

Next Sunday, 22nd December 2024 Advent 4

Eucharist: Times as today at San Eugenio and San Blas;
(Readings: Micah 5: 2 – 5a; Psalm 80; Hebrews 10: 5 – 10; Luke 1: 39 – 55)

Carol Service: 6:00pm at Espiritu Santo.

Eucharist of the Nativity: 6.00pm Espiritu Santo (24th
December)

10.15am San Eugenio; 12 noon San Blas (25th December)

A thought for the day

'Hope is the patient and trustful willingness to live without full closure, without resolution, and still be content and even happy because our satisfaction is now at another level, and our Source is beyond ourselves.' *Richard Rohr*

A prayer for the week for ourselves

God our Father, you have entrusted to us your people, the mission of Jesus, your Son. Help us to strengthen the weary, to give hope for the discouraged, to be near to the poor and the weak and to lift up, with the gentleness of Jesus, those sitting down by the roadside of life. Remember us too, for we are but weak and stumbling people, and stay with us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Walking together in faith

Sunday, 15th December 2024: **Third Sunday of Advent**

The Sunday Eucharist

10.15am **San Eugenio**, Playa de Las Américas

12 noon **San Blas**, Golf del Sur

6.00pm **Espiritu Santo**, Los Gigantes

Welcome to everyone to our worship. On this Third Sunday of Advent the liturgy urges us to rejoice! This is '*Gaudete (Rejoice!)* Sunday.' For the Lord is coming. In fact, he is already in our midst. It is a feast for the Lord to be with us, but is it a feast for us too? Let us open ourselves to the joy of the coming and lasting presence among us of the Lord. He comes to us with his peace, his love, his compassion and forgiveness, not only on the great feast of Christmas but in every Eucharist and every day and every situation

when we are willing to make God's love and peace grow in us and in our world. Let us rejoice that the Lord is here among us.

Important information regarding the reception of Holy Communion
*Holy Communion is distributed in both kinds. If you wish, you may receive in one kind only, but to receive from the chalice, please drink (sip!) from it. Intinction (dipping the wafer bread into the chalice) is more infection risky and is not approved in this Diocese. **If you require gluten-free bread, please let us know before the service begins.***

Prayer at the Advent Wreath

People of God: return! You are called to be God's own. From the mountains announce the good news. God comes in justice and peace, to all who follow his ways. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ today and for ever.

Amen.

Today's readings

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 18 *The Lord will come in your midst*

To a people surrounded by enemies the prophet announces: the Lord is with you, he will forgive you and bring you joy. The Lord will live among you and renew you by his love. As people of the New Covenant, we should hardly need to be reminded that the Lord is with us always!

Canticle as Psalm: Isaiah 12: 2 – 6, with the response:

Sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Philippians 4: 4 – 7 *Rejoice, the Lord is near!*

Paul is saying that Christians should always be joyful people, even in the midst of their troubles. It is because the Lord is near and here, meaning that our troubles are his too. Our joy must be contagious without being showy.

Luke 3: 7 – 18 *Concrete actions!*

John the Baptist reminds us, like those who came to him, that we wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord by doing well the everyday things that our calling demands, particularly with regard to others. People will meet Jesus through us, or else be repelled by him if our words and actions do not communicate love and compassion.

Eucharistic Prayer: E, (pages 14 – 15), with a Preface for Advent, followed by the Lord's Prayer and Holy Communion (page 21)

Church financial giving

A collection will be taken during the Offertory.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider using the Gift Aid envelope provided, or available at the back of church. It would increase your donation by 25%. Contributions at any time are also most welcome by bank transfer to either our euro or sterling accounts. For security reasons the details have had to be withdrawn from the pew sheet.

Please contact our treasurer Gwen Furmston, in church (San Eugenio) or by email to sgfurmston@gmail.com

We are a completely self-supporting Chaplaincy. Your generous giving is very important to us and much appreciated, helping us to maintain an Anglican presence and ministry in south Tenerife.

Our Charity Shop in Los Gigantes

Open this week Monday to Thursday 10.00am to 2.00pm

(Closed on Friday and Saturday)

Every Tuesday San Blas church is open from 11.00am to 12 noon for private prayer or for someone to chat or pray with you, or just come and find peace and rest for a while. Coffee available.

Wednesday, 18th December

6.30pm Community Celebrations and Carol Singing at Residencial Sonia, Callao Salvaje (where the Vicarage is). A small fundraising event for the church. All welcome but please sign up today if you wish to attend.

Thursday, 19th December.

10.30am Eucharist at Espiritu Santo, Los Gigantes

(Readings: as for next Sunday, Advent 4).

Every Friday at midday. A weekly opportunity for regular St Francis church members and others to meet in a friendly and informal way at the Kiosco restaurant in San Blas commercial centre (middle square)..