




8th April 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday - 2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

 **Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

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THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Happy Easter! Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de França. The Chapel 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. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they 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 and the ceiling were repaired and restored a few years ago 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. More repairs are currently taking place inside the Chapel, which are urgently needed to preserve the beauty of this Chapel.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Acts 4: 32-35; Psalm: 117(118); 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31)

During the six weeks of Easter the first readings are from the Book of Acts, in which Luke describes Jesus continuing his ministry through the Church after his earthly life ended. Not intimidated by his arrest, Peter continued to attract many Jews to follow Jesus. Today we hear how this growing community held their assets in common. The next verses give two examples: Barnabas who gave the proceeds from selling a field; and Ananias and his wife, who held back some of the proceeds and were struck dead by Peter in his Apostolic role as a Judge of Israel. The dramatic Passover psalm from Easter Sunday is repeated today more fully, thanking God for repeatedly coming to our rescue and saving us. The second readings in Eastertide are from the first letter of John, whose gospel said little about Jesus' humanity and his moral teachings. Some members of John's community needed to be reminded that our faith is in a man, Jesus, who is Son of God, God's Christ. Loving God means keeping his commandments. The gospel reading is the beautiful first ending of John's gospel, after Thomas, in the highest expression of faith in any of the gospels, acclaims Jesus as "My Lord and my God". (By: Chris Oliver)

PSALM RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

HYMN NUMBERS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** *Bind us together* – No. 65
- [2] **Penitential Act:** *Lord, have mercy* – No. 659
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** *Aleluia*
- [4] **Offertory 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 Hymn*
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** *Take our bread* – No. 528
- [9] **Final Hymn: Lent Hymn:** *Go, the Mass is ended* – No. 175

Organ / Voice –

Prof. Cátia Marques

Cello –

Prof. Helena Marques



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

Introduction

The readings for this Sunday are about God's mercy, the necessity for trusting Faith and our need for the forgiveness of our sins. The opening prayer addresses the Father as "God of everlasting Mercy." In the Responsorial Psalm (Ps 118), we repeat several times, "His mercy endures forever!" God revealed His mercy, first and foremost, in sending His only-begotten Son to become our Savior and Lord through His suffering, death and Resurrection. Divine Mercy is given to us also in each celebration of the Sacraments, instituted to sanctify us.

1 - SHAKING THE HAND OF HIS TO BE ASSASSIN

Divine Mercy in action: A *TIME* magazine issue in 1984 presented a startling cover. It pictured a prison cell where two men sat on metal folding chairs. The young man wore a blue turtleneck sweater, blue jeans and white running shoes. The older man was dressed in a white robe and had a white skullcap on his head. They sat facing one another, up-close and personal. They spoke quietly so as to keep others from hearing the conversation. The young man was Mehmet Ali Agca, the pope's would-be assassin (he shot and wounded the Pope on May 13, 1981); the other man was Pope St. John Paul II, the intended victim. The Pope held the hand that had held the gun whose bullet had torn into the Pope's body. This was a living icon of mercy. John Paul's forgiveness was deeply Christian. His deed with Ali

Agca spoke a thousand words. He embraced his enemy and pardoned him. At the end of their 20-minute meeting, Ali Agca raised the Pope's hand to his forehead as a sign of respect. John Paul shook Ali Agca's hand tenderly. When the Pope left the cell he said, "What we talked about must remain a secret between us. I spoke to him as a brother whom I have pardoned and who has my complete trust." This is an example of God's Divine Mercy, the same Divine Mercy whose message St. Faustina witnessed.



2 - MERCY DURING TRAGEDY

The news is filled with illustrations of mercy - or the need for mercy - in our world. One of the most moving stories came to us on October 6, 2006, when an armed man entered an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. He chased out the little boys and lined up the 10 little girls in front of the blackboard. He shot all of them and then killed himself. Five of the girls died. After the medics and police left, the families of the fallen came and carried their slain children home. They removed their bloody clothes and washed the bodies. They sat for a time and mourned their beloved children. After a while they walked to the home of the man who killed their children. They told his widow they forgave her husband for what he had done, and they consoled her for the loss of her spouse. They buried their anger before they buried their children. Amish Christians teach us that forgiveness is central. They believe in a real sense that God's forgiveness of themselves depends on their extending forgiveness to other people. That's what the mercy of God is all about. That mercy is why we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. (Rev. Alfred McBride, O.Praem: Catholic Update – March 2008).



Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

SAINT OF THE MONTH: Saint Catherine of Siena (Feast Day 29 April)

Saint Catherine was connected to the Dominican Order. A theologian and scholar she is one of a small band of intellectuals who became influential doctors of the Church. Her devotion was marked by mystical phenomena such as the display of stigmata.



She lived at a time when the Church was in great turmoil. Pope Gregory XI was in Avignon, whilst Pope Urban VI presided in Rome. Saint Catherine used her diplomatic skills to great effect and came down in favour of the latter. She died, exhausted by her efforts, in April 1380 and is buried in the Basilica of Santa Maria sopra Minerva in Rome.

Together with Saint Francis of Assisi she is joint Patron Saint of Italy and was proclaimed Patron Saint of Europe by Pope John Paul II in 1999.

ST. FAUSTINA and the image of The Divine Mercy

St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. She was born in 1905, and belonged to the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy; she was a Polish Roman Catholic nun and mystic.

Throughout her life, Faustina reported having visions of Jesus and conversations with him, of which she wrote in her diary. On the night of Sunday, 22 February 1931, Jesus appeared to her as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays emanating from his heart. In her diary she wrote that Jesus told her:

«Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You" [in Polish: "Jezu, ufam Tobie"]. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.» - Jesus also told her that he wanted the Divine Mercy image to be «solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.» - Not knowing how to paint, Faustina approached some other nuns at the convent for help, but received no assistance. Only three years later, after her assignment to Vilnius, the first artistic rendering of the image was performed under her direction. The painting now hangs in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The coloured rays streaming out from the heart of Jesus have symbolic meaning... red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls, and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The brightest point in the picture is the heart. The light on the forehead signifies the presence of the Father. - The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.



FUNDRAISER – Last chance to 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 have been on sale (**1 euro each**) in the social hall of the Chapel to help raise these funds. 27 prizes can be won (incl. dinner for 2 at The Vine hotel; an Official T-shirt of the soccer team Club Sport Marítimo; & Tea for 2 people at Belmonte Reid's Palace Madeira!) If you haven't bought a ticket, **today is your last chance!**

Don't miss out! The final draw is next Sunday, April 15th, at 12h30 in the Social Hall.

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:

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Please remember to **leave** your yellow *Hymn Book* and *Order of the Mass* sheets **on the table at the Chapel entrance after mass** 😊



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!

Our Social Hall has 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



COFFEE & CAKE

Tea and Coffee After Mass

Please join us in the Social Hall across the garden for a cup of coffee and a chat.



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 receive this newsletter every Sunday by email, ask to be included on the distribution list. Send an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org**