

There will be no service at Espiritu Santo on Thursday, 26th December. Normal Sunday times at each church on Sunday, 29th December for our continuing celebration of the birth of the Lord.

Many thanks to all who attended and assisted at the community carols and celebration at Callao Salvaje on Wednesday. A special thanks to Philip Davies for excellent organisation and catering. Funds raised for the church at this event will be announced.

Thought for the day

‘Mary is the model of the faith to which God calls all of us: *a total and unreserved yes to God’s request to be present in and to the world through us.* God desires to love others unconditionally in and through us.’

Richard Rohr

A prayer for the week for ourselves

God our Father, you fill the hungry with good things and send the self-satisfied away empty. In this Eucharist you have filled us with the word and the bread of life of your Son Jesus Christ. Make us hunger now for his coming in the hearts and the homes of all. Fill us with his spirit of service and self-forgetting love, that through us he may become near to the people around us. We ask this in his name, 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 this week: Thursday)

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, 22nd December 2024: Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Sunday Eucharist:

10.15am **San Eugenio**, Pueblo Canario, Playa de Las Americas

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

Carol Service:

6.00pm **Espiritu Santo**, Los Gigantes

Welcome to everyone to our worship. Today we reflect on God’s way of coming to the world. To solve most human problems, we have recourse to strong means, like authority, influence, money and power. God’s upsetting standards are quite different. To save our world and us, God joins people in their weakness and becomes human among us. The Saviour is born not in the capital city or palace but in a rural town, in simplicity, in poverty. He overthrows power and domination with the apparent weakness of humility,

obedience and service. A mother and child are at the beginning of our salvation story. Let us recognise God's astonishing way of coming!

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: prepare! God above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. Maranatha! **Come, Lord Jesus!**

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made.

Maranatha! **Come, Lord Jesus!**

We are God's children; we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha! **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Today's readings

Micah 5: 2 – 5a *A humble ruler brings peace*

Bethlehem was 'royal David's city' but something more fundamental than a new king David is being spoken of here. The one whose origin is 'from of old' takes us back further than David, to the staggering realization that at Christmas, the Creator, like his creatures, was going to be born into the world!

Psalm 80: 1 – 2; 4; 15 – 16; 18 – 19, with the response:

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved

Hebrews 10: 5 – 10 *I am coming to obey your will*

The writer shows how the old Jewish sacrificial system pointed beyond itself to the one sacrifice with which God was pleased. By his death, Jesus became the one 'full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice,' removing any need of worship involving the offering of animal sacrifices.

Luke 1: 39 – 55 *Blessed is she who believed...*

Mary, like countless of her people, travels the uplands of Judah literally carrying 'the Word' to share her good news with her relative. Christians are Christ-bearers who are also tasked with carrying the Word. It is often a hazardous journey with unknown challenges, as following Christ will 'cost not less than everything.' But as Mary's 'Magnificat' outlines, we join the cause of God that seeks to change the world.

Eucharistic Prayer: B, (pages 8 – 9), with the Advent 4 Preface, followed by the Lord's Prayer (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

Opening days this week will be announced verbally

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Tuesday, 24th December

Christmas Eucharist of the Night:

6.00pm Espiritu Santo, Los Gigantes

(Readings: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; Titus 2: 11 – 14; Luke 2: 1 – 14).

Wednesday, 25th December

Christmas Eucharist of the Day:

10.15am San Eugenio, Playa de Las Americas

12 noon San Blas, Golf del Sur

(Readings: Isaiah 52: 7 – 10; Hebrews 1: 1 – 4; John 1: 1 – 14;)