



December 2023,
Casa Bob, Calle Cardon, 76



Advent Greetings, may you be watching and waiting, faithfully, and the peace and love of Christ rule your hearts.

Here we are at the start of a new church year. Now, I must admit, that for most, Advent does not signal a New Year, but it does for me, and for all preachers across the world who take their readings from the Revised Common Lectionary. For the last 12 months our Gospel readings have focused on the Gospel of Matthew and now we move on to Mark. His short and quick paced record of the life of Jesus will be supplemented, where necessary, with extracts from John and the other Gospels.

I realise this letter arrives, quick on the heels of my last one, but I wanted to keep to my 'good' communication pledge. As we prepare to recall the Nativity of our Lord, there is much happening, in and around the Chaplaincy, just like there is in all the churches across the world. Christmas Season celebrations may be slightly different, here on the island, and the focus may well be on King's Day (Epiphany), but all form part of the celebration of the Divine becoming manifest, God in human form. The whole season starts with Advent and in fact continues to well after King's Day to the Feast of Candlemas in February.

Sadly, for us, but wonderful for them, Piedra Alta, is closing for Christmas. This means there will be no live stream, of the morning service on the 24th and 31st December and the 7th January, although the evening service will be recorded for later viewing. There will be a short form of Holy Communion, in the home of David Reid, in El Roque, on these Sundays at 10am, for those who cannot get to Corralejo Services. However, I would encourage all who can to join us in Corralejo, for our main act of worship at 5pm.

As well as the normal diary events, the following are also happening, and we will greatly appreciate your support in person or in prayer,

9 th December	Christmas Fayre at Casa Pablo's, Tamaragua 10am-1pm
14 th December	Carols and Readings at Casa Pablos's Tamaragua 6.30pm
23 rd December	Carols and Readings in Caleta de Fuste, home of Lynne Angus 4pm
24 th December	Carols and Communion, Service in Corralejo 5pm
25 th December	Christmas Communion, Casa Bob, 10am

Finally, as I am sure you are aware, the process of getting me here, as your Chaplain, has been long and arduous, but it has also been financially challenging for the Chaplaincy. So far, it has cost over 13,000 euros, mainly due to the extra paperwork needed because of Brexit and that will not be the final figure as costs are still being accrued. So, to help, I have decided to host an Epiphany Gift event for Chaplaincy Funds at Casa Bob on Friday, 5th January 2024. Everyone is invited to bring their gifts, between 11.30am-3pm, and lunch will be available from 12.30pm. While the Chaplaincy is not financially in dire straits, we do need to make sure we are sustainable, so that we can be the church God calls us to be, witnessing to the love of Christ in this place.

If at any time you want to have a chat, please feel free to contact me, by email or phone, I am always happy to do so and should you be on the island and unable to attend church, but would like home communion, I will be happy to oblige, especially over the Christmas season. Finally, if you do not wish to receive these more frequent update letters about the Chaplaincy, please let me know, and I will make sure your details are removed from our circulation list.

Wishing you the blessings of the season,

Much love and prayers

Anne x

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