



JOYFUL GIFT

Sunday 5th June 2016, 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
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! Father Bernardino Andrade is our priest for the English Service Mass on Sundays. He was born here in Madeira, but spent many years as a priest in the USA. The Chapel of Penha de Franca 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 Franca here, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. As of last year the Franciscans have moved to the former convent of *São Bernardino* in Câmara de Lobos and the Chapel has reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal. 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

(1 Kings 17:17-24; Psalm 29(30); Gal 1:11-19; Luke 7:11-17)

The Books of Kings give the histories of Judah and the northern kingdom Israel between David's death and the exile of Judah to Babylon in 586 BC. Israel's kings frequently worshipped false gods, and so God punished them. King Ahab married Jezebel and worshipped Baal. After God sent a drought, he accepted Elijah's sacrifice. Elijah then killed all Ahab's priests, and then retreated into the desert for safety. The widow of Zarephath shared her last food with him. She was rewarded: her food stores were continually replenished, and today we hear how her son was brought back to life through Elijah's prayer to God.

This links to Luke's Gospel in which Jesus, after healing the centurion's slave, brings back to life the son of the widow of Nain. Then John the Baptist asks Jesus "Are you he who is to come?"

For the next six weeks our second readings are from Paul's letter to the Galatians, where visitors from Jerusalem had insisted they must become Jews before becoming Christians. Paul expresses astonishment that they have deserted his teachings, and insists his authority is what he heard directly from Jesus himself on the way to Damascus, when Jesus commissioned him to take the gospel to the Gentiles. And Peter and James had not contradicted Paul.

- Brought to you by Chris Oliver

Psalm Response: I will Praise you, Lord, you have rescued me.

Hymns: **Entry: 65** (*Bind us together*)
Offertory: 419 (*How Great Thou art*)
Final: 175 (*Go, the Mass is ended*)



Music: *Larysa Makarova*

FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – No Rice, Please

Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade

My life and my ministry as a priest can be and has been, sometimes, very tiring but it is never boring. Even when I used to say seven and eight Masses in a weekend I never felt that it was a repetition. I never felt bored. It was always unique. It was always a surprise.

I have been performing Weddings for over fifty years and I feel that every Wedding I perform is like the first in my life. Actually it is the first with that particular couple, family and friends. **Last month I had a Wedding that impressed me in a very special way.**

David is from Iceland and a member of the Lutheran Church. He is fluent in English but not in Portuguese. That's the reason why the Ceremony was bilingual.

Linda is a very proud Portuguese girl, a member of the Catholic Church, born and raised in Venezuela. Very deep in her heart, and in her purse, she carries two passports with two Nationalities.

We had a few meetings to prepare the ceremony. David and Linda were more concerned about their married life than about their marriage day. We talked about marriage, about married life, about the church, about prayer and about the world with its deep problems. We talked about the homeless, about the project «People Helping People», about the suffering, about the poor, about the refugees. We talked about the tremendous crisis that is affecting Venezuela. Linda is very conscious of all the troubles that are affecting her people in Venezuela and among them the supermarkets with empty shelves. People there have a card that assigns them the day of the week when they can go to the supermarket to buy their groceries, and where they can find almost nothing to buy. We talked about this man who spent four hours in line to pay for two kilos of rice.



Then we went back to the ceremony. Beautiful readings were chosen, the vows, the music and we also talked about the rice that is becoming a tradition to throw to the newly weds. Together we realized that throwing rice is transforming food into garbage. How can we do that in a Wedding when there is so much hunger in Venezuela and in the world? Together we realized that transforming food into garbage was an insult to the people in Venezuela and an insult to all the poor of the world and an insult to God. Somebody told Linda: «But it is your Wedding. To make the Wedding of Cana a special Wedding, Jesus transformed water into wine». «You are right», Linda answered, «but He did not insult the poor by transforming food into garbage».

Then Linda and David decided to prepare a big basket of groceries that was carried to the altar at the moment of the Offertory. Then all the people who had rice to be thrown to them brought their bags of rice and respectfully deposited them inside the basket. After the wedding, with the help of a volunteer, I carried the basket and on behalf of Linda and David I delivered it to a family of six people who saw in this action one more sign of hope. The poor and the hungry had been invited to their Wedding. Linda mentioned a very powerful word from the Gospel. «We need to be YEAST of the Kingdom of God» (Mat. 13:33).

Linda and David understood what a Sacrament is about.

By the way, I forgot to say that Linda and David were not victims of rice thrown against their faces but they were «buried» under beautiful and aromatic flowers.



God loves you and so do I,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

A LIFE-LIKE REPLICA OF NOAH'S ARK – In The Netherlands

Dutch carpenter, Johan Huibers, grew up in The Netherlands in the province of Noord-Holland, in what is described as the 'Realm of a thousand Islands'. When he was 24 years old, he encountered God, who planted a desire in his heart to help others. He was involved in aid projects in Ethiopia, Albania and Bosnia. But God also implanted another vision in his mind... to build a life-like replica of Noah's Ark! **He began building the Ark after dreaming about an intense storm flooding his hometown in the Netherlands.** His replica of Noah's Ark was built between



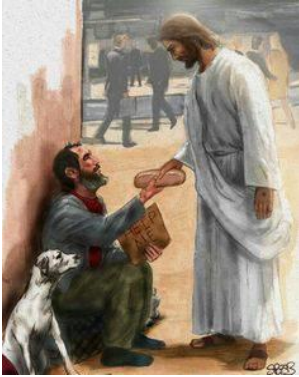
2008 and 2013. It is an interactive, informative, cultural Biblical museum and event center. Visitors to the Ark experience a real life journey back in the time of Noah, and learn about God and the historical events of the Great Flood, Creation, and the Judgment in the Old Testament. Johan built the Ark using the measurements given in Genesis 6:15 to make the Ark "as precise as possible." **The vessel is an immense life-sized exhibit measuring 95 feet wide (29 meters), 410 feet long (125 meters), 75 feet tall (23 meters), with 5 decks / floors and can hold more than 5,000 people at once!** His goal was to bring thousands to this powerful vessel so that they could understand the everlasting hope that comes from the word of God, and all that is possible through faith.



When Johan learned about the lives of many underprivileged communities throughout Brazil, he started praying about how he could help. He felt led to seek support from the local church, to pray and seek God's wisdom and direction on how to best serve the underprivileged communities. It was decided, with the help of a non-profit Foundation in the USA called *The Ark of Noah Foundation*, to bring the Ark to Brazil this summer, where these communities may receive the experience of hope, and what better time than during the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro this year so that visitors from around the world can witness this amazing vessel! Transportation of the Ark of Noah from The Netherlands to Brazil will be an incredible undertaking made possible by donations. The voyage will be streamed live on the internet. The Ark of Noah will be mounted on a barge, and people will be able to see it crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

For more information about the Ark, please visit the official website: www.arkofnoah.org

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



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 from going hungry, losing their homes, getting their electricity cut off, running 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 Donations, food, toiletries or clothes for PHP.

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Bank: Banco Santander Totta

BIC (SWIFT): BNIPTPL

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

IBAN: PT50 0038 0000 40900916771 75

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 000409009167710

Tall?

Please beware
low door lintels
in the Chapel



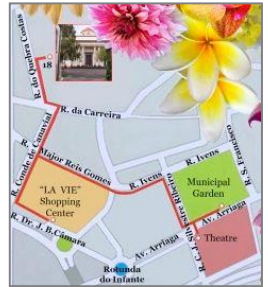
Bible Group

Joint Anglican - Roman

Catholic

Bible Group:

THURSDAYS - 2pm
in the English Church
Library.



Out of consideration, and so as not to disturb people who will be attending the Portuguese Mass (which follows straight after the English service this morning), please avoid talking too loudly in the patio area in front of the Chapel. Instead, please join us in the social room across the garden for a cup of tea or coffee, and a chat... thank you! 😊

This newsletter is brought to you every week by a team of volunteers: Fr. Bernardino (who writes our Weekly Column: *From my Heart to your Heart*); Chris (*Scripture Readings*); Josefina and Larysa (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*stories of interest, layout and printing*). If you would like to receive this newsletter every Sunday, please send an email to penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com and ask to be added to the list.