




24th December 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

4th 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

 Instagram:
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/



Capela Penha de França at Christmas time

THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome! Today is Christmas Eve, and we also celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. Father Bernardino is our English mass priest and will be celebrating Mass for us today, and on Christmas Day too!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(2 Sam 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Ps 88(89):2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38)

After seven years as King of Judah, David was anointed King of all the tribes of Israel. He then captured Jerusalem making it the capital of Israel. Then he increased his power by bringing into Jerusalem the Ark of the Covenant, the Lord's dwelling. But in our first reading the Lord tells David not to build a house for Him, because the Lord will himself build a house – ie a dynasty – founded on David. The long psalm, written during or after the exile, starts by reminding God of this promise to David, before asking God how long before He will fulfill His promise. Paul summarises the Good News: Jesus Christ is the revelation that God intends all humanity to be brought into community with God through faith. We are not justified and saved by the Jewish Law, but by Jesus' faith in his Father and by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Luke gives us the supreme example of faith: Mary agrees to God's invitation to be the mother of God's Son – the greatest 'Yes' in history! She does not know what might happen – except possibly death by stoning as an unmarried mother. By her faith and trust in God she becomes the first disciple. And God's promise to David is fulfilled.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

HYMN NUMBERS:

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

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

Christmas is coming – No. **90**

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

[3] **Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia**

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

Kumbayah – No. **302**

[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:**

Come, Lord Jesus, come – No. **104**



FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – The Scandal of Christmas

- *Brought to you by* Fr. Bernardino Andrade (bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

I DON'T BLAME THE JEWS:

All the Jewish traditions and teachings indicated that the Messiah was going to be a powerful leader trained to conduct wars against their enemies and the powerful especially against the Roman Empire that had them oppressed under political and financial laws.

One day they heard some news that the Messiah had come. But he had come as a poor and fragile baby. Mary «gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn». (Lk. 2: 7). For the poor this was good news. God became one of them. «The Word became flesh» (Jo.1:14). For the rich and powerful this was bad news. This news became a threat. This was a scandal. And it has been a scandal ever since. That's why the world of business took the place of the Messiah and Christmas was transformed into a «pagan winter festival» with a crib.

JESUS WAS A HOMELESS: There was no place for him in the inn (Lk. 2:7)

JESUS IS A HOMELESS: My friend Sara (not her real name) lives in Funchal. She attended the University of Madeira. Sara finished her studies. She is beautiful and full of dreams. No job, no money, no house. She has a precious child with a little mental challenge. A very «nice» and «cruel» state institution decided to «help» her. Took from her this precious child and put him in his grandparents' house where he was physically abused. What happened to my friend Sara? The street became her «house». The streets are a horrible place to sleep in. But it is even more horrible when you are a woman and when you are beautiful. Jesus was born a homeless. Jesus is homeless.

JESUS WAS A REFUGEE: The angel told Joseph: «... flee to Egypt. Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him». (Lk.2:14)

JESUS IS A REFUGEE: Thousands of people are, today, fleeing from their homelands because others want to destroy them.



I found God by surprise

Jesus is a homeless. Jesus is a refugee. If I don't understand this I will not understand Christmas.

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Christmas Day Mass in English tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Please join us

MY CHRISTMAS CARD TO YOU:



Venho desejar-lhe umas festas felizes e um ano novo radicalmente comprometido com o projeto do Messias:
trazer a Boa Nova da libertação aos pobres.(Lc.4)

Vengo desearle feliz navidad y un Año nuevo radicalmente comprometido con el proyecto del Messias ;
traer la buena noticia de liberacion a los pobres. (Lc 4)

I wish you a very happy christmas
and a new year radically committed with the Messia's project:
to bring the good news of liberation to the poor.(Lk.4)

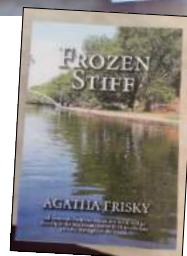
Merry Christmas from my heart to your heart!



CARDS FOR SALE – In our Social room

In the Social Room we have some lovely cards for sale at € 2,00 each. All proceeds will go towards the restoration work being planned for the chapel under the direction of Fr. Vitor Sousa. The biggest concern at this moment lies on the chancel ceiling (above the altar) which is slowly falling. A technical survey was conducted and Fr. Vitor is raising funds to carry out an intervention.

Please join us after Mass for a cup of coffee or tea (and some cake!) in the social room and have a look at the different cards available, or check out the books in our little library cabinet. We also have novel called "Frozen Stiff" (a light-hearted detective story) available for sale at €10,00. It was written by a visitor to our Chapel, Mrs Jane Caldwell, who has donated all proceeds from sales towards helping the "People Helping People" project (more info on the project on the back page of this newsletter).





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:

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>> BANK INFO:

BANK: Banco Santander Totta
NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17
SWIFT: TOTAPTPL

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

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.

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