



31st December 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

Holy Family Sunday - 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/



THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França! Today is New Year's Eve, and we also celebrate the Holy Family Sunday. Father Bernardino is our English mass priest and will be celebrating Mass for us today. This small chapel 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 been repaired and the ceiling restored through the generosity of a frequent visitor to our English Mass. The Diocese has also recently done some repairs in the social hall, and fixed the 3 bells in the Chapel's bell tower. **Today's Mass Collection will go towards the repair and restoration of the chancel ceiling and the roof of the Chapel.**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Psalm 104 (105):1 -6, 8-9; Hebrews 11:8,11 -12, 17 -19; Luke 2:22-40)

God responds to Abram's concern at his lack of heirs by promising him countless descendants. Even before male circumcision became a sign of this covenant, Abram was held righteous because he trusted in the Lord's promise. Such was his faith that he travelled to a new land, and believed God's promise of a son even in his old age. Sarah named their son Isaac, meaning "he who laughed": Sarah had laughed at God's promise that she would bear a son – now she perhaps feels the laugh is on her, caring for a new-born child in her nineties. The psalm praises God's goodness to his people, recounting His promises and care for them. The letter to the Hebrews describes how Abraham's faith was strong enough for the supreme test: would he sacrifice his son – his only son – to God? Just as God sacrificed his only son on the Cross to show how much he loves us. Luke's description of the consecration to God of Jesus, as Mary's first-born son, links Jesus' birth to God's promises: the promised redeemer has come, and Abraham's descendants in faith will indeed be as numerous as the stars. But God is always faithful to his promises and, in his justice, innermost thoughts will be revealed.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: **He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.**

HYMN NUMBERS:

Organ / Voice – Professor Fátima Cátia Marques

Cello – Professor Helena Paula Marques

[1] **Entry Hymn:**

Hark, The Herald Angels sing – No. 212

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

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

[4] **Offertory Hymn:** *Portuguese Hymn*

[5] **Sanctus:** *Holy* – No. 698

[6] **Agnus Dei:** *Lamb of God* – No. 737

[7] **Communion Hymn:**

Ave Maria gratia plena – No. 39

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

[9] **Final Hymn:**

Father, we adore you – No. 136

FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART

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

HOLY FAMILY – THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

The Catholic Liturgy celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday after Christmas. Church is about relationships. Family is about relationships. The difference between a good family and a bad family is the level of communication.



Last Monday, on Christmas Day, a large family with 7 children attended Mass here at the Chapel. They were on holiday in Madeira, visiting from France. During Mass I invited the family to come up to the altar and introduce themselves to everyone. I asked if each member of the family could say their name, age, and something that has been good about being part of a large family. The father of the family spoke first, and what he said was beautiful.



He said:

"Thank you very much Father. We have what can be considered a big family... seven children! Seven reasons to be happy; and Seven reasons to be sad sometimes. Seven people to love, and to be loved by... And I would say... seven reasons to thank God!"



ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Related with the «People Helping People» project, my Parish in California, started another project we called «Adopt a family for Christmas».

My Parish already had a program called «Christmas Baskets». But Christmas baskets had their rules and their paralyzing bureaucracies. It was supposed to be for Parishioners only with proof of residence. I have never been famous for following rules especially in dealing with people's suffering. When we build boundaries ("Parishioners only") we build walls that exclude people. Exclusion is the opposite of the Good Shepherd's dream. It is the opposite of church that is supposed to be a family. Besides I always believe that in Liturgy my main job is to mobilize many people to involve many people, and the same in dealing with the poor. My main job should be «to mobilize many people to help many people».

«*Adopt a family for Christmas*» consisted in taking the names of the people who needed help and the names of the people who were willing to help. Families willing to help would adopt a needy family and they would take care of their needs, like toys for the children, food or clothes or whatever. No association would be controlling them or telling them what to do or how to do it. The main thing would be to build a kind and loving relationship between the two families. The results were excellent.

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY

A homeless refugee family



- The Baby Jesus was born a homeless.
- His family were refugees in Egypt.
- I see the Baby Jesus in every homeless person I meet.
- I see the Holy Family in all refugees of the world.

ADOPT A HOMELESS FOR CHRISTMAS

Carla Rodrigues, one of the leaders of the *People Helping People* project in our Community decided to do, for the first time, something similar to «Adopt a Family for Christmas». But she went a little further. In the project *People Helping People*, Carla is dedicating her ministry towards the homeless. The results are slower but Carla is a woman who doesn't believe in quitting. Or, as she says, she will quit only when God quits. That means never. God never quits on any of His children.

She knows the statistics. When a person sleeps in the streets during three days, it takes three months to recover and to integrate that person back into society. When a person is homeless for three months it takes three years to recover that person and to integrate him/her back into society. That's why Carla knows that failures and lack of success are part of her job. The most important thing like Mother Teresa says, is not success but fidelity.

This year, December 25, Christmas Day, instead of preparing food and clothes for the homeless she invited one of them to join her family and have Christmas dinner at her home. Her parents were very cooperative and it was a great experience. Beto (not his true name), joined them, very clean and had also his Christmas present like anybody else. On Christmas Day, a new program was established with the name of «ADOPT A HOMELESS FOR CHRISTMAS». Thank you Carla. This is just the beginning of many beginnings and many failures. Maybe next Christmas we will have more people adopting a homeless for Christmas.

Love and Peace
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Carla, her parents Emício and Rosário, and Beto

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Tomorrow morning, January 1st, there will be a **Mass** in English at **10am** to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

The Solemnity of Mary is a liturgical feast day honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary's motherhood in the wake of the birth of the baby Jesus Christ. Please join us! ☺

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

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0008 0130 1547020

NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17

IBAN: PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

SWIFT: TOTAPPL

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