

A thought for the day

‘When did all this (today’s Gospel story) happen? On the third day, when we realized that the water, which was all we could provide, had been changed into the blood of the grape.....To believe in Jesus is not to believe that he can turn water into wine, like some heavenly magician. To believe in Jesus is to accept him as the one person who can replace our inadequate rituals.....with the reality of union with God, in the wine of his own blood.’ – *Hubert J Richards*

A prayer for the week for ourselves

We thank you, God our Father, for letting Jesus speak to us in this Eucharist today, his words of encouragement and joy and for pouring for us the wine of the new and everlasting covenant. May our lives become a feast of forgiveness and mutual service and of dedication to you, our living God. May our worship be a foretaste of the happiness of your eternal home prepared for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Contacts

The Revd John Poole, Priest-in-Charge

Tel: 922 74 20 45. Mob: 629 371 664

Or, especially for texts/WhatsApp please use +44 7899 793805.

ejpoole165@gmail.com (Rest day: Tuesday)

Marisha Carter, Licensed Reader & Secretary to Church Council

- 822 69 71 13; marishacarter@hotmail.com

Val Sainsbury, Warden – 711 009 685

vesainsbury55@yahoo.com

The Anglican Church of St. Francis, South Tenerife

www.anglicanchurchtenerife.com

www.facebook.com/stfrancistenerife/

Walking together in faith

Sunday, 21st January 2024

Third Sunday of Epiphany

(Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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. In the Gospel today we have the story of the wedding at Cana where the water becomes wine. It is the third major sign of the Epiphany (following the coming of the magi and the Lord’s Baptism). We come together today to celebrate the greater wedding that it signifies: the union and communion we share with God through Jesus. May this divine relationship always serve to bring us closer to one another and to our fellow Christians of all traditions – appropriately, we are in the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (18th – 25th January). Through our Eucharist today let us be renewed in our call to reflect and proclaim the loving union God wants to share with all people, that human life may be a feast of love, an unending song of joy and praise to our living God.

Important information regarding the reception of Holy Communion
*Holy Communion is distributed in both kinds. You are, of course, welcome to receive in one kind only. To receive from the chalice, please drink (sip!) from it. We ask you **not** to dip the wafer bread into the chalice. It 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.

Today's readings

Genesis 14: 17 – 20 *A covenant in bread and wine*

Melchizedek, the priest king, welcomes Abram (who would later be known as Abraham) with a covenant meal of bread and wine, reminding us that in gifts of bread and wine, Jesus strengthens us in the covenant with the Father.

Psalm 128, with the response:

How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.

Revelation 19: 6 – 10 *The wedding feast of the Lamb*

John's vision of the marriage of the Lamb (Jesus) with his bride (the Church), signifying the full union between God and his people. To this wedding all are invited.

John 2: 1 – 11 *Jesus, the bridegroom*

The Wedding at Cana is the first of Jesus' signs of glory as recorded by John, a glory which comes to fulfilment in the cross and resurrection. The glory of God which once rested on the tent of meeting and the temple is now concentrated in a human being – Jesus, the 'Word made flesh' who 'pitched his tent among us.' John shows that 'on the third day' Jesus united himself to us in a bond of love. He gives us the wine of the kingdom of God which never runs out.

Eucharistic Prayer B (pages 8 – 9) with a Preface for Christian Unity, followed by the Lord's Prayer and Communion (page 21)

Church financial giving

A collection is taken during the Offertory.

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

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% at no cost to you.

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

Our Charity Shop in Los Gigantes

Open 10.00am to 2.00pm – every day except Sunday

Opens at 12 noon on Thursday.

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.

Thursday, 25th January *The Conversion of St Paul*

10.30am Eucharist at Espiritu Santo, Los Gigantes

(Readings: Acts 9: 1 – 22; Matthew 19: 27 – 30)

7.00pm Ecumenical Celebration for the Unity of Christians

At St Francis church, Puerto de la Cruz. President and Preacher: Bishop Bernardo Alvarez. Service in Spanish and English. We are participating! All welcome.

Next Sunday, 28th – January *The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)*

Eucharist:

Times and locations as today

(Readings: Malachi 3: 1 – 5; Psalm 24; Hebrews 2: 14 – 18;
Luke 2: 22 - 40)