

March 2024  
Casa Bob, Calle Cardon, 76



Blessings of the Season to you.

I write as our journey through Lent nears its end, and we look to the highs and lows of Holy Week and the overwhelming joy of Easter Day. For me, it has been a Lent full of blessings but also a good time to reflect on my time here, as Chris and I mark our 6-month anniversary. For me, the greatest blessings have been in and around the Lent sessions and the Bible Course.

The eve of Lent was marked by a great pancake event at Casa Bob and it was wonderful to see so many people come and be in fellowship with one another. Ash Wednesday was marked by a service with imposition of Ashes at the home of Ann and David Reed, and that week ended with Bishop Robert's Pastoral Visit. This was a wonderful event, and my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped. The Bishop really enjoyed his time with us and commented on the family nature of the Chaplaincy here.

The Lent sessions at both Caleta and Corralejo have been well attended and, I believe, well received. My heartfelt thanks to Lynne, June and Frank for their hospitality in hosting these groups, and to all those who have attended and joined in, as we together explored the 'Essentials for a Spiritual Life.' The willingness of people to share the challenges and joys of living a life shaped by faith in Jesus has been inspirational. Should you wish to have a look at the material, the 5 sessions are on the website, although conversations frequently diverged from the material, which led to both sessions being very different but equally wonderful. I felt truly blessed each week.

'The Bible Course', which is now halfway through, has also been a real delight and source of blessings, and, although there is some 'homework', those attending are finding it both challenging and invigorating. I hope, in the end, these sessions will enable a greater understanding of the Bible, which in turn will lead to a greater realisation that the message that Jesus brought to the world was so very radical and wonderful.

As I mentioned, I have been reflecting on my first 6 months here and have decided that the zooming of morning and evening prayer is something that is not adding to the life of the Chaplaincy, so I intend to stop zooming them after Holy Week. I will continue to say morning and evening prayer personally, but it will be done more to my timeframe, rather than the regimented time of 9am/9pm thus allowing me more flexibility in my calendar.

Looking forward, I have been thinking about our Annual Chaplaincy Meeting, which will be held in Casa Bob on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May. We have for the last year been without Church Wardens and I wish to call on each of you to consider if this is a role you might take on. It is highly important that we find at least one warden, but preferably two. Your role will be to support me, and attend our Council meetings, so to be fair while there is Chaplain duties are light. Honestly, they are! The issue comes if anything happens to me. For without at least one Warden, the process of continuing as a Chaplaincy will be fraught. Now you might think, well, she has only just got here, and that is true. But none of us know what tomorrow might bring, and having good governance and correct structures in place is as much a calling to serve God as is showing hospitality. So please think about it. I realise that you might not be an island resident, but as long as you are able to attend meetings, some in person and some virtually, and visit the island with a reasonable amount of frequency, then please do consider and pray about this, and talk to me if you need any more information. Your Chaplaincy does need you!

Finally, additional Easter Services are as follows,

28 <sup>th</sup> March	Maundy Thursday Service, at the home of Ann and David Reed, 10.30am
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Good Friday Service, at the home of Ann and David Reid, 2.30pm.
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Sunrise Service on Puerto Lajas beach at 7.30 am (sunrise is 7.48am)

Once again, thanks to Ann and David for offering their home for our worship.

As ever, should you be on the island and unable to attend church, I am more than willing to bring communion to you at home; just let me know.

Wishing you every blessing of the risen Lord.

Love and prayers,

Anne x

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