



1st of January 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

Mary Mother of God, Year A

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

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França, founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. The Chapel was originally built 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 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

Numbers 6:22-26; Psalm 66; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

The Book of Numbers continues the story of the Israelites during their exodus journey from Mount Sinai until they arrive outside the Promised Land before 1200 BC. Among the many laws for behaviour and ritual practices is this beautiful form of blessing given to Moses by the Lord. It is one of the oldest and finest pieces of ancient poetry. To “bless” means to pour out the power of life that produces growth, success, fertility and prosperity. Paul wrote his **letter to the Galatians** as an angry and anguished appeal to them not to forsake the gospel he had taught them. Other preachers were trying to persuade them that, to be fully Christian, Gentiles had to become Jews and conform to the Jewish Law. No, says Paul. The Law was a temporary disciplinarian needed until humanity was mature enough to join God's family. This is now possible through the faith of, and our faith in, God's Son, who was born of a woman and so fully human. **In Luke's Gospel** the coming birth of Jesus was announced to Mary by the Angel Gabriel. Accepting what God wanted of her, and still a virgin when Jesus was born, she may still have been puzzling over this strange event. So she must have been much helped by the coming of these shepherds, who confirmed that her son was “Messiah and Lord”.

– *Brought to you by:* Chris Oliver

PSALM RESPONSE: O God, be gracious and bless us.

TODAY'S HYMNS: Voice & Keyboard: Prof. Cátia Marques

Cello: Prof. Helena Marques

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** *Hark, the herald-angels sing* - No. 212
- [2] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy* - No. 663
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Celtic Aleluia* - No. 679
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** *Take our bread* - No. 528
- [5] **Sanctus:** *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord* - No. 704
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** *Dona nobis pacem* - No. 126
- [8] **Communion Hymn:** *Our God loves us* - No. 454
- [9] **Thanksgiving:** *As I kneel before you – Ave Maria gratia plena* - No. 39
- [10] **Final Hymn:** *O little town of Bethlehem* - No. 414



1.

October 15, 1950. It was the day I entered the Seminary in order to become a priest. I was 12 years old. I came from the country side, one day before, and stayed in Funchal in a friend's house along with my mother. The following day, carrying, on my shoulders, my suitcase, too heavy for a child, I walked in the direction of the seminary's building. My mother walked with me. Her presence was such a support for a fragile child who, for the first time, was leaving his family of 13 members.

Before the moment came to say good-bye she glued a simple image of Mary the Mother of God on the inner part of the suitcase cover. It was a simple image she clipped from a newspaper. It was a very simple and inexpensive gift but her words were powerful: «My son, this is a reminder of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and your mother. I am saying goodbye to you but every time you open the suitcase remember that She is here to protect you. Goodbye, my son».



This happened 66 years ago and since then I have always felt their presence. They have been the two women who have loved me the most and they have been the two women I have loved the most.

Today, January first, the Catholic Church celebrates the SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD who has been and will always be present in my life.

2.

THE 50th WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2017 NONVIOLENCE: A STYLE OF POLITICS FOR PEACE

For 50 years, January 1st is dedicated to the World Day of Peace. Each year there is a different theme. «Nonviolence: a style of Politics for Peace» is the theme for 2017 chosen by Pope Francis.

3.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Many many people use the 1st day of the year to make their so called «New Year's Resolution». Even if we are doomed to fail I would really recommend that everyone would write down one, or two or many resolutions for the year of 2017. Just check and write down all the areas of your life that need special attention... that need some change. But for a better guarantee of success try to build a support group that, with non-judgmental love, would help you to be faithful to your resolution or your new plan. «Alcoholics Anonymous» is the best model of a support group. I just learned something that supports this idea, that is: «If you want to be healed look for a person with scars».

Fr. Bernardino Andrade, 1-1-2017

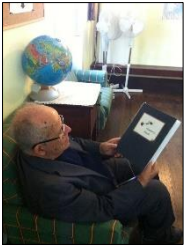
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2017 – Pope Francis' message to the world

Today, besides being the **Festivity of Mary Mother of God** it is also the **50th World Day of Peace**. The theme is "*Non Violence: A Style of Politics for Peace.*" Pope Francis' message for this day is: « *At the beginning of this New Year, I offer heartfelt wishes of peace to the world's peoples and nations, to heads of state and government, and to religious, civic and community leaders. I wish peace to every man, woman and child, and I pray that the image and likeness of God in each person will enable us to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity. Especially in situations of conflict, let us respect this, our "deepest dignity", and make active nonviolence our way of life.* » [...] « *All of us want peace. Many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts; many of them are suffering, yet patiently persevere in their efforts to be peacemakers* ». In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home. "Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. **Everyone can be an artisan of peace** ».

Read the full address on the Vatican's website: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

PLEASE JOIN US AFTER MASS – The Chapel's Social hall



Please join us after Mass in the social hall of the Chapel (just across the garden) for a cup of coffee and tea and a chat! We also have a **visitor's book** in the social hall, where you can leave a message, and tell us where you are from!

There are also some goodies for sale, made by Vanessa, a lady that is helped by the PHP association (read more about PHP on the next page of this newsletter). Vanessa is very talented and makes lovely earrings,

bracelets and necklaces by hand which she sells to support herself. You're welcome to take a look at her collection!



A BIT OF HUMOUR FOR NEW YEARS DAY – Getting a Divorce

An elderly man in Oklahoma called his son in New York and said:
« *I hate to ruin your day son, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are getting a divorce; 45 years of marriage... and that much misery is enough!* »

« *Dad, what are you talking about?* » - the son yelled down the phone.

« *We can't stand the sight of each other any longer,*» - the old dad explained. - « *We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Hong Kong and tell her!* »

Frantic, the son called his sister, who exploded on the phone: « *Like heck they're getting divorced!*» she shouted, « *I'll take care of this.*» She called her elderly father immediately, and screamed at him: « *You are not getting divorced! Don't do a single thing until I get there! I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, you hear me?* » she yelled as she hung up the phone.

The old man hung up his phone and turned to his wife who was sitting next to him on the couch. - « *Okay* », he said with a smile, « *it's all set. They're both coming for New Years, and paying their own air-fare!* »



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

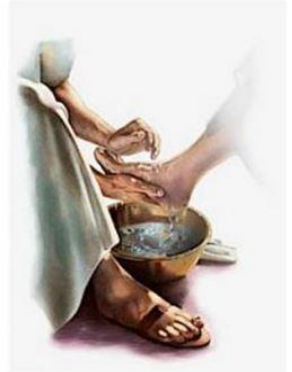
Bank Address:

Caminho de Santa Quitéria 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).



Announcements

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:

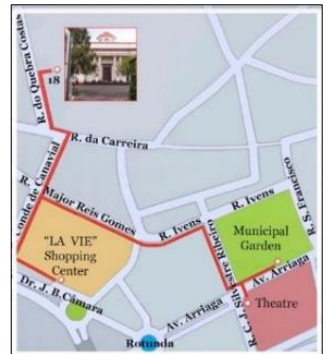
Introducing the Old Testament.

THURSDAYS | 2:00 – 3:30pm
in the English Church Library.

Rua do Quebra Costas nr.18,
Funchal.

For more info:
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 The newsletter can also be downloaded from the Chapel's website and blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org