


## 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 – 10h00 Sunday Mass 4<sup>TH</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**, founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. The Chapel 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. In 1721 the chapel was restored and enlarged.

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.

In 2015 the Franciscans 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

*Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24*

First Isaiah was prophesying before 700 BC, when Judah was under attack. Isaiah promises that a time of peace will come when Israel returns to living simply, with no riches to make others envious. But only if they keep their faith in God. Without being asked, God gives King Ahaz a sign of his support: a young woman will bear a son, to be named Immanuel, "God with us". Israel will still suffer. But a remnant of David's house will survive, like the stump of a fallen tree.

Paul begins his letter to the Jewish Christian community in Rome very carefully. They did not know him, so he assures them that he shares their beliefs, especially that Jesus, a descendant of David, is the Christ, proclaimed Son of God through his resurrection. That God raised up a man hung on a tree, and so "condemned by the Law", implies that the Jewish Torah is not enough to enable humanity to become right with God.

Before Matthew describes Jesus' birth, he lists 42 ancestors linking Jesus firmly with Abraham, David and Israel's kings. The list includes four women, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah. Through their unconventional behaviour, a remnant of David's line survived, reminding us of the important roles women have always played in God's plan.

– *Brought to you by:* Chris Oliver

### PSALM RESPONSE: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.



Today, we welcome the choir **ALEGRACAMPO** made up by members of the same family who are going to lead the English Mass with Portuguese traditional hymns.



1

**One Hasidic story tells of a pious Jew** who asked his rabbi: "For about forty years I have opened the door for Elijah every Seder night, waiting for him to come, but he never does. What is the reason?"

- The rabbi answered: "In your neighbourhood there lives a very poor family with many children. Call on the man and propose to him that you and your family celebrate the next Passover at his house, and for this purpose provide him and his whole family with everything necessary for the eight days of Passover. Then on the Seder night Elijah will certainly come." The man did as the rabbi told him, but after Passover he came back and claimed that again he had waited in vain to see Elijah. The rabbi answered, - "I know very well that Elijah came on the Seder night to the house of your poor neighbour. But of course you could not see him." And the rabbi held a mirror before the face of the man and said, -"Look, this was Elijah's face that night."

2

**After I returned from California, ten years ago**, there is no doubt that the best programs I have been involved with, are programs connected with my ministry at the Chapel Penha de França in Funchal. We started *People Helping People* Association, *Bread with my Brother* program and at this Christmas Season I would like to propose another one. It would be called «*Adopt a Family For Christmas*»

**MY FIRST ALTERNATIVE:** Since the Catholic Church is about relationships, my first alternative would be that one family or a group of two or more families or individuals, attending our English Mass would contact the «*People Helping People*» Association and would offer to donate to a poor family a Christmas Hamper. And, of course, the ideal would be to meet that family in person and find out about their main needs, from food to toys. Hopefully the needy family would make the Agenda.

**MY SECOND ALTERNATIVE:** The same people would go to the supermarket and buy food to donate to a needy family. This would be their Christmas Hamper.

**MY THIRD ALTERNATIVE:** The same one or two or three people would donate a money gift. With that money, *People Helping People* would acquire vouchers from a supermarket. We would put those vouchers inside a neat envelope, wrapped in a gift paper with a loving Christmas card inside of it. Since we are already a little late for the ideal I believe that the third option would be the easiest one for now. If you want to be part of this program, there is a coordinating team at our Sunday worship that will be happy to assist you. They are: *Alan O'Brien* 96-91-43-732, [anniegob@yahoo.ie](mailto:anniegob@yahoo.ie); *Manny de Ponte*, 96-91-33-074, [tracyp1973@gmail.com](mailto:tracyp1973@gmail.com); and *Carmina da Mata* 96-36-61-835, [carminadamata@hotmail.com](mailto:carminadamata@hotmail.com).

Please get in touch with them and «*Adopt a Family for Christmas*».

For sure you will look into a mirror and see the Elijah's face who entered a house of Jesus disguised in a needy family.

**Merry Christmas!** Fr. Bernardino Andrade



The man in this picture is homeless. His name is Brian and he is a homeless man living in Funchal. This picture was taken on a cold night recently, when members of the *People Helping People* association were leaving a building where they were having a meeting. Because it was the last meeting before Christmas, they had a cake and some juice, and were bringing the leftovers home with them. When they gave Brian what they had left over, he was so grateful. He is very kind and he didn't choose that life. Fortunately, one of the members of *People Helping People* had a duvet (quilt) in her car. He felt in heaven. A few moments later they heard that he had been robbed, but don't know the details of what happened. The night was so cold.

## BOAS FESTAS

Digam ao mundo que Eu nasci e que Sou Boa Nova para os Pobres.

(L.C.4)



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Tell the world that I was born and that I am Good News to the Poor.

(L.C.4)

## DIA MUNDIAL DOS POBRES

Ao encerrar o Ano Jubilar da Misericórdia, o Papa Francisco, que continua a emocionar o Mundo, estabeleceu o "Dia Mundial dos Pobres", a ter lugar no Domingo anterior à Festa de Cristo Rei.



## WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

Closing the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Pope Francis, who keeps touching the hearts of all people, established the "World Day of the Poor" to take place on the Sunday before The Feast of Christ The King.

## “MISSA DO PARTO” (CHILD BIRTH MASS) – A Madeiran Christmas tradition



In Madeira Island, the «*Missas do Parto*» (Child Birth Masses), are one of the most popular and old traditions that mobilize the entire population on their journey of preparation for Christmas. Nine days before Christmas (Dec. 16), «Child Birth Masses» are celebrated in every Parish around the Island, very early in the morning during nine days. Usually between 5:00 and 6:00 AM. The hymns are traditional and after Mass there is a social outside the church with different goodies to share, different musical instruments playing and people singing and socializing. **Today, we welcome the choir ALEGRACAMPO made up by members of the same family who are going to lead the English Mass with Portuguese traditional hymns.** Our gratitude to the «Alegrecampo» choir and especially to Dr. Tarcisio Moreira who organized this traditional and popular event.

## 60 YEARS MARRIED – A diamond wedding anniversary

Usually near the end of Mass on Sundays, Fr. Bernardino likes to invite anyone who is celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary, or any other special event during the month to come up for a special blessing. Last Sunday, a special couple, **Edward and Maureen Watt**, were present at Mass. They were married on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1956, and this year they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary - **60 years of marriage!!** As Fr. Bernardino likes to say when he does his special blessings: *“May God bless them with many more years of health, happiness, love and... ROMANCE!”*



Maureen and Edward Watt with Fr. Bernardino last Sunday

## LARYSA’S BABIES – A blessing for Christmas



6 Nov. 2016 - Larysa's last Sunday at the Chapel before the birth of her babies.

Those who have attended Mass at our Chapel before, will know Larysa, who has for many years played the hymns so wonderfully every Sunday morning at our English Mass. Early in November, we wished Larysa well when she had to stop playing so that she could prepare for the birth of her twin babies. And they arrived just in time for Christmas! Three weeks ago her beautiful babies were born, a boy (*Daniel*) and a girl (*Natália*). Our warmest congratulations to *Larysa*, her husband *Orlando*, and family.



The twins: Daniel and Natália



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



## Founding Members of the "People Helping People" November 11, 2016

(Mobilising many People to help many People)



**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!



### » 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.

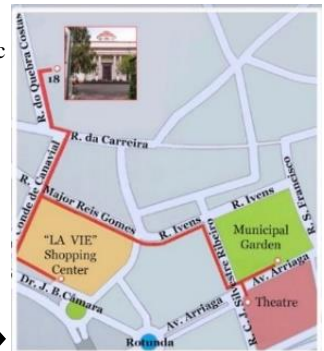
**29th Dec. - no Bible Group**

Looking at *Jeremiah*.

For more info:

[chris@chris-oliver.net](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)

Directions to English Church  
(for Bible Group) →



**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)