Friday offering from Fr Marcus

Yesterday I was privileged to Celebrate the Eucharist in Thanksgiving for the life, work and witness of St Teresa of Avilla, a Spanish Mystic, Nun and Teacher of the faith. I also went to the Spanish service in Benissa for their celebration, and it was wonderful.

St Teresa is well known for her strong willed pursuit of the spiritual life, and the joy of her countenance. She said, among many other things, May God protect me from gloomy saints!’

Well Amen to that!

But there is a lot of gloom around. Pandemic, uncertainty, restrictions, financial woes……I could go on, but you know what it feels like when we watch the news. Gloom followed by more gloom.

But Teresa also spoke some words that have been made into a Taize chant. Nade de turba.

We sing
Let nothing trouble you,
Let nothing frighten you,
Whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone is enough.

As a chant it is sung over and over again, and eventually it sinks in, and it makes complete sense.
The more we understand our relationship with God, the more we realise how close we are to him, and to one another despite our miles of separation. Accepting that God alone is enough is a foretaste of heaven on earth.

So, Bless you for that St Teresa.

However, I also need to speak about how we sustain the proclamation of the presence of God here in the Costa Blanca. MY video on Wednesday, and notices in our churches have told folk that, along with so many others we have taken a huge financial hit due to Covid 19. Mainly due to services being cut, no funeral fees for months, no wedding blessing this year and no fundraising. We have managed well, but used up our reserves, and we need to do a range of things to enable the chaplaincy to survive.

One thing we are doing is having a Gift Day on 1st November, the Feast of All Saints. Chosen because we are all called to be saints, and we want to celebrate the great things that God has done, and continues to do in our lives.

A gift Day is a simple idea, we just ask that on 1st November, if possible, and you can afford it, you make an extra donation to the Costa Blanca Anglican Chaplaincy. If that is not right for you at the moment, Bless you that is absolutely fine.

If you are coming to church, there will be special envelopes for tax efficient giving, or you could donate via our website [www.costbalna-anglicanchaplaincy.org](http://www.costbalna-anglicanchaplaincy.org)

There is a donate now button, or a section on Donations and legacies.

Or you could do a bank transfer

**Spanish Bank Details**

Banco Santander

Account name: **Capellania Anglicana de la Costa Blanca**

IBAN: **ES24 0075 1294 6206 0012 5274**

Concepto: Your name and church name

Our Treasurer has produced a paper which I have attached for your information, called ‘Here are some ways of supporting our Chaplaincy financially’. (I know some of you have already seen it, but just in case.)

Of course the Gift Day will not solve all of our financial problems, we look forward to the time when our fund raising is back on track, and our visitors are coming and sharing more in our church life, but at the moment, we can just do what we can do.

I am minded that St Teresa was not keen on Gloomy saints. I am sure that none of us are. There is always joy to be had and love to be shared. Long may it last.

As St Paul writes in 2 Corinthians

Each person should give what he has decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**. ... You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

If you would like to talk about any of this, please invite any of the clergy to visit.

Bless you, Bless you, Bless you,

As ever,

Fr Marcus