

Services during August 2018

Nazaret

Church of Nuestra Señora de Nazaret August 5 **10:00 AM**

Puerto del Carmen

Church of Nuestra Señora in the harbour, Old Town August 5, 12, 19, 26 **12:30 PM**

Playa Blanca

Church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen August 5, 12, 19, 26 **5:00 PM**

Principal Church contacts

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The Parish is currently in Interregnum.



ANGLICAN PARISH
ST. LAURENCE IN LANZAROTE

Our Monthly Newsletter – August 2018



**A very warm welcome
to everybody!**

Our mission is to serve the Anglican and English speaking people – both residents and visitors – in Lanzarote.

Please spread the word about our congregations and services and visit our website on www.lanzarotechurch.com

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



“The Transfiguration” by Fr. Richard

It is said that the most prayerful place on earth is Mt Tabor in the Holy Land which rises steeply out of the Jezreel valley. The top of this stand-alone mountain is revered traditionally, as the place where Jesus was transfigured.

These days so many people want to visit the top of Mt Tabor that a fleet of sedate minibuses is organised to take them up the series of S-bends of the narrow road to the summit. Not many years ago the old Peugeot 504 estate cars, known throughout the ME as ‘flying coffins’ for the way they were, and still are to a certain extent, driven along desert roads, particularly at night, and the hair-raising way they negotiated the S-bends on the way to the summit of Mt Tabor, and which I experienced on my first visit – many occupants in constant prayer, some with their eyes closed, which supports the view of the most prayerful place on earth.

The views from the top are breath-taking. On the summit you will find the remains of an ancient monastery, but on the highest point there is a beautiful basilica, constructed on 3 levels to symbolize the transfiguration. Because of its significance as a place of pilgrimage, it is still a very prayerful place, with or without the old taxi drivers.

As beautiful as the basilica is it cannot compare with the speechless beauty of the Transfiguration, a scene packed with awesome majesty and mystery, captures the imagination. Little did Peter, James and John realize that on accepting the invitation of Jesus that they would experience one of the most memorable events in their lives. Although they had been his disciples for some time they had noted nothing different in his physical appearance to distinguish him from other people. On the mountain, as Christ was absolved prayerfully in God’s presence, all that changed. For a few shining moments, bathed in blinding brilliance, his countenance was altered as he shed human appearance. Enveloped in a strong dazzling light, his divinity shone like the sun. What the apostles experienced was out of this world. At that incredible moment they saw that Jesus was not just a great man, but the Messiah they had been promised for centuries. Shielding their eyes from the splendour of the intense light, the apostles were filled with fear as the voice of God said; ‘This is my Son the beloved, he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.’ The moment of glory was short-lived and the apostles were back down the mountain to the problems of ordinary life.

It is said that God, the Father momentarily lifted the curtain and revealed the true glory of his Son in order to strengthen Peter, James and John against the horrors they would later experience. The transfiguration offers a strange parallel with the crucifixion. As you meditate on one, hold the other in your mind as a sort of backdrop. Here on the mountain, is Jesus, revealed in glory; on Calvary, just outside Jerusalem, he is revealed in shame. Here his clothes are shining bright; there they are gambled over. Here he is flanked by Moses and Elijah representing the law and the prophets; there he is flanked by two criminals representing the level to which Israel has sunk in its relationship with God. Here Peter blurts out how wonderful it all is; there, he is hiding in shame, denying he never knew Jesus. Here a bright cloud overshadows the scene; there darkness comes over the land. Here, the voice of God declares that this is his wonderful Son; there a pagan soldier declares in surprise, that this really was the Son of God. Perhaps we can better understand both when we see them both side by side.

News and Events in August 2018

The transfiguration is not a one-off happening that took place on a mountain top 2000 years ago.

God is always passing by, Jesus still walks among us, but in I suspect we seldom notice, if at all. Our journey through life is invariably a series of highs and lows. We encounter miracles of endurance as we witnessed in Thailand, but also disasters like Grenfell tower. On life’s pilgrimage, we may come to realize our own times of special grace which puts us in touch with the mystery of God. The transfiguration is an account about being surprised by the power, love and beauty of God as seen in Jesus. The transfiguration is a glimpse into the future which awaits us all. And if you ever have the good fortune to visit the site on Mt Tabor, rest assured that the taxis no longer cause the pilgrim to be anxious about the opportunity to share an awesome experience. As pilgrims through this earthly life, and there are times when we may not be sure what God has in store for us, it is good to remember that God’s promise is, that at our journey’s end, we will be transfigured, see him as he really is, and share in the vision of his glory. In the meantime, let us continue to live as God wants us to, following in the footsteps of Jesus, to the best of our ability.

After the Sunday Services you are invited to coffee (or any other beverage) and fellowship at Restaurante la Sirena in Puerto del Carmen.

Apostles Lunch

Our next Apostles Lunch will take place on August 14, 2018.

Please contact Freida Burke (freida.burke@gmail.com) for further information or to sign up. The venue will be announced at all services.

Copper Collection

Copper Collection - Please leave your copper donations in the collecting cap at the end of the service and help to provide food through CARITAS for those in need.

Safeguarding

The protection from harm of children and adults who may be vulnerable is of paramount importance to us. We will not tolerate abuse in any form.

As a chaplaincy within the Diocese in Europe, we comply fully with the requirements of the Diocese's Safeguarding Policy.

Gift Aid Scheme

As a Parish we are self-sufficient and do not receive any grants or help from the Diocese. If you are a UK tax payer, please consider giving your collection in one of the Gift Aid envelopes available at the door at each service.

This increases your gift to us by some 25% at no cost to you.

Thank you.