

## 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year A

Capela de Nossa Senhora da Penha de França  
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 MASS IN MADEIRA:

**Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França**, founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. We are blessed by the presence of two dedicated priests here at Penha de França. Father Bernardino celebrates the English Mass every Sunday morning at 10h00 and Father Vitor celebrates Mass in Portuguese at 11h30.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

( Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94;

Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42 )

The Israelites escaped from Egypt probably under Ramses II about 1300 BC. They wandered in the wilderness of Sinai, fed daily by God with quail and manna. But they continued grumbling, losing faith that “God was with them”. The places were named “Massah”, “test”, and “Meribah”, “quarrelling”. But God still looks after his people, giving them water. They are not punished now, as it is before they accept the Covenant God made with Moses on Sinai. But none of this generation will enter the promised land. Paul tells the **Romans** that God loves and forgives us, just as he continued caring for the ungrateful Israelites. God proved his love in that Christ died for us, gaining pardon for all humanity. So we can be at rights with God and have peace because faith gives us access to this grace.

We hear the first 3 gospels over 3 years, but we hear parts of John’s gospel every year during Lent and Easter. Today Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well. John carefully moves the characters on and off stage as the woman gradually comes towards faith in Jesus. Then, while still unsure, she goes and brings the rest of the Samaritans in her town to hear this man, wondering “Could he possibly be the Messiah?”  
- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver

### PSALM RESPONSE:

**O that today you would listen to his voice!  
“Harden not your hearts”.**

### **The words to this morning’s Thanksgiving Hymn:**

#### HAIL, GLORIOUS ST. PATRICK

Hail, glorious St. Patrick, dear saint of our isle,  
On us thy poor children bestow a sweet smile;  
And now thou art high in the mansions above,  
On Erin’s green valleys look down in thy love.



(optional repeat)

On Erin’s green valleys, on Erin’s green valleys,  
On Erin’s green valleys look down in thy love.

Hail, glorious St. Patrick, thy words were once strong  
Against Satan’s wiles and a heretic throng;  
Not less is thy might where in Heaven thou art;  
Oh, come to our aid, in our battle take part!

In a war against sin, in the fight for the faith,  
Dear Saint, may thy children resist to the death;  
May thy strength be in meekness, in penance, and prayer,  
Their banner the Cross, which they glory to bear.

Thy people, now exiles on many a shore,  
Shall love and revere thee till time be no more;  
And the fire thou hast kindled shall ever burn bright,  
Its warmth undiminished, undying its light.

Ever bless and defend the sweet land of our birth,  
Where the shamrock still blooms as when thou wert on earth,  
And our hearts shall yet burn, wherever we roam,  
For God and St. Patrick, and our native home.

### TODAY’S HYMNS

[1] **Entry Hymn:** *Bind us together* - N.º 65

[2] **Offertory Hymn:** Instrumental

[3] **Communion Hymn:** *Ag Criost an síol (Irish Communion Hymn)*

[4] **Thanksgiving:** *St. Patrick’s Hymn: “Hail glorious Saint Patrick”*

[5] **Final Hymn:** *Go, the Mass is ended* - N.º 175



**Brought to you by:**  
**Prof. Cátia Marques**  
&  
**Prof. Helena Marques**

**When Comedian Yakov Smirnoff first came to the United States from Russia** he was not prepared for the incredible variety of instant products available in American grocery stores. He says: «*On my first shopping trip, I saw powdered milk; you just add water, and you get milk. Then I saw powdered orange juice; you just add water, and you get orange juice. And then I saw baby powder, and I thought to myself, 'What a country!'*»



Comedian Yakov Smirnoff

Smirnoff was joking, but we make these assumptions about Christian Transformation - that people change instantly from sinners to saints. Catholics call it **transformation through repentance and renewal of life**, deriving strength through the word of God and the Sacraments to cooperate with God's grace for doing acts of charity. Some other Christian denominations call it Sanctification of the believer. Whatever you call it, most denominations expect some quick fix for sin.

According to this belief, when someone gives his or her life to Christ, accepting Him as Lord and personal Savior, and confesses his or her sins to Him, there is an immediate, substantive, in-depth, miraculous change in habits, attitudes, and character. Can we go to Church as if we are going to the grocery store to get Powdered Christian? **I had a wonderful friend in California who was a real saint. Reverend Bill** was the Pastor of a huge Baptist Church. One day when we were sharing our lives and experiences with each other, he said that he was enjoying reading the books of **Henry Nouwen**, a Belgian Catholic priest who impacted tremendously the spirituality of the 20th century, especially with his book «**The Return of the Prodigal Son**». Rev. Bill was enjoying and was getting a lot from his writings. But he was a little surprised with a little difference between Nouwen's spirituality and the Protestant spirituality. Nouwen repeated very often the word «conversion» to happen during a spiritual journey of a Christian.

According to him conversion happens in the moment we choose Jesus as our personal Savior, and since then we live accordingly. Then I remembered St. Paul in his letter to the Romans (Rom 7:14) when he says: «*What I want to do, that I do not do; but what I hate, that I do*». He was always struggling between sin, temptation and his conversion. Louis Evely says that the most difficult people to convert are Christians to Christ. Father Aires Gameiro told me recently that the followers of Jesus are always in the ABC (we are all like beginners... like ABC are the first letters of the alphabet). This is the meaning of conversion.

The truth is that Disciples of Christ are not born by adding water to Christian powder. There is no such powder, and disciples of Jesus Christ are not instantly born. They are slowly raised through many trials, suffering, and temptations and by their active cooperation with the grace of God, expressed through works of charity.

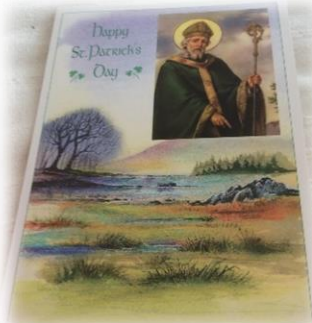
Love and Peace  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



## Today is Father's Day in Portugal and Madeira

Father's Day ("Dia do Pai") is celebrated on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Portugal and in Madeira. In the Roman Catholic tradition, Fathers are celebrated on Saint Joseph's Day (19<sup>th</sup> of March). Father's Day is also celebrated today in *Andorra, Angola, Belgium, Bolivia, Croatia, Honduras, Italy, Liechtenstein, Mozambique, Spain and Switzerland*. Most of the rest of the world celebrates Father's Day on the 3rd Sunday in June (this year on June 18th).





Two days ago, on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in Ireland and around the world. **Saint Patrick is one of the world's most well-known Saints**, and the patron saint of Ireland. His feast day is a cultural and religious celebration. It's a day for celebrating Irish culture and to remember Saint Patrick, who preached throughout Ireland and worked many miracles during the fifth century. Saint Patrick's Day is held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March as traditionally it is the day he died in the year AD 461.

## The Shamrock – the national symbol of Ireland, & the Holy Trinity

A shamrock is a young sprig of clover, and has been used as a symbol of Ireland since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Traditionally, there is a legend of Saint Patrick using a shamrock to teach the mystery of the Holy Trinity... as in these words you see on the picture on the right: *"Just like the leaves on each shamrock I see, there are three parts to the Holy Trinity. First is God the Father, then Jesus, His only Son. With the Holy Spirit, together, they are Three in One."*

Pictures of Saint Patrick depict him driving the snakes out of Ireland with a cross in one hand and a sprig of shamrocks in the other.



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## Pope Francis: «Even the most Holy people sin 7 times a day»

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Source: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, at Casa Santa Marta, during the pope's morning homily, he said: *«Each one of us, every day, does something ugly.»* The Bible, in fact, says that even "the most holy people sin seven times a day."

*«It's not easy to do good: we must learn it, always. And He teaches us. But: Learn. Like children. Along the path of life, of the Christian life, one learns every day. You have to learn every day to do something, to be better than the day before. To learn. Avoiding evil and learning to do good: this is the rule of conversion.»*

*«Being converted doesn't come from a fairy who converts us with a magic wand: No! It's a journey. It's a journey of avoiding and of learning.»*

Pope Francis emphasized how God helps us: *«Walking together with us to help us, to explain things to us, to take us by the hand.»* The Lord is able "to do this miracle" – that is, "to change us" – not overnight, but on a journey.

This, Pope Francis stressed, is the path of Lenten conversion.



# 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 up the road from the Chapel), who have always been a great support towards the *People Helping People Project*. They willingly accept any clothes, toiletries, or tinned food on behalf of PHP, that you may wish to donate. Thank you to all who have been leaving clothes and donations there in the last weeks. It has been greatly appreciated!



## >> PHP CONTACTS:

**Europe:** Pe Bernardino Andrade,  
Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E,  
9060-199 Funchal,  
Madeira, Portugal.  
Email:  
[bernardinodandrade@gmail.com](mailto:bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

**USA:** Janice Contreras,  
60 Meeks Ln.,  
Oakley,  
CA 94561.  
Tel. 1-925-813-2888  
Email: [larryjanc@aol.com](mailto: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 Quitéria 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](http://www.amazon.co.uk) where you can get a copy of this light-hearted, slightly romantic detective story.



Please remember to leave your yellow *Hymn Book* and *Order of the Mass* sheet at the Chapel entrance after mass. Thank you ☺



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:

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](mailto: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: [penhafanca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafanca.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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)