





11th February 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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/
-  Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Lev* 13: 1-2, 44-46; *Psalms* 31(32): 1-2,5,11; *I Cor* 10:31-11:1; *Mark* 1: 40-45)



Leviticus, the third book of the Pentateuch, describes rituals used by the priests. Laws and rituals kept Israelites in the state of legal purity to which they were called, as a sign of their union with the Lord. A leper had to live apart in a disheveled state, warning people to keep

away. A cleansing ritual was specified for anyone cured.

This penitential **psalm** celebrates the joy of confessing sins and knowing forgiveness. Omitted is a verse describing the misery of deferring confession.

Paul continues his theme of not placing obstacles which might hinder the spreading of the gospel. The **Corinthians** should eat whatever is put before them. They should not risk giving offence to their host, even if they suspect some food is ritually unclean by being offered to heathen gods before being sold in the market. But they should not eat food that they are told has been offered to idols – because that would offend their informant's conscience.

Mark's gospel continues with another healing, this time Jesus shows enormous tenderness in insisting that – of course – he wants to heal the leper. And he does so by touching the unclean leper – so becoming unclean himself. Jesus makes very visible how much God wants to heal us.

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



PSALM RESPONSE: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

HYMN NUMBERS:

Organ / Voice – Professor Fátima Cátia Marques

Cello – Professor Helena Paula Marques

[1] Entry Hymn:

Bind us together – No. 65

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

[3] Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia*

[4] Offertory Hymn: *Take our bread* – No. 528

[5] Sanctus: *Holy* – No. 704

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

[7] Communion Hymn: *Portuguese Hymn*

[8] Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

[9] Final Hymn: *Go, the Mass is ended* – No. 175

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Date: 14 February 2018

Time: 10am

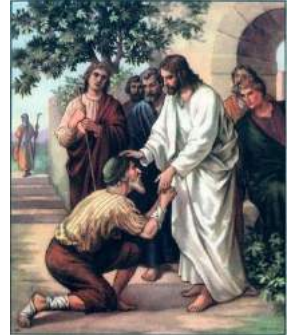
Fr. Bernardino will be celebrating mass on Ash Wednesday here at the Chapel. All are welcome!



FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART - Are You Crazy, Jesus?

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

In the New Testament there is no disease regarded with more terror and pity than leprosy. When Jesus sent out the twelve, He commanded them: «*Heal the sick, cleanse lepers*». Leprosy was a very special disease among all other diseases. The most painful, the most humiliating and the most repugnant. No other disease reduces a human being for so many years to so hideous a wreck. Lepers had to live separate from society. They could not attend the religious services in the synagogue, could not enter the temple, could not approach anybody... There were so many rules that were supposed to keep them outcasts and treated like outcasts. They were «unclean». They could not touch or be touched. Any person who touched them would become unclean.



In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 1, a leper came to Jesus and asked Jesus to heal him. If Jesus wanted to heal him it would be so easy to say «*be healed*». But Jesus proposedly broke the law. The «Gospel says that Jesus «stretch-out his hand and **touched him**». This was the moment that I am pretty sure that all people present gasped and asked him: «*Are you crazy, Jesus? Do you know what you are? You just became unclean. Like the leper*». I am pretty sure that people started talking with each other saying things like «*I thought he was smarter. Now he is unclean like the leper who is a sinner. If that leper was not a sinner for sure he wouldn't get leprosy. Jesus, who looks such a nice person and a smart person revealed his ignorance and his stupidity. He voluntarily became unclean like the leper. This is crazy*».

What a confusion. I would've loved to be in the middle of that confusion. I would've loved to become unclean for the same reason. For touching the untouchable. And I think we all are called to touch the untouchable and become unclean. But on my part I am too coward to act like Jesus and take the risks Jesus took. When people say that Jesus died innocent I always feel this strange reaction. «No! He was not innocent. He broke many laws and one of them was to touch the untouchable. According to the law he was a criminal and for that reason they felt he deserved to die like a criminal».

I wish I could die for the reasons Jesus died. But I am too coward to get involved in the things Jesus was involved in. I prefer to be «entertained» by a religious service on Sunday, take part in a few processions, pray a few rosaries than to be involved in the work and project of an «insane» Jesus who says that we are all children of the same father, that we are brothers and sisters and that the world belongs to every human being. I am smarter than Jesus. I know better. I am not that crazy.

2 - Who are today's lepers? Who are the untouchable?

They are around us. They live in our streets. They worship at our churches. These include homosexuals, AIDS victims, the homeless, alcoholics, drug-addicts, and marginalized groups – the divorced, the unmarried-single mothers, priests who left the priesthood, migrant workers and the mentally ill. God's loving and motherly hand must reach out to them through us. Jesus wants



us to touch their lives even at the risk of becoming unclean. Having a cup of coffee with a homosexual you take the risk of being labeled like one of them. You take the risk of being alienated like them. You take the risk of, like Jesus, becoming unclean. Having a cup of coffee with a homeless person you take the risk of being labeled like a person of low class. You take the risk of being ridiculed even by your friends. You take the risk of becoming ostracized by people in your church and getting a bad reputation. You take the risk of becoming unclean. But Jesus is a fascinating person. I invite all of you to join me and to feel like Jesus, to dream like Jesus, to talk like Jesus, to heal like Jesus and to follow

Jesus until the last consequences. To follow Jesus is not always easy but it is always safe.

3. Today when we celebrate the World Day of the Sick, I would like to give a special blessing to one of those «lepers» who stands every Sunday, begging, at the door of our Chapel before Mass. I plan to ask him inside for a special blessing. I don't know if he will accept. He is *António* (true name) and, for many years, he has belonged to the group of the homeless. He never sleeps in the same bench or the same drive way, or under the same tree. But I believe that he begs always in the same places, especially at the door of Penha de França Chapel. He knows where the good people are. In general they are the church goers.

Love and Peace and Laughter,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

26th WORLD DAY OF THE SICK – Today, Sunday, February 11th

Today is the 26th World Day of the Sick. Every year the pope sets a theme for the World Day of the Sick. The theme for this year is provided by the words that Jesus spoke from the Cross to Mary, his Mother: "*Woman, behold your son*" and to John: "*Behold your mother*". And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (Jn 19:26-27). The day also coincides with the commemoration of the Feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes.

FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES



February 11 is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, one of the most famous apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary that took place in southern France. Here in the Chapel, a little above and behind the altar, you will see a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes set in a "cave", with St. Bernadette kneeling at her feet. This statue was offered to Bishop D. Manuel Agostinho Barreto (Bishop of Funchal from 1877-1911) who lived permanently here at Penha de França during the 34 years of his pontificate. This bishop had the altar adapted to receive the image of Our Lady of Lourdes, the first of the island, which was offered in 1878 by the French citizen *M. Goubeaux* who lived in Madeira.

THE CARNIVAL SEASON – A Madeiran Tradition before Lent

In Madeira, **we are in the middle of the Carnival season right now**, which is celebrated just before the beginning of Lent. There has been a constant festive atmosphere on the island, with cheerfulness prevailing in the streets. Some **traditional gastronomic delicacies** which are meant to be eaten on Shrove Tuesday are "**Sonhos**" (*a fried dough, literally translated as "dreams" because they are fluffy and are eaten with black sugar-cane honey*) and "**Malassadas**" (*literally translated as "under-cooked"*) are egg-sized balls of yeast dough that are more compact and are also deep-fried in oil and coated with granulated sugar. The main attraction of the Carnival season on the island is **last night's** colourful and vibrant **Carnival Float Parade** which took place in the centre of Funchal, with participants dressed in eye-catching costumes. On Shrove Tuesday, **13th of February, at 16h00, there will be another parade, this time a Slapstick Parade (known locally as "O Cortejo Trapalhão")**. The parade is open to all, both locals and foreign citizens, either independently or as a group. Many participant's creativity knows no boundaries and spans from social and political satire, to traditional themes, or simple character disguise.



"Sonhos"
with honey



"Malassadas"
with sugar

ABOUT THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF PENHA DE FRANÇA:

Because today's newsletter is a special one... it's number 100 (!) we decided to write a little bit about the history of the Chapel. This small chapel was



Photo of the Chapel from the 1800s, showing the peak on which it was built. Photo credit: from the facebook page: *Madeira Quase Esquecida*

founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622 (that's almost 400 years ago!) It was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the *Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold)* in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. The Chapel was reconstructed in 1712 and further enlarged around 1880. From 1935 to 2015, the Franciscans based their Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, and in 2015 they moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos. The Chapel reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal at that time, and in October 2016 a Chaplain, Fr. Vitor Sousa, was appointed to the Chapel.

The English Mass is a tradition that dates back to 1966, when Fr Rafael Andrade, having just returned from his first visit to England, complied with the Bishop's request to start an English celebration. Fr Rafael presided over this mass for over 30 years, when he had to stop in 1999 due to overlapping duties. For eight years there was no Catholic mass in English in Madeira, until it began again on the first Sunday of Lent in 2007.

The Legend of Our Lady of Penha de França

At the entrance door of the Chapel, if you look upwards, just above your head you will **see a painting of a sleeping man**, with an alligator waiting to attack him. This has to do with a legend, which tradition has it that a **pilgrim, on the road to the shrine of Our Lady of Penha de França in Lisbon**, stopped by the way and **fell into a deep sleep of exhaustion**. Whilst he slept, a fearsome reptile was about to devour him, when Our Lady, surrounded by an aura of light, appeared upon the hilltop and awakened the pilgrim, warning him of the danger.

The beast was slain, and the hide carried to the church in Lisbon. Without the head, it measured 14 hands, and was covered in thick greenish black scales. Stuffed with straw, it was on view in the church there until 1739, when it had to be removed owing to its dilapidated condition. At the foot of any statue of our Lady of Penha de França you will always see a sleeping man and an alligator to represent this legend.



Our Priest and Chaplain

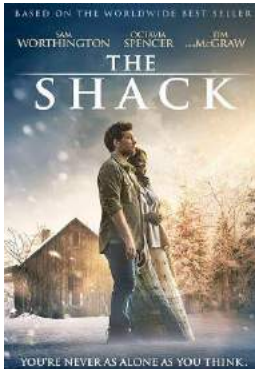


Father Bernardino Andrade is our appointed English Mass priest on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. This mass is the only Catholic Mass in English on the whole island. Fr Bernardino was born and grew up in Madeira but has worked as a Priest in both Mozambique and, for many years, in California.

Father Vitor Sousa was appointed Chaplain of Penha de França in October 2016. He celebrates the Portuguese Masses here at the Chapel on Saturdays (18:30pm) and on Sunday mornings (11:30am). Fr Vitor was born in Madeira and is very involved with the youth.



MOVIE OF THE MONTH – The Shack

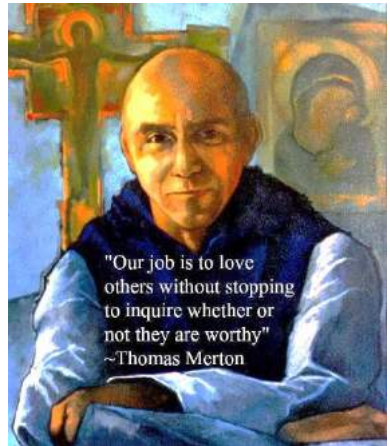


The main character of the movie is Mackenzie (called "**Mack**" by his family and friends); a **man who doesn't really believe in God**, who is married to a woman that is so close to God that she treats him as "Papa".

Four years prior to the main events, Mack takes his 3 children on a camping trip where two of them nearly drown, and as he goes to save them he leaves his youngest daughter, Missy, alone. After Mack returns, he sees that Missy is missing. The police are called, and the family discovers that Missy has been abducted and murdered by a serial killer. The police find an

abandoned shack in the woods where Missy was taken. Her bloodied clothing are found, but her body is not located. **Mack's life sinks into what he calls "The Great Sadness"**. Four years later, **he receives a note in his mailbox from "Papa"**, saying that he would like to meet with Mack that coming weekend at the shack. Mack is puzzled by the note, but **he leaves to go alone** to the shack, unsure of what he will see there. He arrives and initially finds nothing, but as he is leaving, **someone (Jesus) calls him and asks him to follow. And so he is led to a beautiful shack where he encounters the other two persons of the Trinity**. God the Father takes the form of an African American woman who calls herself Elousia and Papa; Jesus is a Middle Eastern carpenter; and the Holy Spirit physically manifests as an Asian woman named Sarayu. They help him to better understand his life as seen from a much broader context or higher perspective. This realization helps free him from an inclination to pass judgment upon himself as well as upon everyone else who crosses his path. A movie worth watching!

INSPIRING QUOTES:



THE SOCIAL HALL – Come and have a look:



Please join us after Mass in the social hall of the Chapel (just across the garden) for a **cup of coffee, tea, homemade cake and a chat!** ☕

We have a **visitor's book** in the social hall, where you can leave a message, and tell us where you are from! You can also leave us your comments or suggestions. There is a world map to the one side, where you can place a pin on your home town! 📍

There is also a **Free Little Library**: a cabinet full of books. You're welcome to take a book, leave one in exchange, or contribute with a small donation for the book you take – all proceeds go to our *People Helping People* fund. We are in partnership with Sinead (from Moynihan's Irish Bar, on the corner up the road from the Chapel) who collects any unwanted books, so feel free to pop in there and borrow or swap a book, or leave a donation. Happy Reading! 📖

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

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).



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

>> 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

SWIFT: TOTAPTL

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

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0008 0130 1547020

IBAN: PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

BOOK SALE – Frozen Stiff - by Agatha Frisky



Mrs. Caldwell

For the last two Sundays after the 10am Mass in English, we have had a special “book sale” here at the Chapel. **Mrs Jane Caldwell**, from England, **wrote a murder-mystery novel called «Frozen Stiff»**, under the pseudonym of *Agatha Frisky*. All proceeds from the sale of her book have been generously donated to the Madeiran charity: “*People Helping People*” (PHP). Thanks to Mrs Caldwell, and all who supported the book sale last week Sunday, **100 euros** was raised towards helping those in need.

There are still a few copies of the book available in the Social Room for anyone who would like a copy. The cost is **10**

Euros per book; *absolutely every cent will go directly to PHP. Alternatively, the book is also available as a Kindle e-book for £3,50.*



Bible Group:

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic Bible Group: Thursday, February 8th, was the last Bible Group Meeting. **Lent Group** meetings are being planned – starting February 15th.

For more info, please contact Chris:
chris@chris-oliver.net

English Church (Holy Trinity) Library,
Rua do Quebra Costas nr.18, Funchal.

LENT Begins This Wednesday – 14th of February

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and marks the first day of Lent (a season of fasting and prayer). This year Lent will begin on February 14th, and end on Thursday, March 29th.

