




**17<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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/>

 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

 Instagram:  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)



## **THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:**

**Welcome!** Today we celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent.

Father Bernardino will be our priest this Sunday morning. For those who may be wondering about the history of this small Chapel... it was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, almost 400 years ago! At this moment, the chapel is in need of some urgent interventions aimed at preserving this beautiful heritage. Today's Mass Collection is for the repair and restoration of the chancel ceiling (above the altar) which is in danger of falling.

## **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*(Isa 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 ; 1 Thess 5:16-24 ; John 1:6-8, 19-28)*

In words used by Jesus to announce that the Messianic era has come, third Isaiah confidently rejoices that Zion will be restored after the return from exile. It will be the focal point for all peoples, where God will dwell in his renewed creation at the end of time. Everyone will behave with justice. It will be total salvation for God's people – but sinners will receive their just punishment.

The response to Luke's Magnificat repeats Isaiah: "My whole being shall exult in my God".

Paul ends his letter to the Thessalonians by emphasising the wholeness of each person's salvation. Simple rules of behaviour enable the new Christian way of living to become automatic: show respect and patience to all. Rejoice and give thanks always, for God is faithful, and will make you "perfect and holy".

Last week Mark briefly described the Baptist's announcement of Christ's coming. Today John gives us more detail, immediately after the gospel's prologue. The Baptist's answers to his questioners become shorter and shorter, until they ask an open question, to which he replies more fully. John's is the only gospel which sees Jesus as existing before creation. The Baptist testifies that Jesus' identity has been confirmed by God. Baptism appears to be well-known, though Jesus' disciples only started baptising after he had risen.

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

## **PSALM RESPONSE: My soul rejoices in my God.**



### **HYMN NUMBERS:**

**Organ / Voice** – Professor Fátima Cátia Marques     **Cello** – Professor Helena Paula Marques

[1] **Entry Hymn: Advent Hymn:**

*Come, O Divine Messiah!* – No. **107**

[2] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy* – No. **663**

[3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia*

[4] **Offertory: Advent Hymn:**

*We are marching* – No. **602**

[5] **Sanctus:** *Holy* – No. **698**

[6] **Agnus Dei:** *Lamb of God* – No. **733**

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

[8] **Thanksgiving:** *Instrumental*

[9] **Final Hymn: Advent Hymn:**

*Our God sent His Son long ago* – No. **455**



Fr. Aires Gameiro

## FOOLISH MANNER IN WHICH TO ASK AND TO GIVE TO THE POOR IN SAINT JOHN OF GOD... *continued from last week's newsletter*

Maybe this saint was somehow a fool when dealing with poor people. And was Jesus not asking us to give everything to the poor and to follow him? Once a friend of Saint John of God met with him and tried to blame and to advise him to be wiser when he gave alms on the street, and on whom he admitted in his hospital. He humbly answered: *«I know nothing, brother...When they ask me for some aid, for God's love, I have to give it, even if it is my life. The rest is up to them»* (cf. Pleyto, witness Benito de los Rios 15th question and CASTRO, chap. XIII). On another occasion he was still more specific on his vision and respect of his divine anthropology principles: *«I ask for God's love, they give me for God's love, and I have to give for God's love»*. And anticipating an objection to the misuse of his good intentions, he added: *«What they do with the aid I give them, it is up to them. They are accountable to God»*.

Jesus told Peter to forgive his offenders 70x7. Saint John of God is an example of promptitude in pardoning. Better soon than later. One day a woman he had taken from the prostitution house, and whom he was helping in her process of getting an independent and autonomous life, offended him. She used some black-mail with him, demanding more than he could give her. At that moment he had nothing with him to give to her. She offended him, calling him a hypocrite and other bad names. His answer was very calm: *«take these two little coins, and go and tell everyone in the market place what you said»*. She became even more angry and doubled the offensive words. As he saw her so upset, and to leave her more comfortable, he told her calmly: *«sooner or later I have to forgive you. Well, I will forgive you right now»*. It was a blessed forgiveness. The biographer adds that she proclaimed all this aloud at the Saint's funeral (CASTRO, chap XV).

ALL IS DOING GOOD FOR GOD. John teaches us that the righteous way of doing good is a golden rule. The heart logic of his life is clarified with an answer given in the town of *Valladolid* two years before his death. Saint John of God went on a nine month journey, on foot, taking with him some recommendation letters to the Prince-King in order to collect some alms and donations in the royal Court, so that he could pay the debts he had made by assisting his poor patients in Granada, which he could not afford to pay. During these months there in *Valladolid*, he received a lot of money, but at the same time as he went around, he met many poor and patients and could not but help them. So his generous benefactors started to worry and alerted him: *«brother John, you have to keep the money for your poor and to pay the debts in Granada, you are giving everything here»*... Brother John replied: *«to give here or in Granada, all is doing good for God, He is everywhere»* (CASTRO, chap. XVI).

The benefactors had to start giving him certificates which could only be payable in Granada, instead of money. And so, arriving there in Granada, he could pay some debts and buy dowries for girls he had in adoption families to be educated and trained to get married. John took sixteen of them to the altar for marriage in only one day, says his biographer (CASTRO; chap XIII).



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

## CRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Morning Masses on Sunday & Monday - at 10am



Next week Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, is not only the fourth Sunday of Advent, but it is also Christmas Eve!

Here at the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, we will be celebrating **Mass at 10am on Christmas Eve (Sunday morning)**.

**There will also be a morning Mass at 10am on Christmas Day (Monday)** to celebrate the Nativity. Please come and join us for Mass on this holy day.



## “MISSA DO PARTO” (CHILD BIRTH MASS) – A Madeiran Christmas tradition

In Madeira Island, the «*Missas do Parto*» (Child Birth Masses), are one of the most popular and old traditions that mobilize the entire population on their journey of preparation for Christmas.

Nine days before Christmas (starting on December 16<sup>th</sup>), these traditional «Child Birth Masses» are celebrated in every Parish around the Island very early in the morning, usually between 5am and 6am! These Masses are held every morning for 9 days. Traditional Christmas hymns are sung, and after Mass there is a social outside the church with different goodies to eat and share, different musical instruments playing and people singing and socializing.



*The family choir group “ALEGRACAMPO” singing here at our Chapel last year in December.*

## CHRISTMAS IN FUNCHAL - What you can expect to find at this time of year

In Funchal, the Christmas atmosphere has been felt since December 1<sup>st</sup>, when the bright festive lights were switched on in the streets of Funchal. Every year it is an amazing experience for both locals and visitors to Madeira island. *Avenida Arriaga* (in the city centre) has been the main setting for Folklore groups, Youth Choirs, and Orchestras to perform every day. Most shop windows in town are not decorated with *Father Christmas* but rather with scenes of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the manger. Near to the Cathedral is a life-size Christmas nativity scene, with mannequins of animals, the 3 wise men bearing gifts, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. There are also little “huts” selling local traditional products (liqueurs of aniseed, cherry etc.), the famous *poncha* drink, *ginjinha* (liqueur made by infusing ginja berries (sour berries) in *aguardente* [firewater] and served in a chocolate cup, sandwiches with pork meat marinated in wine and garlic (*sandes de carne vinho e alho*) and much more! Funchal is well worth visiting this time of year!! ☺ MERRY CHRISTMAS!





## 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**  
**NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17**

**ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0008 0130 1547020**  
**IBAN: PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17**

**SWIFT: TOTAPTPL**

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

### Bible Group:

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

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.



### 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



**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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)