





Sunday 24th July 2016,

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

 <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

 www.facebook.com/PenhaDeFrancaChapel.Funchal

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ENGLISH SERVICE MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França! Today's Service is a special intention Mass in memory of Maria Isabel Barros. This small Chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, almost 400 years ago! It was built on a "*penha*" or peak, by the sea, originally 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 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 the town of 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. 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 Oakland, California.

Today's Scripture Readings

(Gen 18:20-32 Ps 137:1-8 Col 2:12-14 Lk 11:1-13)

After promising Abraham a son next year, God hesitates before revealing his plans for Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham urges God to be just to the threatened towns, where his nephew Lot lives. Later Lot defends his angelic guests from the depraved demands of the men of Sodom, and escapes before Sodom is destroyed.

Paul urges the Colossians, whom he has never visited, to be confident in their understanding of "God's mystery", Christ. As Gentiles they were outside the Jewish Law, and therefore seen as sinners. But now they are "buried in Christ", the Law is overridden, and they should follow only Christ. For Paul, transgressions are debts owed to God for failing to carry out our duties under our covenant with the creator. The list of our debts, like IOUs, is destroyed by being graphically nailed to the Cross.

Luke's version of the Our Father is shorter and more abrupt than Matthew's. Both versions are looking to the end days, especially "Do not put us to the test" ie the final judgement. "Daily bread" may refer to the Eucharist. Or it may mean "Give us tomorrow's bread" – in the heavenly banquet, like the double portion of manna collected in the desert before the Sabbath. God promises to respond to all our requests, as he did to Abraham.

- **Brought to you:** by Chris Oliver



Psalm Response: On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord

Hymns: Entry: 419 (O Lord, My God!)

Offertory: 159 (Gifts of Bread and Wine)

Final: 175 (Go, the Mass is ended)

Music played by: Anatoli

FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – The Wounded Healer

Brought to you by: Fr. Bernardino Andrade

Irene, an 18-year-old teenager, was in Church attending Mass. Struggling with some personal issues, she was feeling very sad and lonely. All of a sudden, abundant tears started rolling down from her eyes. She was convinced that nobody was noticing it.

Sitting by her side, a mother was holding a baby. When the baby saw Irene's tears he stretched out his tiny hands and started playing with them, gently touching Irene's face. Then he started smiling, and the more tears there were, the more he smiled, until he started laughing. He really had fun. Irene started smiling, and soon her eyes were dried and replaced by a wonderful sense of surrender and a sense of peace.



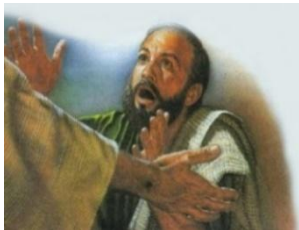
At the end of Mass, the baby's mother made sure to accompany Irene to outside the church. Still holding her baby, she approached Irene, kissed her and holding back her tears said:

- "My name is Ann".

- "My name is Irene" said the teenager. "*Congratulations on your precious and beautiful baby*".

- "Irene", said the mother, "*I want to thank you for what you just did for my son. I can't wait to get home and tell all my family and neighbours what you did for my baby. Thank you Irene. Let me kiss you and hug you. I will always love you and be grateful to you*". Irene was confused. In her understanding she had done nothing for that precious boy. He was the one who had done something for her. Then Ann explained:

"My son was born with a pathological condition that doctors could not understand. He has never been able to smile. He could cry, he could walk, eat and, apparently he was a normal, healthy baby... except that he has never been able to smile. Today, playing with your tears, was the first time in his [and in my] life that he was able to smile. Thank you Irene for sharing your tears with my son. Your suffering, whatever it is, your pain, your tears, healed my baby. Thank you Irene. I wish I could help you as you have helped me. Please count on me. Here is my phone number. Never hesitate to call me day or night. Your tears healed my son. Your tears healed my family. Thank you Irene for your tears".



The Apparition of the Risen Lord to Thomas has always been my favourite Resurrection story.

Thomas was confused. He was disappointed. Maybe he felt bad that Judas had betrayed Jesus but he also was feeling bad that he had been betrayed by Jesus. When his friends told him that they had seen the Lord I imagine Thomas telling them: "*You are a bunch of liars. You are a bunch of jokers and I don't find any fun in your stupid jokes*". But it was true. Jesus was Risen and appeared again when he was present. Thomas was confused until Jesus showed him His wounds. Thomas saw them and touched them. It was the wounds of Jesus that saved Thomas.

I am afraid that Thomas would be contemplating to do what Judas did because I believe that depression is the main cause of suicide. But he found Jesus. He found himself and he

was able to express his discovery and his experience in the words all the Christians of the world know by heart: *MY LORD AND MY GOD* (Jo. 20: 28).

«The Wounded Healer» is the name of a famous book written by Henri Nouwen (a Dutch Catholic priest). There are people in the world who will never be able to find meaning for their lives until we show them our wounds and also until we are open to touch them no matter how putrid they are or how they look. That's why I believe very much in support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, and all the groups that have saved so many lives. There are victims of cancer, diabetes, suiciders, overweight people, homeless, gamblers, cheaters, people in prison and their families and hundreds of wounded people trying to help each other. What they do in their meetings is just showing and touching the wounds of each other. Jesus is risen but His wounds are still available to be seen and touched by those who are hurting and don't find any meaning for their lives.

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

POPE FRANCIS TO VISIT POLAND THIS WEEK – For World Youth Day

Source: www.zenit.org

Pope Francis will be making an apostolic visit to Poland this coming week (from 27-31st July) for the 31st World Youth Day celebrations.



Jasna Góra Monastery

During his trip he will visit the *Convent of the Sisters of the Presentation*; the *Jasna Góra Monastery* (a famous Polish shrine to the Virgin Mary) in the town of Częstochowa where he will pray at the *Chapel of the Black Madonna*; visit the *Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp*, as well as meet with a few survivors of this former death camp that was operated by Nazi Germans in occupied Poland. Other places that Pope

Francis will visit are: *The Shrine of Divine Mercy* in Kraków (the resting place of Saint Faustina Kowalska, canonized on 30th April 2000); and the *Sanctuary of St. John Paul II* (a shrine dedicated to Pope St. John Paul II, which has some relics, the most valuable of them being his blood which was offered by doctors of Gemelli Hospital in Italy).



Pic. 1 – The *Sanctuary of St. John Paul II*. / **Pic. 2** - A simple marble altar containing a phial of Pope St. John Paul II's blood, displayed in a glass case.

Every Saturday at 1:00 PM, a warm meal is provided for a small group of needy people in the Social room of the Chapel of Penha de França. This project is called “The Back Door Ministry”. If you'd like to join Fr. Bernardino, and enjoy a delicious free lunch with the homeless (no strings attached), please give Fr. Bernardino a call during the week (before Fridays) at 916192783.



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, getting their electricity cut off, running out of gas, losing their homes.

We have tried to keep them warm, keep them hopeful, keep them dreaming...



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

Moynihans Irish Bar, located on the corner up the road from the Chapel, accepts any Donations, as well as food, toiletries or clothes for the PHP project.



A big Thank You to the owners, Sinead and Tadhg, and their staff who are always ready to help, and have been a great support to the Chapel. It is very much appreciated!!

PS. The food they serve is great, and staff are very friendly! Definitely worth a visit!

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.

If you would like to make a donation towards PHP, the bank details are below:

Bank: Banco Santander Totta

IBAN: PT50 0038 0000 40900916771 75

BIC (SWIFT): BNFPTPL

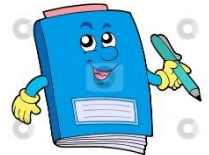
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 000409009167710

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

**Tea and Coffee
After Mass in the
Social room across the
garden - please join us.**



**Please sign our Visitor's
Book in the Social Room
-we'd love to know where
you're from!**



Don't forget to leave your yellow *Hymn Book* and *Order of the Mass* sheets at the Chapel entrance after mass 😊



**Tall?
Please beware low door
lintels in the Chapel**

Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch! This newsletter is brought to you every week by a team of volunteers: Father Bernardino (who writes our Weekly Column: *From my Heart to your Heart*); Chris (*Scripture Readings*); Josefina and Larisa (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*stories of interest, layout and newsletter printing*). To receive our newsletter in your inbox every Sunday, please send an email to penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com and we will add your name to the weekly distribution list.