



JOYFUL GIFT

Sunday 22nd May 2016, **Trinity Sunday**, Year C

Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch:

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The Roman Catholic English Service Mass in Madeira

Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de Franca. Today is Holy Trinity Sunday. We're glad you decided to attend Mass here with us today...visitors are always welcome! Father Bernardino de Andrade is the presiding priest for our English Service Mass on Sundays. He was born in Madeira, but spent many years as a priest in the USA. Our small Chapel has quite a bit of history... it was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, almost 400 years ago, and built on a "penha" or peak, by the sea. It was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. When the Diocese of Funchal took possession of the chapel it was used as the Bishop's Summer Residence for many years. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they founded the Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. The nave roof of the Chapel has recently been repaired and the ceiling restored through the generosity of a frequent visitor to our English Mass.

Today's Scripture Readings

(Proverbs 8: 22-31 Psalm 8:4-9 Romans 5: 1-5, John 16: 12-15)

Written after the return from the exile in Babylon, the Wisdom books contain the practical knowledge of both the Israelites and the peoples around them, accumulated over two thousand years. Wisdom is the art of living a life at peace with God and with other people. It was developed by reflecting on the great questions: life, death, suffering, love, evil, relationships. It was seen to be a universal guide for living, and so given by God. So Wisdom came to be seen as a person – the caring, feminine side of God, existing from all eternity. In today's reading from Proverbs Wisdom speaks of sharing God's delight in His work at the beginning of creation. The Psalm expresses our amazement at the place God has given to mankind in his wonderful creation.

In his letter to the Romans Paul insists that being justified, or made "at peace" with God, means that our previous alienation from God is overcome. God's love "poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" has brought us into an intimate relationship with God, but we confidently hope in a more glorious intimacy in the future.

No wonder Jesus says in the Gospel "I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now". The Spirit gives us understanding.

- Brought to you by Chris Oliver

Psalm Response:

How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!

Hymns: Entry: 19 *(All over the world the Spirit is moving)*

Mass: Lord, have Mercy: 659 **Offertory:** 21 *(All that I am)*

Holy: 704 **Lamb of God:** 737

Final: 231 *(Holy virgin, by God's decree)*



Music: Larysa Makarova

FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – May I love you, please?



Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade

I met Jose a few years ago during a Spanish *Cursillo* (a spiritual retreat experience). He had come to California from Nicaragua, was a University professor and a politician. He had enjoyed a «good» life until he was forced to flee the country for serious reasons. Visiting his family in California, Jose was invited to take part in a three day *Cursillo*. Jose «had no choice» because his brother-in-law was going to be the Coordinator of the retreat. The only reason he said «yes» was because he felt embarrassed to decline his brother-in-law's invitation. Jose had no faith at all. His last time in church and his last Communion had taken place 40 years before.

The first day of the *Cursillo* was a struggling and painful journey. Then he felt something different. He discovered a «different God». He discovered that «his» God whom he had left behind was not the God of Jesus. On the second day of the *Cursillo* Jose was uncontrollably in love with «his new God», the God of the Bible, the God of Jesus, the God of the Lost Sheep and of the Prodigal Son. Jose was fascinated by the person of Jesus. I heard his first Confession in 40 years and gave him absolution in the name of God. He felt loved and forgiven and I had the privilege of giving him his First Holy Communion after forty years of absence.

During one of the breaks he confided to me that the «*hardest thing for him to understand was that during these 40 years, God performed so many miracles in his life, and he didn't even believe in Him*».

I put my hand on his shoulder, looked in his eyes, and also confided to him:
- *Jose... a mother never asks permission from her baby to love him... to help him...to feed him.*

God will never ask your permission to love you and to help you. God will never ask «*May I love you, please?* ». That's free. The blessing and the tragedy is that we have the power to say “yes” or “no”. The religion of Jesus is a religion of the YES.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino

A "*Cursillo*" is a spiritual retreat experience. It was born in Spain, and that's why even in the English-speaking countries they are still faithful to the name "*Cursillo*". We also have it here in Madeira. In June there is one for men and in August there is one for ladies. It starts on a Wednesday night and ends on a Saturday night. In Madeira, the place where the *Cursillo* takes place is in Terreiro da Luta (Monte). It is excellent and it is in almost every country of the world.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

TODAY IS TRINITY SUNDAY – But what exactly is it all about?

Trinity Sunday, is celebrated a week after Pentecost Sunday, and celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three persons of God: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



OUR POPE KEEPS UP WITH THE TIMES – Pope Francis has Instagram!



Since he took over as head of the Catholic Church in March 2013, **Pope Francis has blazed a trail on social media and has joined Instagram on the 19th of March this year!**

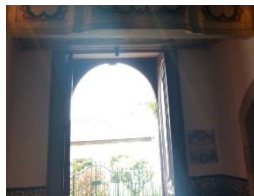
Using the Instagram name “@franciscus”, the pope posted his first picture: a photo of himself kneeling with the caption «pray for me» in nine languages. Kevin Systrom, the chief executive and co-founder of the photo-sharing website (*Instagram*), met the pope in February and officially welcomed him to the site. By mid-afternoon on the same day that the pope joined Instagram, he already had over 84,000 followers!

The Pope has a clear message for the Catholic Church and its congregants. It's a message of inclusion and openness. And yet, even at 78, Pope Francis is not oblivious to the fact that the most powerful way to spread a message is through social media. He's called the Internet a «gift from God», but he's also warned that the abundance of data and digital stimulation we all consume each day can amount to a kind of «mental pollution» that harms our relationships and shields us from the real pain and joy that comes with human interaction.



Before posting his first picture on Instagram, the Pope said:
«I want to walk with you along the way of God's Mercy and tenderness.»

THE LEGEND OF OUR LADY OF PENHA DE FRANÇA

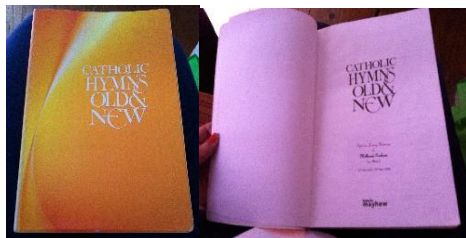


At the entrance door of the Chapel, if you look upwards, just above your head you will see a **painting of a sleeping man, with an alligator waiting to attack him**. This has to do with a legend, which tradition has it that a pilgrim, on the road to the shrine of



Our Lady of Penha de França in Lisbon, stopped by the way and fell into a deep sleep of exhaustion. Whilst he slept, a fearsome reptile was about to devour him, when Our Lady, surrounded by an aura of light, appeared upon the hilltop and awakened the pilgrim, warning him of the danger. The beast was slain, and the hide carried to the church in Lisbon. Without the head, it measured 14 hands, and was covered in thick greenish black scales. Stuffed with straw, it was on view in the church there until 1739, when it had to be removed owing to its dilapidated condition. At the foot of any statue of our Lady of Penha de França you will always see a sleeping man and an alligator to represent this legend.

HYMN BOOKS – In memory of your loved ones



If you take a look at the first page of your yellow hymn book, you may see that it has been donated to the Chapel by someone who has attended Mass here at some time in the past, with a dedication in loving memory of their loved one. If you would like to do the same, and donate a hymn book in remembrance of your loved one who has passed away, please speak with Fr. Bernardino after mass or send an email to: tracyp1973@gmail.com for more information.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

People Helping People (PHP) is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França to help those in need. Our Bishop D. António once said, "One must find new ways of helping the poor". A very small group of people attending the English Mass decided to do just that! In a short period of time we have created partnerships with restaurants and supermarket chains, we have paid dozens of medical prescriptions, we have spent gallons and gallons of petrol riding across the island giving lifts, we have prevented families to lose their homes, get their electricity cut off, run out of gas. We have tried to keep them warm, keep them hopeful, keep them dreaming....

DONATIONS - please help:

Moynihans Bar, on the corner up the road from the Chapel, accepts any Donations, and also food, toiletries or clothes for PHP.

CONTACTS:

Europe: Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal. email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

USA: Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561.

Bank: Banco Santander Totta

IBAN: PT50 0038 0000 40900916771 75

BIC (SWIFT): BNIPTPL

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 000409009167710

Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quitéria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Bible Group

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic Bible Group:
THURSDAYS - 2pm in the English Church Library.

Mothers' Prayer Group

Last Thursday of each month
11-12 am at the English Church
Mothers & Grandmothers of all ages welcome.
More information:
<http://www.mothersprayers.org/>

**Tea and Coffee
After Mass in the
meeting room across
the garden - please
join us!**

**Sign our Visitor's
Book, or put a pin on
our world map to tell
us where you're from!**



Tall?

**Please beware
low door lintels**



Please remember to leave
your yellow *Hymn Book* and
Order of the Mass sheet at
the Chapel entrance after
mass. Thank you ☺



If you would like to receive our newsletter (Joyful Gift) in your inbox every Sunday, please send an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com to have your name added to our list.