. This is a series of homilies by one priest of the Society of the Holy Cross (SSC) who ministers in North London.
In this series he explores through the great Feasts of the Church's year just how the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on our faith.
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/SSC_priest_homilies.pdf

9. A booklet on the Rosary from the Society of Mary, a devotional society in the Church of England.
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/Rosary_Resource_SoM.pdf
10. Responding to the psalms, a devotional resource (attached this newsletter).
11. From the Guild of All Souls, *Praying for the sick, dying, departed and bereaved*.
https://www.guildofallsouls.org.uk/uploads/7/0/6/7/7067171/praying_for_the_sick_dying_departed_and_bereaved_-_nov_2020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0flfh-QBXR1Me5O9QbTfpFzkr8bnmq-EMOGSpHyB7FRWSvCrkij3u1s
12. From the Church Union: *O Radiant Dawn* – A resource for Advent.
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/O_Radiant_Dawn_final_version.pdf
13. From the Church Union: *The Wondrous Gift* – A resource for Christmas.
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/The_Wondrous_Gift_FINAL.pdf
14. From the Church Union: *O Come Let Us Adore Him* – Prayers at the Crib
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/Prayers_at_the_crib_v6.pdf
15. *Saints of the month - DECEMBER*
Although we are praying and worshipping in our homes, we never pray alone. We pray with the Church around the world and our prayers are joined with those of the company of heaven. In this booklet there are a selection of biographies of saints and holy people whose feast days occur this month, as well as prayers you might find helpful.
https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/Saints_of_the_Month_December_FINAL.pdf

**IMPORTANT LETTER ABOUT CHRISTMASS IN THE CHAPLAINCY
FROM FATHER RICHARD**

Dear friends

May the Lord find us all watching and waiting this Advent. The Lord be with you.

Christmass this year will be, for obvious reasons, different. At the moment, we are limited to thirty-two people at La Siesta.

There are two services at La Siesta for which I recommend you register *as soon as possible*. This will, I hope, give you the assurance of a place at these services. It is best to be prepared now.

Friday 25th December **1030** Holy Eucharist

Sunday 27th December **1400** Holy Eucharist

Please note the above times.

Please would you contact Sue Maude (wardenlasiesta@gmail.com) to make a booking for these services. This means regular worshippers in the Chaplaincy will have an opportunity to book first before the services are more widely publicised.

I thank Sue for managing this.

Thank you for your co-operation.

With my continued prayers at this difficult time,

Yours sincerely
Father Richard

12 Tennison Court
Crescent Street
Cottingham
East Yorkshire
HU16 5RU

9th December 2020

Dear Fr Richard

Once again Wendy and I would like to thank all members of the Chaplaincy for the very generous gift presented to us at La Siesta Church prior to our departure for the UK.

We have given much thought to how we would like to spend the voucher and we have decided that we would put it towards the purchase of a new television set. At the present we have a very small 22" set as we thought that it was best in a small apartment. Now with the possibility of moving to somewhere a bit bigger and with our ageing eyesight we find the screen a bit small to see properly. We may not get this before Christmas but will let you know when we have bought it.

We found our eventual departure quite emotionally draining, leaving lots of good friends and our lovely house in which we had lived for some 14 years or so. When we locked the door for the final time, we left with a lump in our throats but now we feel that is going to be onwards and upwards.

We will keep you all in our prayers

May God bless you all

Wendy and Ian

Friday 25th December 2020

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

Entrance Antiphon

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.

Collect

O God, who have made this most sacred night
radiant with the splendour of the true light,
grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth,
may also delight in his gladness in heaven.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
(one) God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

A Son is given to us

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.
For all the footgear of battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
is burnt,
and consumed by fire.
For there is a child born for us,
a son given to us
and dominion is laid on his shoulders;
and this is the name they give him:
Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God,
Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion
in a peace that has no end,
for the throne of David
and for his royal power,
which he establishes and makes secure
in justice and integrity.
From this time onwards and for ever,
the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95(96):1-3,11-13

Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.

Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.

With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.

Second reading

Titus 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed to the whole human race

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation**Lk2:10-11**

Alleluia, alleluia!
I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel**Luke 2:1-14****'In the town of David a saviour has been born to you'**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

Sunday 27 December 2020**Entrance Antiphon****Lk 2: 16**

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,

and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
(one) God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127(128):1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Second reading

Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19

The faith of Abraham and of Sarah

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: *It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on.* He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

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 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Reflection

For the people of Israel, light and darkness were more than natural phenomena. They tended to associate them often with virtue and wickedness in the community, and also with the day of the Lord's coming. Indeed, at Qumran on the Dead Sea shoreline, during the life-time of Jesus, light and darkness were seen as two opposing kingdoms, and the sun's victory over darkness was held to be a symbol of the triumph of faith over the blind pursuit of evil. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light." That's how chapter one of the Bible begins to describe creation, and when it was ended, God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good.

But this original goodness and justice was to be shattered, because our first parents abused the freedom of will granted them by God, so that once again, as the prophet Isaiah says "darkness came to cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples." (Is 60:2), To dispel this darkness, a new creation was needed, and the ideal of goodness and perfection became a living reality, when the light of Christ came into the world. "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; for those who lived in a land of deep shadow a light has shone." (Is 9:2). For God, who had created man in his own image and likeness, had now identified with the human race, and by assuming the body of a child in the image of man, had come down to become one of us.

It has become a tradition to associate snow with Christmass, and when it does come, shrouding everything with its white mantle, a stillness settles over the countryside, especially at night-time. That combination of darkness and stillness was the setting for the first Christmas. As the Book of Wisdom states, "When all things were in quiet silence, and the night was in the middle of her course, your almighty Word leaped down from heaven, from your royal throne." (Wis 18:14f). It was as if God was again saying , "Let there be light" – let the gloom and darkness, which exemplify the fallen and corrupt nature of the human race, be lifted, ushering in a new age of glory to God and peace on earth. And so an angel of the Lord appeared to some humble shepherds tending their flocks in the enveloping darkness, and the brightness of the Lord shone round them. "Do not be afraid," the angel reassured

them. "Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

We too must listen, listen in the stillness of our hearts, and, like the shepherds, we must hasten, and with eagerness draw near to Christ. We must search for Christ, hasten to him with eagerness, and in the quiet times of prayer understand anew our need for Christ. St Augustine held that prior to conceiving Christ in her womb, Mary first conceived him in her heart, by her faith. The Church, too, is the Mother of Christ in that, by obedience to the will of God, she brings Christ into being in the world. But we, its members, are the Church, and so in some sense we too can bring Christ to birth, , in this spiritual way, by doing God's holy will.

The Nicene ("Niceno-Constantinopolitan") Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, *[in this holy night]* your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in [...and in] all the world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.

Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

[In this holy night] Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

Father,

[in this holy night] angels and shepherds worshipped at
the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hymn: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Guj8U_xS4bI

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

**Christmass in the Chaplaincy of
Ss Peter and Paul, Torrevieja**



**All services at La Siesta
Calle Granados, Urb La Siesta, Torrevieja**

Monday 21st December
1800 Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday 25th December
1030 Holy Eucharist

Sunday 27th December
1400 Holy Eucharist

You need to register for all these services by emailing Sue Maude please.
(warden@siesta@gmail.com)
A mask must be worn over the nose and mouth. Thank you.