



21st of May 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

6th 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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or @capela_penha_franca

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**, who celebrates the English Mass every Sunday morning at 10h00, and **Father Vitor**, who celebrates Mass in Portuguese at 11h30.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 65; 1 Peter 3:15-18 or 4:13-16; John 14:15-21 or 17:1-11)

After Stephen had been killed, Saul led “a great persecution” against the Church in Jerusalem. As a consequence, the Hellenists were driven out of Jerusalem and Philip takes the gospel to Samaria. Peter and John came to investigate these first non-Jew converts. The apostles confirmed their membership by laying hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Peter continues his advice to Christians suffering abuse and ridicule from their non-Christian neighbours. Do not be afraid! Gently but firmly stick to your principles, being ready to explain your reasons politely. And rejoice that your sufferings enable you to share in Christ's sufferings so that you may share in his glory.

In John's description of the Last Supper in his Gospel, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to continue his work after he returns to his Father. The supper ends with Jesus' great prayer to his Father for the Church he is leaving behind. All three persons of the Trinity are mentioned in the gospels, but the Church only gradually developed its understanding of the Trinity over many centuries. We believe that the Spirit "**proceeds**" from the Father **and** the Son (filioque). The Orthodox Church says that the Spirit **comes from** the Father **through** the Son.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

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:** *Take our bread* - N.º 528

[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

It is common for any priest to be approached by people asking if he can say a Mass for a special intention, like the health recovery of a family member, somebody who died, in thanksgiving for a special favour from God and so on. The intentions vary and we, the priests who are closer to the people, try to meet them wherever they are, especially if there is any suffering involved.

I was in one of the corridors of the hospital in the city of Funchal when this young lady approached me asking if I could say a special Mass in thanksgiving for her six-year-old daughter's first smile. This was the first time that, in my almost 50 years as a priest, someone had asked me for a special intention like that: Thanking God for the first smile.

The story behind this request is very simple, and very tragic:

Sara, a six-year-old girl, was crossing a road with her family when she was badly hit by a car. She flew over the car and in seconds she was laying on the pavement, full of blood, all broken and unconscious. Just in seconds. But in those few seconds, Sara and her family's lives were changed forever. But Sara's mother, a very strong and positive woman, supported by her husband Manuel, a very strong and positive man, in the middle of such a tragedy found something very very good. Sara was alive! One of the first things she did was to approach a priest and ask him to say a special Mass in thanksgiving for her daughter's life. Sara was alive! Thanks God! Sara was alive. No time or energy to complain. Only to thank God because Sara was alive.

Her agonizing recovery was very slow. Sara was surrounded by good doctors and nurses but also by lots of love. Her parents, Sandra and Manuel, never gave up. Every time Sara moved, or opened her eyes, every time she breathed was a moment to rejoice and celebrate.

Her godfather always acted as a clown doing his little tricks to attract her attention and make her smile. But something was missing. In spite of all the love and all the tricks nobody had seen a smile on Sara's angelic face since the accident.

Finally, one day, I don't know how many people were in the hospital room when there was an excitement and clapping and tears around Sara's bed. Finally Sara had shared with her family her first smile! There was no doubt that smile was one of the biggest events in the life of that family. **That's when Sandra approached me and asked me to say a special Mass in thanksgiving for the first smile of her precious angel.**



Sara and her Parents



Sara's smile

Meanwhile Sara moved to a different hospital and for six years I lost track of her and her family. **About two weeks ago I entered a restaurant and guess whom I saw?** Sara! She was having lunch with her family. She did not recognize me. She is still very special. **Sara, twelve years old now,** doesn't talk and was not able to learn how to read or to write, but now she smiles a lot. And there is some kind of food that Sara can eat by herself with a spoon in her left hand. And she does it by herself. But what I found interesting is that **every time Sara smiles is a moment of celebration for her family.** That's why I am not surprised that I never heard a complaint from her parents. When you have an attitude of thanksgiving you have no time to complain.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Sara and her family
Alberto da Mata
Rosemary and João de Ponte
The Vallat family
John Hinchliffe
Barbara Matthews
Nelita de Jesus
Marina Kovalchikova



Job 42:10

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.

VISITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – Traditional Devotion in Madeira



There is a Catholic tradition in Madeira that takes place every year within the parishes of Funchal. **It is a very old tradition of devotion to the Holy Spirit and is called “*Visitas do Espírito Santo*”** (loosely translated as *Visits of the Holy Spirit*).

Every Sunday during the Paschal Time (this year starting on April 23rd) and until Pentecost Sunday (June 4th) **a group of people usually composed of three men from the church and two girls called “*saloias*” (country girls) will visit the houses of**

the parish community along the streets in the different suburbs of Funchal.

These visits take place during specific times which are decided upon by the Diocese, and the community is informed in advance so that they can prepare for these special visits. The aim of these “*Holy Spirit*” visits is to bring each family “the joy of the Risen Christ” and also to collect funds that have several purposes such as helping the poor, or restoration work in the church, amongst other things. The 3 men in the group will usually wear special red cloaks, while the young girls who accompany the group are dressed in red or in the typical regional dress. In some parishes the girls are ornamented with gold, and on arrival at the houses they visit, they will sing traditional songs. **The lyrics and music will vary depending on which region they are from.** These “*Espírito Santo*” (Holy Spirit) groups also visit the churches around the island. The girls will carry baskets with flowers which also serve to collect the sweets and other goodies that are offered to them. **There are some places where the group is accompanied by people playing musical instruments.**



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK – From Pope Francis

“Every man is a story of love that God writes on this earth. Every one of us is a story of God’s love. God calls every one of us by our name: He knows us by name, He looks at us, He waits for us, He forgives us, He has patience with us.”

Pope Francis, May 17th 2017, during his 9:25am General Audience in St. Peter’s Square

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

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 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...**

The Mission Statement of People Helping People is... through social solidarity, to mobilize many people to help many people in a combat against poverty, hunger, illness, exclusion, indifference, intolerance, and social injustice, with a special preference for the last, the least and the lost, having as a model the person of Jesus, the «Good Shepherd» (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15). Our wish is that it may always be an open door when all the other doors close, building in this way, different feelings and acts of Mercy (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6 and Mathew chapter 25).

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. 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.

>> PHP CONTACTS:

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Sign our Visitor's book

in the Social Hall...

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

Tea and Coffee – After Mass

Please join us in the Social Hall across the garden



» Bible Group:

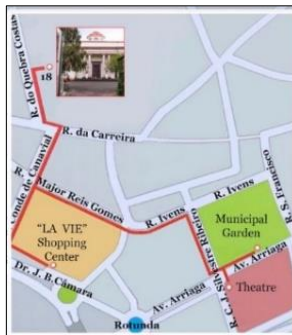
Directions to English Church
(for Bible Group)

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic
Bible Group:
Looking at "The Creed"

When: THURSDAYS

Time: 2:00 – 3:30pm

Where: English Church Library,
Rua do Quebra Costas nr.18,
Funchal. **For more info:**
chris@chris-oliver.net



>> 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

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**