

23rd of April 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass **Divine Mercy Sunday, 2nd Sunday of Easter - 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

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THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França, which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. Originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal, the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. In 1935 the Franciscans 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 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 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

(Acts 2:42-47 ; Psalm 117 ; 1 Peter 1:3-9 ; John 20:19-31)

The Book of Acts is read only between Easter and Pentecost, when it replaces readings from the Old Testament. This second part of Luke's book describes the beginnings of the Church, as the Holy Spirit continues Christ's work on earth. Today we hear Luke's somewhat idealised picture of the early believers' close-knit community, holding their resources in common, and practising their Jewish faith before meeting in their homes for the Eucharist. **This year the second readings during Eastertide are from the First Letter of Peter**, the only time this letter is read on Sundays. Written from Rome to the Gentile Christians in Asia Minor. God gives us a new birth and a hope based on the resurrection. We must try as good citizens to maintain Christian standards amid pagan people. Suffering can purify our faith, enabling us to imitate Christ more. God cares for us while we look forward to our inheritance in heaven. This first week of Easter ends with the first ending of John's Gospel. Jesus appears twice to the apostles, sending them out to forgive sins. After doubting without seeing, Thomas utters the most complete expression of faith. The brief accounts of Jesus' ministry are that we may "believe that Jesus is the Christ", and "have life in his name".
(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver) www.bible-groups.info/

PSALM RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

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

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** *How lovely on the mountains* - N.º 235
- [2] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy* - N.º 663
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Aleluia* - N.º 679
- [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

- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade



1 - DIVINE MERCY IN ACTION:

A TIME magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a blue turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up-close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others

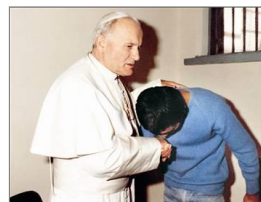
from hearing the conversation.

The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's would-be assassin (*he shot and wounded the Pope on May 13, 1981*); the other man was Pope St. John Paul II, the intended victim. The Pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet tore into the Pope's body.

This was a living icon of mercy. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. His deed with Ali Agca spoke a thousand words. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the Pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly.

When the Pope left the cell he said: « *What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust.* ».

This is an example of God's Divine Mercy, the same Divine Mercy whose message St. Faustina witnessed.



2 - A BLANKET AND A BOTTLE OF MADEIRA WINE

Carmina, one of the leaders of *People Helping People* and of the English Mass, was driving through one of the streets of Funchal on a cold and dark night. All of a sudden her sight was caught by a homeless man sleeping (*was he sleeping?*) on the street's sidewalk.

Carmina stopped her car and approached him. Her heart was broken. She knew that she had found Jesus by surprise. [***This is the point where mercy meets misery.***] Standing before this misery she could not be indifferent. Something needed to be done, but what?

It didn't take too much time to decide: Carmina went home, brought a blanket and something else. Kindly, like a mother covering her baby, she extended the blanket over him. And at his side she gently left a delicious bottle of Madeira Wine. This is Divine Mercy.



> MY THREE FAVOURITE THOUGHTS OF MOTHER TERESA:

"Small things done by small people in small places change the world."

"What I do for others is just a drop of water in the ocean. But without that drop of water the ocean is smaller."

"I would prefer to have a person making a mistake with kindness than being right with rudeness."

Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



St. Faustina and the image of The Divine Mercy



St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. She was born in 1905, and belonged to the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy; she was a Polish Roman Catholic nun and mystic. Throughout her life, Faustina reported having visions of Jesus and conversations with him, of which she wrote in her diary. On the night of Sunday, 22 February 1931, **Jesus appeared to her as the "King of Divine Mercy"** wearing a white garment with red and pale rays emanating from his heart. In her diary she wrote that Jesus told her:

« **Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You"** [in Polish: "Jezu, ufam Tobie"]. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.». - Jesus also told her that he wanted the Divine Mercy image to be «solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.». - Not knowing how to paint, Faustina approached some other nuns at the convent for help, but received no assistance. Only three years later, after her assignment to Vilnius, the first artistic rendering of the image was performed under her direction. The painting now hangs in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Symbolic meaning: The coloured rays streaming out from the heart of Jesus have symbolic meaning... *red* for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls, and *white* for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The brightest point in the picture is the heart. The light on the forehead signifies the presence of the Father. - The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.



The original
Divine Mercy image

Some quotes by St. Mary Faustina Kowalska :

“ Suffering is the greatest treasure on earth; it purifies the soul. In suffering, we learn who our true friend is. ”

— Maria Faustina Kowalska,
in *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul*

“ I have great reverence for Saint Michael the Archangel; he had no example to follow in doing the will of God, and yet he fulfilled God’s will faithfully. ”

— St. Faustina Kowalska

“ I know well that the greater and more beautiful the work is, the more terrible will be the storms that rage against it. ”

— St. Faustina Kowalska

“ Oh, if only the suffering soul knew how it is loved by God, it would die of joy and excess of happiness! Someday, we will know the value of suffering, but then we will no longer be able to suffer. The present moment is ours. ”

- St. Faustina Kowalska

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.

>> 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:

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Email: larryjanc@aol.com



People Helping People

We would like to be able to thank everyone who contributes with a donation to PHP; but unfortunately some bank donations often appear with no identification. If you decide to donate, please send us a short e-mail with the date you made the transfer or deposit, so that we are able to check, and be able to acknowledge your gift.

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, you can buy the Kindle e-book version from www.amazon.co.uk The book is a light-hearted, slightly romantic detective story.



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



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!



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. **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. **If you enjoyed this newsletter and would like to receive a copy every Sunday, please send an email to: 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**