




8th of January 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

Epiphany, 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

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Third Isaiah was writing just after the Israelites had returned from exile in Babylon. Participation in the future messianic salvation is offered to all who believe in the Lord and keep his commandments. Isaiah visualises the new Jerusalem, illuminated by God, to which all peoples will stream and a time when their offerings will be acceptable. The church's task is to bring the good news to the whole world.

The vision of the universal Church which Paul describes in **Ephesians** matches Isaiah's image of the new Jerusalem. Paul sees the Church, led by the Spirit, as Christ's body, part of God's plan for the whole of creation. And Paul joyfully realises that it was always part of God's plan that the gospel message is to be taken to all: Gentiles as well as Jews are to share in the inheritance promised by God.

In Luke's Gospel an angel announced Jesus' birth to poor Jewish shepherds, excluded by their occupation from Temple worship. Today we hear **Matthew's** description of Gentile scholars travelling from afar to bring kingly offerings to the new-born child. But they needed the Jewish scriptures to help find him. We too need the Old Testament to help us understand God's plan and what he has done in Jesus for our salvation.

– *Brought to you by:* Chris Oliver

PSALM RESPONSE: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

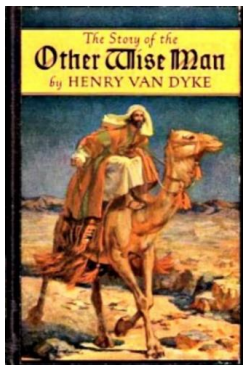
TODAY'S HYMNS:



Prof. Cátia Marques & Prof. Helena Marques

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** *Bind us together* – No. 65
- [2] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy* – No. 659
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Aleluia* – No. 679
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** *O Lord my God-How great thou art* – No. 419
- [5] **Sanctus:** *Holy* – No. 704
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** *Lamb of God* – No. 737
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** *Amazing grace* – No. 32
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** *Instrumental*
- [9] **Final Hymn:** *Go, the Mass is ended* – No. 175

- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade



There's a story called "The Other Wise Man" by Henry van Dyke. It's about a fourth person who is supposed to accompany the other three wise men on their journey to search for the newborn King. The name of the person is *Artaban*.

As *Artaban* prepares for the journey, he takes with him a bag of precious stones to give to the baby King. On his way to join the other three wise men, *Artaban* stops to help a poor person. The delay is just enough to make him miss his rendezvous with the others. *Artaban* never does catch up with them. He constantly runs into people who need help. And he always stops to help them. Eventually, *Artaban* gives away all his precious stones.

As the story ends, *Artaban* is old and poor. He has never realized his dream to meet the King of Kings. But the story doesn't end here. One day *Artaban* is in Jerusalem. Authorities are about to execute a criminal. When *Artaban* sees the criminal, his heart skips a beat. Something tells him that this is the King of Kings for whom he has been searching all his life. *Artaban* is heartbroken when he sees he can do nothing to help the King.

Then something remarkable happens. *Artaban* hears the King's voice say to him: "*Don't be broken-hearted, Artaban. You've been helping me all your life. When I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was thirsty, you gave me drink. When I was naked, you clothed me. When I was a stranger, you took me in.*" (Mark Link in *Sunday Homilies*).

Sunday Mass is not a religious entertainment. Sunday Mass is a «power house» where Jesus inspires us, directs us and strengthens us to go to the world and transform it into one family, where all the people help all the people. This is the Kingdom of God which is the primary goal of Jesus coming on Christmas Day.

God loves you and so do I.

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

“DIA DE REIS” (King’s Day) – A tradition in Madeira

Every year on January 6th in Madeira, we celebrate “*Dia de Reis*” (English: “*King’s Day*”). According to tradition, it's to celebrate the day when the newborn baby Jesus, the Saviour, the Messiah, receives the visit of the 3 Wise Men from the East. The night before, Madeiran families usually gather together with friends and neighbours, who go out and sing traditional songs door to door. “*Bolo Rei*” (English: “*King Cake*”) is a traditional Portuguese cake that is usually eaten around Christmas, from December 25th until Epiphany, on the 6th January. The cake itself is round with a large hole in the centre, resembling a crown covered with crystallized and dried fruit. It is baked from a soft, white dough, and in some of these cakes there is the characteristic dried “*fava*” (broad) bean or small Wise Man figurine. Tradition dictates that whoever finds the *fava* bean or the Wise Man figurine, must pay for next year's cake!



A BLESSING FOR 2017

The first day of the year at the English Mass, in the Chapel Penha de França, was inaugurated with two different, but similar, blessings. A Blessing from the Bible and a Blessing from an old Irish tradition.

The Bible's Blessing was proclaimed as the first reading of the Mass. The Old Irish Blessing was used as the final blessing at the same Mass.



The Bible Blessing:

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, «say this to Aaron and his sons»: “This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel.” You shall say to them:

“May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace”. This is how they are to call down my name and the sons of Israel, and I will bless them. »

- (Book of Numbers 6: 22-27)



An Old Irish Blessing:

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
and rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Portrait Drawing - In His Hands by
artist, Jyvonne Inman



Both look very similar, except that ***the Irish blessing assumes that we will meet again.*** What a wonderful way of ending the Mass. Yes! *We will meet again maybe next Sunday and one day in Heaven.*

*

What a wonderful greeting card message to send to a friend!

Fr. Bernardino

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!

– Pope Francis

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

SWIFT: TOTAPTPL

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).



Please join us for some tea/coffee and biscuits 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!

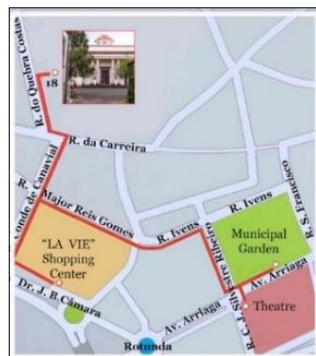


>> Bible Group:

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic Bible Group:
Introducing the Old Testament.
THURSDAYS | 2:00 – 3:30pm
Where: 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