

11<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

4th Sunday of Lent - 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)  
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 Email: [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

**Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França!** Today is the 4th Sunday of Lent. Father Bernardino is our English mass priest who celebrates Mass for us here at the Chapel every Sunday morning at 10am.



## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(2 *Chron* 36: 14-23; *Psalms* 136 (137); *Eph* 2: 4-10; *John* 3: 14-21)



Today's reading from **Chronicles** recalls Israel's exile. The Temple, central to the Jewish religion, had been defiled, followed by Israel's seventy year exile in Babylon. Then the Persian King Cyrus called for the people to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple on Mount Moriah, where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac. After their return in 540 BC Ezra re-discovered the Jewish Law and the people renewed their covenant with God. **The psalm** then recalls how the Israelites refused to sing for their captors while in mourning for Mount Zion.

Paul's letter to the **Ephesians** emphasises the unity of the world-wide Church, based firmly on God's saving love, shown in Jesus Christ. We have been saved by grace, a gift from God. The phrase "in Christ Jesus" occurs frequently, reminding us of the ending of every Eucharistic Prayer. Christ will bring all things to perfection "in him" – and that includes us! "We are God's work of art". In **John's gospel**, after telling Nicodemus that he must be "born again", Jesus tells him "God sent his Son into the world" so that "the world might be saved" through him. Jesus' coming provokes judgement, both now and in the future. If our deeds are true we come into the light.

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

## PSALM RESPONSE:

**O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!**

### HYMN NUMBERS:

**Organ / Voice** – Professor Fátima Cátia Marques

**Cello** – Professor Helena Paula Marques

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** Lent Hymn: *Colours of day* – No. 93
- [2] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy* – No. 659
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Glory and praise to You* – No. 690
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** Lent Hymn: *Lord Jesus think on me* – No. 340
- [5] **Sanctus:** *Holy* – No. 704
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** *Lamb of God* – No. 737
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** *Portuguese Lent Hymn*
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** *Instrumental*
- [9] **Final Hymn:** Lent Hymn: *Word made flesh* – No. 635



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

It is not part of the Portuguese culture to express their love, and not even to say «I love you». I am not proud of this part of my culture. There are so many people who are dying to get an expression of love but unfortunately it is not part of our daily language. Many people who know how to speak English may be talking in Portuguese but if they feel like saying «I love you» they say it in English. Many people feel awkward to say «*Eu amo-te*» (that means «I love you» in Portuguese).

But, especially mothers, have a way of saying «I love you» to their babies that if you heard them saying it without seeing what is going on, you would feel the urgency to call the police.



When they are uncontrollably in love (that's what happens with most of the mothers) their expression of love is also uncontrollable and their words sometimes sound violent. I have seen many mothers holding their babies in their arms, with their cheeks or their lips touching their baby's little face and saying «crazy» words like «I will squeeze you», «I will bite you», «I will eat you». And the baby doesn't stop giggling. The baby already understands the language of love. The language of love doesn't have to make sense.

Most people who are familiar with the Bible and get their spiritual nourishment from the Bible, have their favourite verses. I don't have any doubt that one of the most favourite and quoted verses of the Bible we find in today's Gospel (4th Sunday of Lent B).

**\*«God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life»\*** (John 3:16)

When I read this verse, I see in my imagination a God who is uncontrollably, passionately and romantically in love with each one of us. It is like saying «*I feel like squeezing you, I feel like biting you, I feel like eating you*». I even feel like seeing God saying «*you can live without me but I can not live without you*».



I confess that in my spiritual journey this has been the most difficult aspect of my life: to believe that God loves me without any conditions. To believe that I can use all my imagination but I will never be able to do anything that would stop God of loving me. I am surrounded by so many conditions. I impose so many conditions in myself that it is almost impossible to believe that God is not like me.

For us Catholics, the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** or **Confession** should be part of our Lenten journey. **It is in this Sacrament that we are reconciled with God, with others and with ourselves.** There is nothing more comforting than at the end of our confession, receiving the absolution and hearing the words: «*Go in Peace*».

*Lord, especially during this time of Lent, help me to believe that you love me, even if I don't care. Even if I don't love you. Help me to make specific changes in my life that when I get to Easter I will be a completely different person because I will be able to come out from the tomb like you, and with you.*

**Love and Peace**

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

*Go in peace*

## I ABSOLVE YOU... - Confession During Lent



*"I absolve you from all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
The Lord has freed you from all your sins, go in peace."*

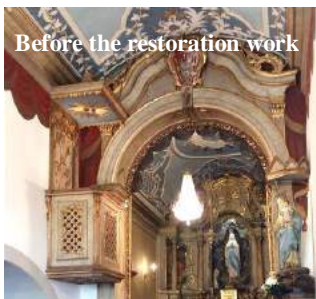
During Lent, **Father Bernardino** will be available to **celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Confessions**. As the Chapel is very small and there is no area that is private enough for this, Tadhg and Sinead, the owners of *Moynihan's Irish Bar* have graciously allowed Father to use the upper section of Bar of their restaurant to hear confessions after Mass.

(Moynihan's Irish Bar is at the top of the road, only a short walk up from the Chapel... you can't miss it!).

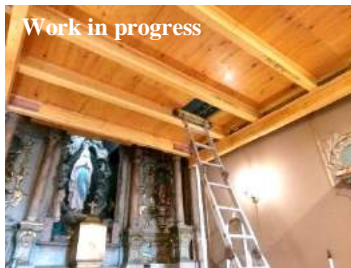
This morning, after celebrating the 10am Mass here at the Chapel, Father Bernardino will make his way up the road from the Chapel to *Moynihans'* so that he will be available to hear confessions if anyone so wishes. ~

## FUNDRAISER – Buy a Raffle Ticket & help Restore the Chapel

Father Vitor Sousa (our chaplain) has been raising funds towards repairs which are urgently needed to preserve and restore our beautiful Chapel, which is almost 400 years old! As you can see, restoration work has already begun on the ceiling above the Altar. **Raffle tickets** are available for sale in the social hall of the Chapel at a cost of **1 euro** each, with the purpose of raising funds to pay for the restoration work necessary. Thank you to all who have supported the raffle so far! If you haven't bought a ticket yet, why not try your luck and stand a chance of winning one of 27 prizes!



Before the restoration work



Work in progress

THE CEILING ABOVE THE ALTAR



Work in progress

## MADEIRA LITERARY FESTIVAL – 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March

From March 13th to 17th, the Baltazar Dias Municipal Theatre will host another edition of Madeira Literary Festival, an event that attracts writers, poets and literary critics, locals and foreigners who will generate a wealth of ideas and cultural exchange. Entrance is free. As in previous years, the festival features the launch of a new book and debates on different literary topics. The theme this year is "Literature and Journalism, the word that captures and the word that frees".



## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



*People Helping People 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  
**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

### PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Where we helped this Week: 25 February – 03 March 2018

Description	+ €	- €	Total €
Balance B/F from 24/02			- 518,14
PHP Mass Collection	325,00		- 193,14
Donations	5,47		- 187,67
<b>Expenses Paid:</b>			
1. House Rents		0,00	- 187,67
2. Medication		102,26	- 289,93
3. Doctor's Appointments		0,00	- 289,93
4. Bus fares		235,20	- 525,13
5. Water		0,00	- 525,13
6. Electricity		0,00	- 525,13
7. Gas		0,00	- 525,13
8. Telephone		0,00	- 525,13
9. Food		164,54	- 689,67
10. Miscellaneous		16,80	- 706,47
Balance at 3 <sup>rd</sup> March			- 706,47

### Tea and Coffee

After Mass

Please join us in  
the Social Hall



### Bible Group:

**Joint Anglican - Roman  
Catholic Bible Group:**

The Lent Course.

**Thursdays:** 2pm - 3.30pm.

**Where:** Trinity rooms of  
the English Church.

**For more info contact**

**Jean Faulkner:**

shallomhouse@freeuk.co.uk

**English Church**

**(HolyTrinity Church),**

**Rua do Quebra Costas**

**nr.18, Funchal.**

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)

