



19th of February 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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. **We similarly are blessed by the presence of two dedicated priests at Penha de França.** Father Vitor celebrates Mass in Portuguese and Father Bernardino has connections of long standing to the English Mass Community.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48)

Leviticus means "and he called". The book is about holiness, the utter separateness of God. We are each called to become whole, like a jigsaw with all the parts fitting together perfectly. Hence the repeated command: "You shall be holy, because I, the Lord, am holy". These chapters about the sacredness of sex, the marriage laws, forbidding aberrant sexual behaviour, and expanding the basic Commandments, show how the Israelites are to keep themselves in a state of wholeness, as a sign of their intimate union with the Holy Lord. These detailed instructions on behaviour imply both responsibilities and corresponding rights.

Perhaps we can see why Paul is critical of the **Corinthians**, telling them they were not mature enough to be given the solid food of spiritual instruction, because they were still jealously quarrelling among themselves about who to follow. They must follow only Christ, obeying God's rules, even though this will be seen as foolishness by the wisdom of this world. In **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus continues drawing out the meaning of the Commandments in the sermon on the mount. Last week the shorter form omitted the difficult teachings forbidding divorce and calling our brother a fool. Today we are urged to love our enemies. Always Jesus pushes us further, urging us towards perfection, in union with our heavenly Father.

- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver (<http://www.bible-groups.info/>)

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is compassion and love.

TODAY'S HYMNS:

Prof. Cátia Marques & Prof. Helena Marques



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** *How lovely on the mountains* – No. 235
- [2] **Penitential Act:** *Kyrie*
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Aleluia*
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** *Instrumental*
- [5] **Sanctus:** *Sanctus*
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** *Agnus Dei*
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** *Ave Maria gratia plena* – No. 39
- [8] **Thanksgiving: Portuguese Hymn:** "*Encontrei Deus de Surpresa*"
(*I found God by Surprise*)
- [9] **Final Hymn:** *Our God loves us* – No. 454

FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – I found God by Surprise

- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade



We, members of the *People Helping People Association*, were ready to start our weekly meeting. Ana, our Coordinator, had a very full and very well organized agenda that starts with prayer. Then I usually conduct a short reflection about the spirituality of *People Helping People* where I try to emphasize that the excluded, the unloved, the unattractive, the marginalized are supposed to be our favorites, having as our model,

Jesus the Good Shepherd.

We were already a few minutes late to start the meeting when Dr. José Luís and Abel entered the room accompanied by Adrien (*not his real name*). This man is known by all the people who walk through the city of Funchal. He is dirty, smelly, long and messy hair and long and messy beard. He is always seated on the sidewalks, exposing his scars and, according to some witnesses, he scratches his scars to make them bleed in order to attract compassion and attract money to feed his addictions. He is a typical homeless.

I have known Adrien for a few years. I have been abused and cheated by him. Now instead of starting the meeting I was furious that Dr. José Luís and Abel had decided to ruin our beautiful agenda to deal with such an unexpected surprise. Of course all the attentions concentrated on Adrien and everybody forgot about the agenda. Everybody was kind and helpful except me. We had an agenda and Adrien was not on the Agenda. All the attentions concentrated in planning on how to feed Adrien, how to find decent clothes for him, how and where to buy medicine for his epilepsy, how to find a decent place where he could spend the night as a human being. Rita remembered that she had, somewhere, a chocolate bar and immediately took it and gave it to Adrien. He started eating his chocolate bar, and because of his bad teeth, he was involuntarily spitting crumbs all over the table while some of the attendants were trying to keep the table clean without making him feel uncomfortable. The meeting was closed with a prayer and the agenda was still on the paper. Carmina and Dr. José Luís took the responsibility of finishing the job on how to help Adrien that night. Carmina and José Luís indicated a place to meet him while they would go around finishing what they considered their job. They invited me to go along with them. Of course I had no choice. I said «yes». However, I thought that this would be the time for me to talk and express my point of view saying: *«I don't mind of bringing the homeless and the poor to some of our meetings but I think that should be planned in advance and a special agenda should be prepared for that kind of meeting. I don't agree with what happened tonight»*.

When I finished expressing my concern, Carmina very kindly, told me: *«Father, this is what makes the difference between us (People Helping People) and the other official institutions. We don't have time tables, hours, days, or nights. What we have is People who are suffering and need help»*.

That's when I remembered the first time we met Sir Ronald (Ronnie) at the Reid's Palace Hotel and he told us: *«Your lack of organization is your strength. You don't close at 5:30 PM»*.

After Carmina's kind words I remembered the moving hymn that Professors Cátia and Helena sing once in a while in Portuguese, after Communion at the English Mass, that always brings tears to my eyes: *«I Found God by Surprise»*.

Yes! On that cold Wednesday night *«I FOUND GOD BY SURPRISE»*

and I almost missed Him. I am ashamed of the Pharisee and the hypocrite who live inside of me. But I wish that I would be the only Christian who carries a hypocrite inside him. I want to ask forgiveness from Adrien, Carmina, Dr. José Luís and all the group present at the meeting who could see my silence and lack of enthusiasm for something that is so crucial in *People Helping People*. Mother Teresa says: *"When you start by judging you have no time to love"*. I FOUND GOD BY SURPRISE AND I ALMOST MISSED HIM. GOD IS A DAILY SURPRISE.



Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



This is John. He is one of the Adrien's friends. Or is he? At least they were occupying the same sidewalk on that cold night. On the same sidewalk there was a homeless 18-year-old girl. Carmina and Dr. José Luis made an appointment to meet her on the same spot the following Saturday. Some politicians say that we should hide poverty to attract tourists. We say: "Let us expose poverty to make us more human and combat poverty".

Fr. Bernardino

Pope Leo X Buried His Pet Elephant Under the Vatican

Source: www.atlasobscura.com/articles/a-16th-century-pope-buried-his-pet-elephant-under-the-vatican

In February of 1962, while digging up the Vatican's Belvedere Courtyard to modernize a heating and cooling system, a group of Italian workers found a large tooth and four pieces of a giant jawbone, which they thought were from a dinosaur. But the bones were not fossilized, and when the custodian of the Vatican Library collection had them examined, he learned that they belonged to an elephant! For decades, no one inquired further into the origin of the elephant skeleton buried beneath the Vatican, until in the 1980s and 90s, the Smithsonian's Historian Emeritus, Silvio Bedini, uncovered the elephant's history. He published the results of his research in 1997, in "The Pope's Elephant".



The elephant's name was "Hanno" and he belonged to Pope Leo X, who was elected pope in 1513. At the time, the Portuguese king, Manuel I, was working to solidify Portugal's hold on the spice trade. It was traditional for Christian rulers to send a gift to a new pope upon his election, and Manuel I knew that this was a political opportunity, as well. He could ask for money to expand his fleet of ships and artillery, and he could obtain the Pope's blessing for Portuguese expansionism. He carefully planned what he would send the pope - textiles, a gold chalice, a brocade altar cover, and other treasures wrought with gold and jewels. He sent a cheetah, leopards, parrots, strange dogs and a Persian horse. And he sent Hanno. The pope built a special building to house the elephant, on the *Courtile de Belvedere*, and allowed the people of Rome to visit him each weekend. And on occasion, he was also paraded through Rome. Sadly, though, Hanno's time in Rome was short. He was four years old when he arrived, and he lived to be seven. He developed some respiratory insufficiencies, and died after being given the wrong prescription. Hanno was buried under the Belvedere Courtyard in the Vatican, where his bones still lay to this day.

Ever heard of the Orthodox Rosary called a "komboskini" or "prayer rope"?

Source: www.aleteia.org/2017/02/11/ever-heard-of-the-orthodox-rosary-called-a-komboskini-or-prayer-rope/



Prayer ropes have been used by Eastern Orthodox and Greek-Catholic faithful since at least the 4th century. When monks and anchorites began to inhabit the deserts of Egypt, their custom was to recite the whole Psalter (*150 psalms*) every day. To count their prayers, they would throw small stones into a bowl, but the method proved to be impractical (*especially if the monk was to pray outside his cell, carrying a bag of stones and a bowl in the other hand anywhere he went*). So, according to tradition, **St. Pachomius** - back in the 4th century - invented the prayer rope: a loop, usually made

either of virgin wool (*a symbol of the purity of the Lamb of God*) or of silk threads, braided with knots. However, it is also said it was **St. Anthony the Great** who started the custom of tying knots in the cord. Every time Saint Anthony prayed a "kyrie" ("have mercy on me" ...), he tied a knot in his rope, but the devil untied it, throwing off his count, making it impossible for him to meet his daily goal. The saint then had a vision in which the Virgin Mary taught him how to tie his knots so that they would resemble the sign of the cross, thus preventing the devil from untying them.

Generally, these prayer strings (called *komboskini* in Greek, *chotki* or *vervitsa* in Russian) typically have between 100 and 150 knots, although some with 33 knots can also be found (symbolizing the age of Christ at His death), as well as others with 41 knots (the number of lashes inflicted on Jesus) or 64 knots (according to tradition, the age of the Virgin Mary upon her Assumption into heaven). This tassel at the end of the cord, some point out, also symbolizes Heaven, which is to be found only through the cross which, in the cord, precedes the tassel.

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 after the floods in 2010! 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 CONTACTS:

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60 Meeks Ln.,
Oakley,
CA 94561.
Tel. 1-925-813-2888
Email: larryjanc@aol.com

>> 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

We would like to be able to thank everyone who contributes with a donation towards *People Helping People*, unfortunately bank donations often appear with no identification. Please send us a short e-mail letting us know if you make any bank transfer / deposit, so that we are able to acknowledge your gift and can thank you in writing.

BOOK SALE TO SUPPORT PHP:

Mrs. Jane Caldwell, a frequent visitor to our Chapel, has written a novel and will be donating all proceeds from sales towards PHP. If you'd like to support PHP in this way, there are a few paper copies still available at Moynihans Irish Bar, or you can buy the Kindle e-book version. Look for *“Frozen Stiff”* by Agatha Frisky on the website: www.amazon.co.uk where you can get a copy of this light-hearted, slightly romantic detective story.



*“You should wash each other's feet!”
(John 13:14).*



Please sign our Visitor's book

in the Social Hall...

leave us your comments,
or suggestions, and let us know
where you're from!

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



» Bible Group:

Directions to English Church
(for 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



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*). Every now and again we also have contributions/stories sent in by visitors and local members in the community. [If you enjoyed this newsletter and would like to receive a copy every Sunday, please send an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) to have your name added to the distribution list; or download it from the Chapel's website and blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org