

Sunday, 14th August 2016, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Year C - 10am Mass - Rua de Penha de França nr.3 - Funchal

<http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

>> THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH SERVICE MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França! The special intention of this Eucharistic Celebration today will be for Alicja, Teresa, Krzysztof, and Anna Kraszewska.

This week our island was ravaged by devastating fires which destroyed a lot of our forest area, and spread to the centre of Funchal as well. Many people lost their homes, and firefighters were left exhausted from combating the raging fires. Please remember them all in your prayers, and also the families of those who lost their lives.

This Chapel (the Chapel of Penha de França) was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622... that's 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.



Today's Scripture Readings

(Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 Ps 39:2-4,18 Heb 12:1-4 Lk 12:49-53)

Writing during the turbulence just before the exile, Jeremiah was caught between the king, Zedekiah, and jealous nobles, who falsely imprisoned him. In 586 BC Judea again revolted against Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Jeremiah told the king he should surrender because Judea would be defeated anyway, as God's punishment for their infidelity, and resistance would lead to Jerusalem's destruction. But the nobles said Jeremiah's advice was undermining morale and threw him into a cistern. Jerusalem did not surrender, and was destroyed, and most survivors were deported to Babylon.

Last week we heard part of the discussion in Hebrews about the meaning of faith, "the conviction of things not seen", giving the example of Abraham. After further examples, Hebrews says yet all these "did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better". With so many witnesses confident of this unknown reward, we must persevere in our faith. We must endure like Jesus, who suffered so much to bring our faith to perfection.

The themes of turbulence and suffering are continued in today's reading from Luke's gospel, which follows the insistence last week that unfaithful servants will be punished. Jesus' message brings division between believers and non-believers, whose evil deeds are thrown into relief by the gospel.

- Brought to you: by *Chris Oliver*

Psalm Response: Lord, come to my aid.

Hymns: Entry: 574 (*This is the Day*)

Offertory: 134 (*Father, I place into your hands*)

Final: 175 (*Go the Mass is ended*)

Music played by: *Larysa Makarova*



FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART:

Tragedies Teach Us How to Live (FIRES IN MADEIRA ISLAND AND PORTUGAL)

Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade

Living in Madeira, and being displaced from my home for two days and one night I went through a unique experience of confusion and fear. But during these days I learned a lot. I could see with my eyes and I could read in the media that life is not just about «me». Life is mainly about people helping people.

I was planning to write something about this theme when this morning I opened one of the local newspapers and found a short article that I decided to translate and share with you:



« Members of the INEM [*that means National Institute of Medical Emergency*] carried on their shoulders a gas cylinder; a woman officer of the Republican National Guard took care of a little lost dog; a Police officer helped people to leave their homes; a young volunteer girl of the Red Cross, at dawn, received a baby for his first observation; Firemen who saved houses that belonged to people they didn't know and at the same time lost the houses of their own relatives; and even a group of anonymous people who showed up and gave whatever they had. Hugs and words of encouragement. Have courage... they told each other.

This is how these days of hell in Funchal have been. The spirit of helping each other has arrived everywhere. Even the prison guards and the forest guards. Even the newsmen and newswomen. When facing the fire, everyone helped each other. We don't know their names, we don't know who they are, but we know that they are in danger. And that is all that is needed to offer help.



Even knowing that not everybody has technical skills and that many took serious risks facing the danger... Even some situations of intolerance and nervous irritability... ended in sincere apologies. Solidarity still exists. And it is alive. » -

From the article that appeared in Diário de Notícias, Funchal, 11th August 2016.

Life is about People Helping People. Tragedies teach us how to live!

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

DONATIONS & THANK YOU !



A huge thank you **to all who have so generously made a donation towards helping** those who have been affected by the devastating fires this week in Madeira, **and also for the anonymous donations received recently towards the "People Helping People Project"** started by this Chapel to help those in need.
May God bless you all.

ST. FLORIAN - Patron Saint Of Firefighters

Source: www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=149



Saint Florian is venerated in the Roman Catholic Church and in the Eastern Orthodox Church as the patron saint of firefighters. He was born about 250 AD in the ancient Roman city of *Aelium Cetium* (present-day *Sankt Pölten*, Austria). He joined the Roman army and advanced in the ranks, rising to Commander of the imperial army. **In addition to his military duties, he was responsible for organizing firefighting brigades and trained an elite**

group of soldiers whose sole duty was to fight fires. He suffered death for his Faith in the days of the Emperor Diocletian, when he confessed to his Christianity in anti-Christian times. There is a popular devotion to St. Florian in many parts of central Europe. The Austrian town of *Sankt Florian* is named after him.

Many miracles of healing are attributed to his intercession and he is invoked as a powerful protector in danger from fire or water. His feast day is May 4th.



MASS 10am: MONDAY (15th August) - Assumption of Mary to Heaven

Source: www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story.php?id=70367



Tomorrow morning at 10am there will be an English Service Mass held here at the Chapel of Penha de Franca to celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Mary. It is a **Holy Day of obligation** which celebrates **the reception of the Virgin Mary's body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.**

In some countries this day is celebrated on Sunday, August 14th, but not in Portugal. Here, the Assumption of Mary is celebrated a day later, on the Monday. **It is also a public holiday.**

Pope Francis' letter to Olympic Team Refugee Athletes

Source: www.zenit.org/articles/pope-to-refugee-athletes-may-your-courage-express-a-cry-for-peace/

At the Olympic Games being held in Brazil from 5 - 21st August there is a team of 10 refugee athletes. Pope Francis wrote them a letter: *«May your courage express a cry for peace. May humanity, through you, come to understand that peace is possible, that everything is won with peace and that everything is lost with war»* he wrote.

«These refugees have no home, no team, no flag, no national anthem,» International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach said when he announced the selected athletes last month. *«They will show the world that despite the unimaginable tragedies that they have faced, anyone can contribute to society through their talent, skills and strength of the human spirit.»* **One of the athletes is a 14-year-old swimmer, Yusra Mardini. Her swimming skills saved lives.** When she was escaping Syria in route to the Greek island of Lesbos, the boat she was on, carrying some 20 refugees began to sink. She and her sister and two other people who were able to swim got into the water and pushed the boat for over 3 hours until it reached Lesbos.



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 supermarket chains and restaurants, 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, and keep them dreaming...



Do to others as you would have them do to you.



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): BNIPTPL
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 000409009167710
Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

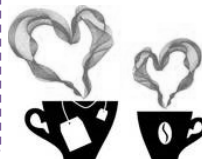
Tall?

Please beware low door lintels in the Chapel



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!

PLEASE REMEMBER

to leave your yellow Hymn Book and Order of the Mass sheets at the Chapel entrance after mass. This will help us to keep the Chapel neat... thank you ☺



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 Larysa (*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.