

## 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 – 10h00 Sunday Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year A

Rua da Penha de França nr.3 – Funchal, Madeira.

<http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

[www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)



### THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH SERVICE MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França, which was founded in 1622 (that's almost 400 years ago!) by a man named Antonio Dantas. 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 is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, which is also known as *Gaudete Sunday*. Today we light the pink candle on the advent wreath. Our priest for the English Service Mass on Sunday mornings is Father Bernardino Andrade, who was born here in Madeira, but spent many years as a priest in California, USA.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 145; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*

To encourage and console all whose confidence in God falters, **Isaiah** continues his triumphal vision of the peace that will come from God, when those ransomed by the Lord will go to Zion, singing God's praises. It was written in Babylon shortly after 540 BC, when the Persian king Cyrus had unexpectedly authorised Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem. Isaiah's portrayal of the people's expectant joy was later seen by Christians as describing their expectation of the peace Jesus Christ will bring to all people. The letter attributed to **James**, probably the brother of the Lord, the leader of the Jerusalem Church, was written late in the first century. It is full of pastoral advice and warnings against riches and presumption. Religion is not a private matter – the Christian community is in a covenant relationship with God, and our faith in God must be visible in love of our neighbour. So we must persevere patiently in practising our faith, not swearing but letting our "yes" mean "yes", leaving justice to God. In **Matthew's Gospel** Jesus fulfills Isaiah's vision – he is already enabling the blind to see, the lame to walk – his kingdom is already coming into being. But this deputation from John the Baptist in prison introduces two chapters describing growing opposition to Jesus by the Jewish leaders.

– *Brought to you by:* Chris Oliver

### PSALM RESPONSE: Come, Lord, and save us.



**Voice** - Professor  
Helena Paula Marques

**Organ / Voice** – Professor  
Fátima Cátia Marques

### HYMN NUMBERS:

- [1] **Entry: Advent Hymn:**  
*Come, Lord Jesus, Come* - No. 104
- [2] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy* - No. 659
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Celtic Aleluia* - No. 679
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** *Take our bread* – No. 528
- [5] **Sanctus:** *Holy* - No. 704
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** *Lamb of God* - No. 737
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** *Portuguese Hymn*
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** *Instrumental*
- [9] **Final Hymn: Advent Hymn:**  
*Christmas is coming* - No. 90

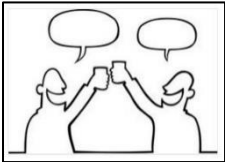
## FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – Two Drunkards Teaching About Love

- *Brought to you by* Fr. Bernardino Andrade

A Jewish Rabi has shared that he learned what real love is from two drunkards talking in one of his friend's bar. One day the Rabi entered the bar to visit his friend. While waiting, he overheard a conversation between two men who were drinking whisky at the next table.

- «Joel, we are really good friends and I am proud of that».

After saying this, the man took the glass to his lips and half of the whisky was gone.



- «You are right David. We have been friends all our lives and we will be forever! ». And he did the same: Joel lifted the glass to his lips and half of the whisky was gone. Then there were a few moments of silence. Joel sat staring at the liquid inside the glass. And then he took one more drink.

- «I really love you» he said to his friend.

- «I love you too. Never doubt of my love for you. We have been friends since our childhood and we will always be».

The whisky kept being poured into the glasses and kept disappearing. Then they put their arms around each other's shoulders, kept drinking and declaring their love for each other, even though the words were becoming more and more difficult to pronounce, and more and more difficult to be understood. It was obvious that the whisky was goooood.



All of a sudden, Joel took his arm from David's shoulders and asked him:

- «David. Tell me one thing. What is my biggest source of suffering?»

- «What a stupid question. Of course I don't know! How can I know your biggest source of suffering?»

- And Joel's reaction was: «How can you say that you love me if you don't know my biggest source of suffering? How can you say that you love me if you don't know my biggest pain? »

The level of a society, a church, a group, a spouse, a neighbor, a friend and so on, must be evaluated by how much we know of, and act towards the suffering of any human being. It doesn't matter the cause of the suffering. It doesn't matter if it is, or was, his/her fault.

Suffering is suffering, and one of my most important jobs is to alleviate the suffering of the world. «If you knew the pain of your worst enemy, you would become his best friend».

Christmas is God touching and healing the wounds of every human being. It was for that purpose that God created me.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



## THE ADVENT WREATH – What exactly is it?



**The advent wreath is a popular symbol of the Advent season.** It is usually made up of evergreen branches or boughs placed in a circle, and topped with four candles.

We use the Advent wreath as a way to prayerfully reflect the passage of the Advent season. On the first Sunday of Advent, the wreath is blessed and one candle is lit (usually a purple candle). Every Sunday, for the next 3 weeks, another candle is lit until all four candles are burning brightly.

Traditionally, the candles are purple and pink to match the colours of the liturgical vestments worn by the priest or bishop at Mass. However, in some countries, red, purple or white candles are used. In Catholic churches in Madeira, and here in our Chapel, for the past two Sundays, a purple candle has been lit at the beginning of Mass, and priests have worn purple vestments. Today it is a bit different, with priests wearing rose-coloured (pink) vestments, and instead of a purple candle, a pink candle will be lit.

## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER – On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

**Source:** [www.aleteia.org/2016/12/08/watch-pope-francis-pays-homage-to-our-lady/](http://www.aleteia.org/2016/12/08/watch-pope-francis-pays-homage-to-our-lady/)



On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (this past Thursday, December 8th), Pope Francis made a papal pilgrimage to venerate Our Lady at the *Piazza di Spagna* square in Rome.

Laying a wreath of flowers before the statue of Our Lady which overlooks the famous square, the pope, accompanied by several Vatican officials and Rome's newly elected mayor, 38-year-old Virginia Raggio, entrusted the City of Rome and

the world to the protection of Mary Immaculate.

Here are the words that Pope Francis prayed:

*« I bring you, Mother, the children, especially those who are alone and abandoned, and who, because of this, are deceived and exploited. I bring you, Mother, the families who keep life and society going through their daily and hidden commitment; especially families who struggle with so many problems from within and without. I bring you, Mother, all workers, and I entrust to you especially those who, out of necessity, force themselves to carry out undignified work, and those who have lost their job or cannot find one. Grant that we may not give in to discouragement, but, trusting in your constant help, may we strive to renew ourselves, this City and the entire world.*

*Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God! »*



*Statue of Our Lady in Piazza di Spagna*

# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

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...**

A sincere thank you to the owners and staff of **Moynihans Irish Bar** (located on the corner up the road from the Chapel), who have always been a great support towards the *People Helping People Project*, and who willingly accept any clothes, or toiletries, or tinned food that you may wish to donate towards PHP.

### PHP bank info:

If you wish to make a deposit or bank transfer, please make a note of the bank details:

**BANK: Banco Santander Totta**

**NIB:** 0018 0008 01301547020 17

**IBAN:**

PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:**

0008 0130 1547020

**Bank Address:**

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

### >> 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.

Tel. 1-925-813-2888

Email: larryjanc@aol.com



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



### >> Bible Group:

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic  
Bible Group:

**THURSDAYS** | 2:00 – 3:30pm  
in the English Church Library.  
Rua do Quebra Costas nr.18,  
Funchal.

**29th Dec. - no Bible Group**  
Looking at *Jeremiah*.

For more info:

chris@chris-oliver.net

Directions to English Church  
(for Bible Group) ➔



**Tea and Coffee  
After Mass**  
Please join us in  
the  
Social Hall across  
the garden

**Please sign our Visitor's  
book** in the Social Hall...  
leave us your comments, or  
suggestions, and let us  
know where you're from!

**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*); Prof. Cátia and Prof. Helena (Hymns); Tracy and Jennifer (*stories of interest, newsletter layout*). If you would like to receive a copy of our newsletter by email every Sunday, ask to be added to the weekly distribution list by sending an email to: [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) The newsletter can also be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)