




25<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

**Christmas Day, Year A**

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

 Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

 Facebook: [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.

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 52:7-10; Psalm 97; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.*

Around 720 BC Judah was threatened by many enemies. **Isaiah** advised the kings to stand firm, because the Lord would give a sign: "the maiden shall be with child". The birth of a helpless baby gives hope for the future. But this future must be founded on justice and integrity. Early Christians adopted these words as a marvellous way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Written over 60 years after Jesus' birth, Paul summarises the gospel to Titus: a compassionate God chose to offer us the free gift of being "at one" with him. But God's revelation of salvation in Christ demands we transform our lives and "give up everything that does not lead to God". The reading from **Hebrews** tells us that God has spoken to us through his son, who is "the perfect copy of his nature". Luke places the birth of the Christ firmly in time and space. Jesus was a man born miraculously to a virgin in Bethlehem in Judea. The peace and quiet of the undercroft, where animals gave warmth, must have been a welcome relief for Mary, after the noise and bustle of the inn. The simplicity of Jesus' birth is important: God comes as a vulnerable baby to draw us into a relationship with him. The royal birth announcement was sent not to royalty, but to poor shepherds, outcasts excluded from Temple worship by their occupation. Joseph, of the house of David, named Jesus as his son. Jesus lived in history, growing up in Nazareth in Galilee. By the time **John's gospel** was written, Christians had come to realise that Jesus had existed as the Word of God before time began. So John's prologue seeks to describe the complexity of the creator becoming part of his own creation.

– *Brought to you by:* Chris Oliver

**PSALM RESPONSE:** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

## TODAY'S HYMNS: Brought to you by Professors Cátia Marques & Helena Marques

The hymns today will be sung in English, Portuguese, Latin, French, Spanish and German!

[1] **Entry Hymn:** *Joy to the World*

[2] **Gloria:** *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

[3] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy*

[4] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Aleluia*

[5] **Offertory Hymn:** *Adeste Fideles*

[6] **Sanctus:** *Holy*

[7] **Agnus Dei:** *Lamb of God*

[8] **Communion Hymn:** *Silent Night*

[9] **Thanksgiving:** *Il est né, le Divin Enfant*

[10] **Final Hymn:** *Feliz Natal*



# FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – A «Ruined» Christmas Sermon

- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade

The Pastor of a Church in New York, conscious of his responsibility as a presider of a good Liturgy, spent hours preparing what he considered should be a good sermon for the Midnight Christmas Mass. He read about the birth of Jesus, he took notes and rehearsed the sermon he was supposed to deliver.

A Christmas play, mobilizing a group of children and young people, was very well prepared to act after the reading of the Gospel, right before the sermon. It was a very inclusive church where everyone would have a chance to participate.

To emphasize inclusion, they decided to invite Tom to act as a shepherd. Tom was a very special 17-year-old boy with learning difficulties because of his down syndrome condition. After trying a few rehearsals, there was a little frustration due the difficulty Tom had to learn a very simple role as a shepherd. Then they decided to change roles. Maybe Tom would be a good innkeeper. Tom was open to anything as long as he could be part of the play.

Great. After the first try, it was easy to decide that Tom would be the perfect «actor» to act as an innkeeper. The only thing he had to do was to wait in front of the altar, put his hands on his hips, look tough, and when Joseph and Mary came asking for shelter he would say: «No room for you at the Inn».

It took some time and lots of work but there was no doubt that Tom was ready. Even at the last minute they were whispering: «Don't forget Tom... put your hands over your hips, look tough and say: - there is no room for you at the Inn. Are you ready?

- Yyyyes. I am... am ready».

The moment came. Joseph and Mary walked slowly towards the altar. Tom was standing there. They approached Tom and asked for a place to spend the night. Besides, Mary was ready to give birth to her baby. Both looked very tired. But Tom did as he had been trained to do: He put his hands over his hips, looked tough and yelled in a loud voice:

«There is no room for you at the Inn! ».

Joseph and Mary did as they have been trained to do too. They looked very sad, turned around and started walking towards the front door. Just a few seconds after they left, Tom started crying, with tears rolling down his face, and ran after them and repeated a few times: «Wait... wait... you can stay at my house... You can stay at my house. Please, don't go!»

At that moment, the pastor approached the microphone and with tears in his eyes, said:

«I couldn't make a better sermon than the one that was just done by Tom. «Please Jesus stay at my house». Merry Christmas».

The Priest then went to his chair and spent a few moments in silent meditation, which inspired all the congregation to do the same.

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Dec. 25-2016



**BOAS FESTAS**  
 Digam ao mundo que Eu nasci e que Sou Boa Nova para os Pobres. (Lc. 9)



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
 Tell the world that I was born and that I am Good News to the Poor. (Lc. 9)



## 1. THIS IS BRIAN



He is homeless. We met him recently on one of those cold nights, in a cold street of Funchal. He was carrying big pieces of cardboard. We suspected that under his arms he was carrying, what we thought, would be his "house" for that cold night. We followed him just to be sure. We were right. That cardboard was his house, his bed and his "blankets" for the night. Adding the fact that he was wearing shorts, in that cold night, we felt that it would be like a suicide. We shared with him some juice, some food, and a little money, which he appreciated immensely. Brian is English; he's from Oxford and does not speak

Portuguese. Brian is one more of those human tragedies wandering in the streets of Funchal and in the world.

## 2. LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



We are looking for a volunteer or a family or a little group of English-speaking people attending the English Mass who would volunteer to be the connection between *People Helping People* and Brian (*People Helping People* is an association which you can read more about on the last page of this newsletter). If there is anybody who would like to get involved, please contact Carmina da Mata who is part of our leadership team ([carminadamata@hotmail.com](mailto:carminadamata@hotmail.com)).

Merry Christmas for all of you, and for all the Brians of the world.

*Fr. Bernardino Andrade*

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## POPE FRANCIS ON HIS BIRTHDAY – Breakfast with the homeless

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*Source:* [www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/12/17/pope-celebrates-his-birthday-homeless/95557602/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/12/17/pope-celebrates-his-birthday-homeless/95557602/)



Last Saturday, December 17th, Pope Francis celebrated his 80th birthday. He shared his breakfast with eight homeless people, before celebrating Mass with cardinals as birthday greetings flowed in from around the world. The pope chatted individually with each of the homeless guests – four Italians, two Romanians, a Moldovan and a Peruvian – at the Vatican hotel where he resides, and shared Argentinian cakes with them before heading to Mass. The guests offered the pope a bouquet

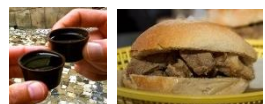
of sunflowers. They were invited from among those staying around St. Peter's Square and at nearby showers for the homeless established by the pope's almsgiver.

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## CHRISTMAS IN FUNCHAL

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In Funchal, the Christmas atmosphere has been in full force since December 8<sup>th</sup>, and every year is an amazing experience both for locals and visitors to Madeira island. *Avenida Arriaga* (in the city centre) has been the main setting for Folklore groups, Youth Choirs, and Orchestras to perform every day. Nearer to the Cathedral there is a life-size Christmas nativity scene, with mannequins of animals, the 3 wise men bearing gifts, Angels, and Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. There are also little "huts" selling local traditional products (liqueurs of aniseed, cherry etc.), the famous *poncha* drink, *ginjinha* (liqueur made by infusing ginja berries (sour berries) in *aguardente* [firewater] and served in a chocolate cup), sandwiches with pork meat marinated in wine and garlic (*sandes de carne vinho e alho*) and much more! Funchal is well worth visiting this time of year!!





# 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 **DONATE**, please find below the details for PHP bank account:

**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).

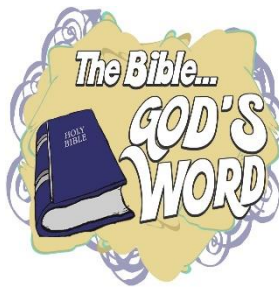


### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Please join us for some tea/coffee and cake in the Social Hall across the garden – after Mass

### 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:**  
**THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
2:00 – 3:30pm  
in the English Church Library,  
Rua do Quebra Costas nr.18,  
Funchal.

Looking at *Jeremiah*.  
For more info:  
chris@chris-oliver.net

**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 and blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**