


3rd December 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

1st Sunday of Advent - Year B

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França nr. 3, Funchal, Madeira

 Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

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THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França! Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent. *Father Aires Gameiro, OH, Brother of Saint John of God* will be celebrating the 10h00 Mass in English this morning. The 11h30 Mass will be celebrated in Portuguese by *Father Vitor Sousa*. **Today's Mass Collection will again go towards the repair and restoration of the chancel ceiling (above the altar) and the roof of the Chapel.**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Isa 63:16-17; 64:3-8; Ps 79(80); 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37)

The reading from third **Isaiah** is part of a prayer written around the end of Israel's exile. Their leaders have been arguing instead of rebuilding the Temple. The prophet recalls God's blessings on Israel in the past, and desperately begs the Lord to come once more in his mercy to the aid of his people, who all now humbly confess their sinfulness. God is our Father, and we are clay, to be formed by his hand. The **psalm** pleads with God to restore his vineyard, Israel, to its former favour. Especially the northern tribes, threatened by Assyria. Paul's letter to the **Corinthians** was prompted by internal rivalries. He can't stop talking about Jesus. God has now come, giving "all the graces" "through Jesus Christ", and joining us to his Son.

Since Vatican II we are blessed by reading all through each gospel in turn. Listening to what each evangelist actually says may help us to sense different Christian communities gradually developing their understanding of Christ. This Advent we start the year of **Mark**, whose gospel is the earliest and shortest. It is the gospel in which no human being recognises or understands Jesus before his death. Today we have Mark's version of "Stay awake!", immediately before Jesus' passion begins.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.



HYMN NUMBERS:

Organ / Voice – Professor Fátima Cátia Marques

Cello – Professor Helena Paula Marques

|1| **Entry Hymn: Advent Hymn:**

Come, Lord Jesus, come – No. 104

|2| **Penitential Act: Lord, have mercy** – No. 659

|3| **Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia** – No. 679

|4| **Offertory: Portuguese Hymn**

|5| **Sanctus: Holy** – No. 704

|6| **Agnus Dei: Lamb of god** – No. 737

|7| **Communion Hymn:**

Ave Maria gratia plena – No.39

|8| **Thanksgiving: Instrumental**

|9| **Final Hymn: Advent Hymn:**

Christmas is coming – No.90



FROM FATHER GAMEIRO'S DESK

- *Brought to you by* Fr. Aires Gameiro (*aires.gameiro@isjd.pt*)

SAINT JOHN OF GOD'S PROVOCATION AND PARABLE (2) ... *continued from last week's newsletter*



Fr. Aires Gameiro

John helped the poor by giving them material means of living. But to those still poorer of life's meaning, he accompanied them to help discover their purpose. We wonder how he received a so challenging gift from the Holy Spirit: to help women in prostitution conditions to find a meaningful goal for their lives. I will tell you two surprising stories taken from the excellent biographer *Francisco de Castro*:

(1) Whatever another man gives you, I will give you more. John used to visit the prostitution house to try and take some of them out of there and propose a new way of life for them. He used to go there, his biographer says, on a Friday, carrying a small cross with him. He

went directly to one prostitute who he thought was more inclined to a change of life and to moving out. He said to her: "*My daughter, whatever another man gives you I will give you more... on condition that you accept to hear me for a while*".

And so he could talk to her, and propose a cognitive restructuring of her self-image and a new life project based on values and Christian virtues (CASTRO, Cap. XIII).

(2) Parable of a third cargo of fish. The following step was to offer the women who accepted his proposal, the means to achieve a new project. One way was to find an adoptive family where these women could find rearing and training to be prepared for a future life, either as married wives or as residents in a women autonomous community home. There is a beautiful story about four of these women who accepted John's proposal, but on one condition: he had to take them to Toledo to regulate some business. John arranged four mules for them; and he and the hospital servant, John of Avila, nicknamed Angulo, accompanied them on foot for hundreds of kilometers to Toledo. Approaching there, on the way, three of them, one by one, escaped. Angulo was quite angry and upset with John, telling him that this journey with these kind of women was nonsense. And he went on by saying that as they were all the same it was more advisable to let them all go, and come back to Granada immediately. John listened patiently and told him the following parable full of wisdom and mercy.

"Come here, brother Angulo, and listen. Suppose you go to Motril fishing port to carry four cargoes of fish. On the way back, three of them get ruined but one is still good. Would you throw away this cargo together with the other three? Be patient. Let us go on with this one to Toledo for her to regulate her problems there."



The biographer adds that this woman married and lived an honest life, and she herself told her story to the writer (CASTRO, Cap. XIII).

... *(To be continued)*

Fr. Aires Gameiro, OH,
(Brother of Saint John of God)



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – Mass on Friday Dec. 8th

This coming Friday, December 8th, it is The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is a Holy Day of obligation, like on a Sunday.

There will be a **Mass in English celebrated** here at Penha de França Chapel on the Feast day of the Immaculate Conception at **10:00AM**. Please join us. There will also be a Mass directly afterwards in Portuguese at 11:30AM.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the solemn belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Various paintings, statues and other forms of artwork have been made depicting the Immaculate Conception. They usually show Mary as a young woman dressed in white and blue. She is often standing on a hill or raised area and has a halo of stars around her head. The pieces of art may also include images of clouds, golden lights, cherubs, lilies or roses.

THE ADVENT SEASON – What exactly is it?



Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The word “*Advent*” comes from the Latin term “*adventus*” which means “arrival” or “coming”, particularly the arrival of something or someone of great significance. This is the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent, and also the beginning of the new Liturgical year (Year B). The **advent wreath is a popular symbol of the Advent season.** It is usually made up of evergreen branches or boughs placed in a circle, and topped with four candles.

We use the Advent wreath as a way to prayerfully reflect the passage of the Advent season. On the first Sunday of Advent, the wreath is blessed and one candle is lit (usually a purple candle). Every Sunday, for the next 3 weeks, another candle is lit until all four candles are burning brightly.

Traditionally, the candles are purple and pink to match the colours of the liturgical vestments worn by the priest or bishop at Mass. However, in some countries, red, purple or white candles are used. In Catholic churches in Madeira, and here in our Chapel, we like to light a purple candle at the beginning of Mass on the first 2 Sundays of Advent, and priests wear purple vestments. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent it is a bit different, with priests wearing rose-coloured (pink) vestments, and instead of a purple candle, a pink candle will be lit. On the 4th Sunday of Advent a purple candle is lit.

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 Matthew chapter 25).

>> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

EUROPE: Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

USA: Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 1-925-813-2888

Email: larryjanc@aol.com

>> BANK INFO:

BANK: Banco Santander Totta

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0008 0130 1547020

NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17

IBAN: PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

SWIFT: TOTAPTPL

Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Bible Group:

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic Bible Group:
Meetings adjourned – will resume next year on
4th of January 2018.

Please sign our Visitor's book

in the Social Hall..... leave us
your comments, or suggestions,
let us know where you're from!



We also have a **map** where you
can place a pin on your home
town! **You'll find the Social
Hall** across the garden from the
Chapel

Remember to leave your
yellow *Hymn Book* and
Order of the Mass sheets
on the table at the
Chapel entrance after
mass ☺

Tea and Coffee

After Mass
**Please join us in
the Social Hall
across the garden.**



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*). 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. To subscribe to this newsletter please send an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org