



**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

30th March 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LAETARE SUNDAY

MOTHERING SUNDAY



**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)
Jennifer Saville (chaplaincywardenjennifer@gmail.com)
They also act as Joint Treasurers.

The Vice-Chairman of the Chaplaincy Council is:
Joan Berry (losbalconeswarden@gmail.com)
Joan is also Honorary Secretary to the Chaplaincy Council.
For Chaplaincy Council matters please use:
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

The Congregational Warden at La Siesta is:
Sue Maude (wardenlasiesta@gmail.com)

The Congregational Warden at Lago Jardín is:
Liz Shouksmith (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

Thank you to Liz and Sue for preparing flowers for Mothering Sunday.

Why we should be at church on Good Friday...what is the significance of the liturgy this day?

We call this Friday "good" but there is nothing good in what humanity did. There is everything GOOD in what Jesus did. Authorities accused Jesus falsely. The crowd turned against him. He died naked between two thieves.

Jesus did this out of LOVE for us. It is GOOD because it is HOLY. Good Friday is the holiest day of the year.

The Church asks us to fast on Good Friday in response to the loving sacrifice of Jesus. Our day of fasting gives witness to our willingness to sacrifice in turn. Jesus hung on the cross between noon and three o'clock in the afternoon. That's when the Church gathers for the primary liturgy today: The Celebration of the Lord's Passion. It is not a celebration of the Eucharist but we do receive the Blessed Sacrament – the Sacred Hosts consecrated at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday.

We begin in silence. The Priest assumes the most abject posture of prayer before the altar (he prostrates in silence as the people kneel) before the mystery of God's love in the face of human sin.

We hear the fourth song of the suffering servant from Isaiah and the reflection on Jesus's death from the Letter to the Hebrews. We join in the Passion of the Lord according to John. We pause at the moment we recall the death of Jesus. We pray for the Church and the world in the Solemn Intercessions of Good Friday.

Then something very powerful. A Crucifix is unveiled and we come and venerate it. That sign of contradiction -the instrument of death but the instrument of redemption. We venerate it with a kiss, a bow, a sign of reverence and love, a sign of love of the cross on which hung the salvation of the world, a sign of love of the cross on which Jesus died for YOU and ME, a sign of love for the God who sacrificed his only begotten Son for the sins of us all, the sins of you and me.

We receive Holy Communion and we depart in silence, a silence which only ends when we gather for The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

With my best wishes and prayers for you all,

Father Richard

DATES AHEAD:

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Saturday 29th March

1700 La Siesta

Sunday 30th 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...



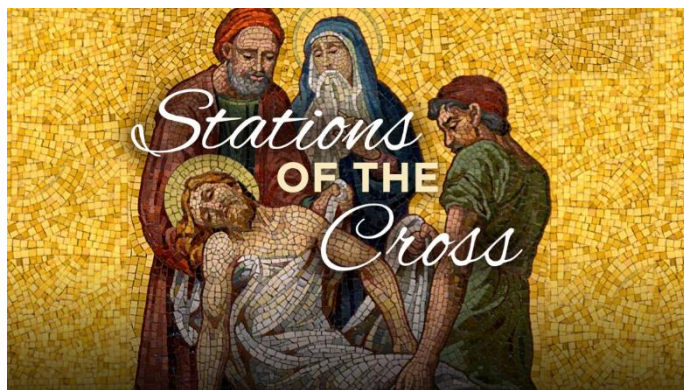
Tuesday 1st April La Siesta Church

1030 ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS AND ANNUAL CHAPLAINCY MEETING

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

Tuesday 8th April STATIONS OF THE CROSS

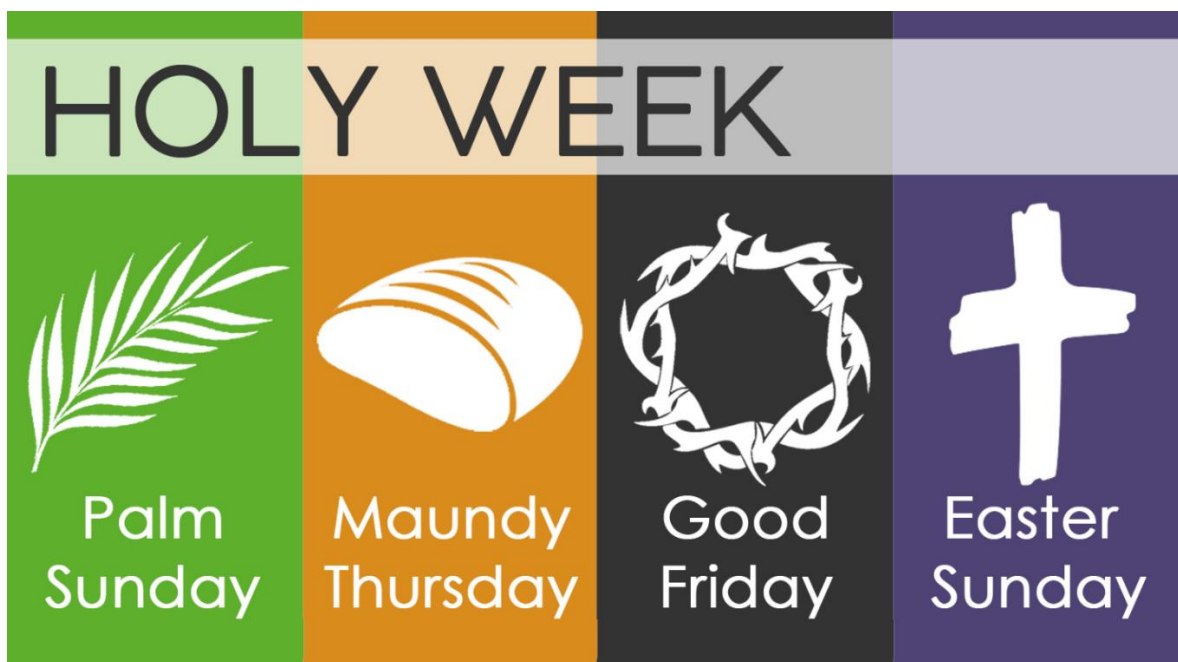
1100 at the outdoors Stations of the Cross at Rojasles



The Stations or Way of the Cross is one of the most traditional and identifiable devotional practices in Christianity, whereby participants are invited to focus their prayer on fourteen stages in Jesus' passion and death including, in more recent versions, Christ's resurrection from the dead. The devotional practice can be traced back to the customs of early Christian pilgrims who visited the various historical sites (sometimes

known as the Via Dolorosa) in Jerusalem that came to be associated with Christ's suffering and death. These pilgrimages began in the early patristic period (c. 100 – 450AD) and continued throughout the middle ages (c. 476 – 1500AD). For the benefit of those Christians who could not make these demanding pilgrimages, local churches produced their own versions of the stations in order to bring the practice closer to home.

The Stations of the Cross serves a similar role to the passion narratives in the Gospels: they invite the community to contemplate and draw strength from the suffering and death of Jesus. The stations connect the local Church with the early Church whose members looked forward with eager hope to Christ's coming again in glory. When we look at the Stations now, we are called to reflect upon Christ's example of total self-gift to God, and we are invited to follow Jesus' path of love, self-sacrifice and service in our lives. The aim is not to historically re-enact past events but to savour the Lord's presence among us now and the inspiration of his saving words and actions.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Saturday 12th April

1700 COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM AND VIGIL MASS (La Siesta)

Sunday 13th April

1130 COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM AND MASS (Lago Jardín)

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Monday 14th April

1030 MASS (Lago Jardín)

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Monday 15th April
1030 MASS (La Siesta)

**THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM
MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Thursday 17th April
1900 MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Followed by WATCH OF THE PASSION (La Siesta)
Please bring bells to ring at the Gloria.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday 18th April
1500 THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
(La Siesta)

HOLY SATURDAY

Saturday 19th April
1900 THE EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER
Please bring bells to ring at the Gloria.
(La Siesta)

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 20th April
0930 HOLY EUCHARIST (Lago Jardín)
1130 HOLY EUCHARIST (La Siesta)



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.

A local choir, "Let's Rock", has offered us a free fundraising concert on **Wednesday 23rd April at 6 p.m!** (*featuring our own Eugene!!!*)

**Let's Rock
Rock & Pop Choir
Sing...**

**THE
BEATLES**

**Don't miss our 'Free'
Concerts**

**Sunday 23rd March at The Algorfa Hotel –
Show starts at 5pm - reserve seats - Tel 966 72 97 07**

**Wednesday 9th April Oasis San Luis –
Show starts at 7.30pm - Reserve seats Tel 965 27 05 06**

**Wednesday 16th April Oasis San Luis –
Show starts at 7.30pm - Reserve seats Tel 965 27 05 06**

**Wednesday 23rd April St Peter's & Paul's Church La Siesta –
Show starts at 6pm – come along early!**

Tel 650 054 467 WhatsApp - email singinggroup@outlook.com

Entrance / exit is by donation, church fundraiser (cash or card) and there will be refreshments afterwards!

Please encourage as many people as possible to come. Wednesday 23rd April at 6 p.m.

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 nd March	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 23 rd March	1130	Lago Jardín
Tuesday 25th March	1030	La Siesta
		THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Saturday 29 th March	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 30 th March	1130	Lago Jardín
Sunday 6 th April	1130	La Siesta
Saturday 12th April	1700	La Siesta
Sunday 13th April	1130	Lago Jardín
Monday 14 th April	1030	Lago Jardín
Tuesday 15 th April	1030	La Siesta
Wednesday 16th April	1030	Lago Jardín
Thursday 17th April	1900	La Siesta
Friday 18th April	1500	La Siesta
Saturday 19th April	1900	La Siesta
Sunday 20th April	0930	Lago Jardín
	1130	La Siesta
		EASTER SUNDAY

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp at Lago Jardín

burns this week for: The Chaplaincy. 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 *in plenty of time if possible*. 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:

Geoffrey Johnston, Priest RIP; Avril Winifred Mitchell RIP, Gerry Hopkins 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 30th March 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Collect

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover.

In those days: The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.' While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 34(33):2-3. 4-5. 6-7. R cf. 18b

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the LORD heard,
and rescued him from all his distress.

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Second reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

'God who through Christ reconciled us to himself.'

Brothers and Sisters: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

'Your brother was dead, and is alive.'

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me." And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

'But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.' "

'And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, "Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!" And he said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found." '

Homily

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father.

First of all, we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honour the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honours him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.



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.