



26th of March 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

4th 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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
or @capela_penha_franca

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 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. The Diocese has also recently made repairs to the social hall, in the garden of the Chapel. **We are blessed by the presence of two dedicated priests 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

(1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41)

Before our first reading, King Saul had disobeyed God's instructions by allowing animals from his defeated enemy to be sacrificed to the Lord. He put more faith in ceremony and ritual than he did in the Lord. **Samuel** told Saul obedience is more important than holocausts, and that the Lord has rejected Saul as king of Israel. The Lord sends Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint one of the sons of Jesse as king.

Paul's great letter about the Church to the **Ephesians** is centred on the Church as Christ's body, with a mission to make God's plan of salvation known throughout the world. Christians must "be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in goodness, right living and truth". Discovering what the Lord wants of us exposes by contrast the "futile works of darkness". The dramatic Lenten readings from **John's gospel** continue with the healing of the man born blind. At first the man does not seem to care who has healed him. His parents distance themselves out of fear, echoing the growing separation between Jews and Christians by John's time. But for John, just seeing is not enough, the light of faith is essential. So Jesus seeks the man out and gradually leads him to full belief, and to worship him.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

TODAY'S HYMNS Brought to you by: **Prof. Cátia Marques & Prof. Helena Marques**

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

[2] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy* - N.º 663

[3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Glory and praise to you* - N.º 690

[4] **Offertory Hymn:** Portuguese Hymn

[5] **Sanctus:** *Holy* - N.º 704

[6] **Agnus Dei:** *Lamb of God* - N.º 737

[7] **Communion Hymn:** Portuguese Hymn

[8] **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental

[9] **Final Hymn:** *Go, the Mass is ended*

N.º 175

1

ARE YOU SAVED?

One of the many privileges I had during my ministry in California was my frequent contacts with members and leaders of different religious denominations. Even if we were aware of our differences, more than that, we were aware of the so many things that unite us.

This happened one day during a spiritual retreat with Protestant Pastors:

During a meal, this lady asked me: «*Are you saved?*» My answer was: «*Oh no! God still has lots of work to do to save me. No I am not saved yet*».

Maybe this is one of some of the differences between Catholics and a few Evangelical church denominations.

Many people see the Church as a hotel. «*I am converted: I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I arrived. I am saved*». This is like if I arrived to a hotel. Now I can unpack, take my shoes off and relax. I arrived. The Church sees herself as a journey. A journey, with ups and downs, like the Hebrew people who are walking throughout the desert always with the temptations to return to the old life. Yes. They were slaves. Their suffering was unbearable, but they also remembered some of the many good things that they had left behind. They had some pleasures that they were not able to enjoy in their journey to freedom. I remember a man telling me, long time ago: «*I like to sin. I enjoy sinning. But then I feel so empty. I feel so sad. I feel so frustrated with myself*». On that day he came for Confession where finally he felt peace.

2

LENT IS A JOURNEY

On the first Sunday of Lent (Year A), we are invited to join Jesus in the desert.

On the second Sunday of Lent we are invited to go up to the mountain and be transfigured with Jesus. We are invited to transform or change our way of thinking, talking and acting. We are invited to have with Jesus a mountain top experience.

On the third Sunday of Lent we are invited to approach Jesus at the well like the Samaritan woman. One thinks what was that woman looking for in those six men? Finally she met a seventh man who also needed her because he was thirsty. She had been drinking «dead water» full of mosquitoes, garbage and poison. Finally she found in this man called Jesus the «living water».

On the fourth Sunday of Lent a blind man is cured and sees light for the first time.

On the fifth Sunday of Lent the Church presents the Resurrection of Lazarus. We celebrate life.

Then we celebrate Palm Sunday.

Finally the Paschal Mystery that includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday together with Easter Sunday make just one celebration.

Now... have a nice trip! Have a nice journey!

Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Anna O'Neil is one of the online authors for the Christian website **Aleteia**, and recently she wrote an article in which she interviewed her 21-year-old sister to know why she wants to become a nun!

« My little sister, who grew up right next to me - always singing, sketching, and stealing my clothes - is cutting off her wild, curly hair, donning a habit, and becoming a cloistered, contemplative nun. I've been grappling with this fact for months, and I finally sat her down and asked her the questions that were burning in my mind:



>> When did you start thinking you might have a vocation?

[Little Sister:] *I remember when I was 12 or so going to daily Mass, and thinking about how I would think about God in the morning and then forget him for the rest of the day. I kind of wished I could just stay in church and not forget God, and I think that was the beginning of the desire. Of course that desire wasn't really well articulated in my heart, but it grew over the years.*

>> It's easy to see why active orders are so needed – they teach, they take care of the dying, they do so much good work. But why does the world need contemplative nuns?

[Little Sister:] *Because God listens to our prayers. He wants us to pray. So God made us with the ability to pray for each other and to help each other out. We're all connected in the human family through the Body of Christ, and because of this connection of love, we can offer each other to God and be a channel of God's grace to each other. There are so many needs in the world that can't be met, except by prayer, which is why the world needs contemplatives.*



>> Did you ever second-guess your vocation? What helped you work through those doubts?

[Little Sister:] *I definitely got cold feet at different points. I guess what helped me was actually going to a convent and meeting some nuns, and finding out that they are real human beings [...] Nuns don't always like {praying}! They have distractions like anybody. They are not in the heights of contemplation all the time. But you go to the convent to give yourself to God in your own human nature, to just live with him day by day.*

>> How do you feel about leaving your family and friends?

[Little Sister:] *Oh my gosh, that's very hard. I really love my home. I love my family. [...] It's definitely the biggest sacrifice I've ever made to God. [...] {But} I'm going into a wonderful family, with a mother and sisters. And Jesus.*

>> One last question. So ... since you won't be needing them, can I have all your pretty clothes when you leave? »

Read the complete interview here: <http://aleteia.org/2017/03/20/21-years-old-and-entering-a-cloistered-convent-an-interview-with-my-little-sister/>

The Stations of the Cross Celebrated in Madeira



Santa Teresinha Monument

In Madeira during Lent and Easter time, we have a tradition where **different parishes around the island have processions of the Stations of the Cross**. Along one road in the town of *Canhas* there are large stone crosses that mark the fourteen stations of the *Via Crucis*. Today there will be a procession, starting at the churches of *Canhas* and *Carvalhal* passing through all the stations, and finishing at the monument *Santa Teresinha* at 18h00 with a Eucharistic Mass. This tradition (the procession) is a spiritual exercise that helps to relive the passion and death of Christ.

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,
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9060-199 Funchal,
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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.



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 cake in the Social Hall across the garden – after Mass

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



» Bible Group:

Directions to English Church
(for Bible Group) →

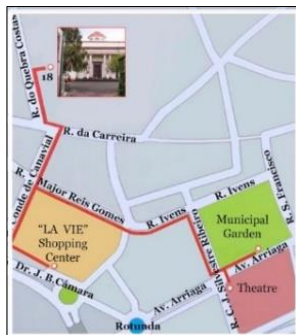
Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic
Bible Group:

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: 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**