




29th July 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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
 **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 we are once again blessed by the presence of Father Aires Gameiro (from the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God). He will be standing in for Father Bernardino, who is still away on his much-deserved 2 week break. Thank you Father Aires Gameiro!

After this 10am Mass in English, there will be a mass in Portuguese celebrated by Father *Vitor Sousa*, at 11h30.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS



(2 Kings 4:42-44 ; Ps 144(145) ; Ephesians 4:1-6 ; John 6:1-15)

Six books, Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings, tell Israel's story from the death of Moses until the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC and the exile to Babylon. While individuals strived for political control, prophets criticised the worshipping of other gods. **Elijah had given his mantle to Elisha**, who has been establishing his authority with several miracles for both Jews and Gentiles. As well as the feeding miracle we hear about today, Elisha also restored the Shunammite's son back to life and cured Naaman's leprosy. **The psalm praises God's lordship** over all creatures and his generous responses to all our requests. **After emotionally praying** that the Ephesians may be strengthened by Christ dwelling in their hearts, Paul now urges them to follow Christ in the way they live.

Although this is the year of Mark, his gospel is short, so for five weeks we now read from chapter six of John's gospel. John has no institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Instead Jesus washes the disciples' feet, and his teaching on the Eucharist is given earlier, after the feeding miracle described today. We will see the range of reactions his teaching prompted, with some ceasing to follow him.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry Hymn: "Spirit of the Living God" - n. 516

Offertory Hymn: "Father, I place into your hands" - n. 134

Communion Hymn: *Instrumental*

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

Final Hymn: "Give me Joy in my Heart" - n. 161





In all periods of time there is a lot of talk on the poor... on trying to solve the problem of poverty. It always remains unsolved. In all talks, culprits are found. On the other hand, some give food, clothing, and shelter to many poor people. There are a large number of theories on how to end poverty. Even some very rich people are doing much to end, not poverty, but the poor victims of poverty, disease and misery. Many are inventing techniques so that there may be no poor, sick and weak people; ranging from abandonment, to technologies of not letting them be born, and to discarding the disabled.

For 2000 years the words of Jesus have been remembered and misunderstood: "You will always have the poor among you" (Jn 12: 8) and forgotten the parable: there was a rich man and a poor man, Lazarus, with wounds at his door, to whom not even crumbs the rich man gave (Luke 16: 19-31).



It is little remembered that Jesus receives what is done to the poor. They "are" Him. Many reject the poor because they reject Jesus. They do not want to accept a weak and poor Saviour Messiah, nor those who believe in him and are by his side; they only accept powerful and rich saviours who crush the poor. This is what led Jesus to the cross. They admired and preferred *Barabbas*, the robber, to a "meek and humble of heart" Messiah.

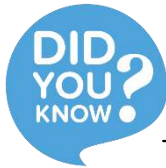
They do not accept the poor, so they do not accept a poor and weak Jesus; they do not accept Jesus, so they do not accept poor people. Christ, Son of God, and the poor, are inseparable. One accepts each other or rejects each other.

Darwinism, Nietzsche (ism), Marxism, Leninism, Nazism, Stalinism, Maoism and other ideologies are implacable examples of rejection of weak, poor and miserable people. Nazism seems to be the first anti-Christian ideology that made laws to favour animals more than poor and weak people.

On the contrary, thousands of merciful men help their poor brethren because they accept Jesus Christ and see them as images of Jesus. The rejection of the poor and the sick makes it difficult to accept Jesus Christ and His true word. Big titles world events that are contradictory can be better understood in the light of what is done or not done to the poor / weak and to Jesus Christ. To respect the dignity and life of the poor; to give them food, clothing, home, school, health care even if they are incurable patients, is wisdom of the heart, which improves givers

and receivers' quality of life. Without this wisdom, humans despise diamonds because they are dirty.

Are not abortion, euthanasia, putting animals before children, the poor and refugees comparable to throwing away the baby with dirty water? Are they not similar practices to Darwinism and Nazism? The poor, and Jesus Christ, are always together in the heart of merciful people.



Did you know that a tiny microfilm Bible was the first to make a lunar landing with Apollo 14? The Bible, measuring 1.5 by 1.5 inches, can be read only with a microscope - and is today being called by collectors “one of the rarest books in the world.”

The Lunar Bible began on a tragic note on January 27th, 1967. During a launch-pad test, a flash fire broke out and 3 astronauts were killed. Before his death, lunar module pilot, Ed White, said to a reporter that he hoped someday to take a Bible to the moon. To honour the astronaut's memory, a series of events took place over many years until White's dream was finally realized in 1971 when astronaut Edgar Mitchell took the Lunar Bible to the moon.



The Lunar Bible

Source: <https://twitter.com/museumofBible/status/1021772471412903936>

POPE FRANCIS SENDS TELEGRAM – for Victims of Wildfires in Greece

Source: www.zenit.org/articles/pope-sends-telegram-of-condolences-for-those-affected-by-wildfires-in-greece/



Pope Francis expressed his condolences in a telegram he sent to the loved ones and victims of those affected by the wildfires in Greece this week. Recent forest fires have left at least 87 dead



and many more seriously injured in the small resort of Mati, 18 miles east of Athens. In his message sent on Tuesday, July 24th, on the Pope's behalf by Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Pope Francis assured those suffering, of his prayers, and thanked those responding to the tragedy and commended the souls of those who died to the merciful love of almighty God.



THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

Love the poor tenderly, regarding them as your masters and yourselves as their servants.

– St. John of God

God loves us more than a father, mother, friend or anyone else could, even more than we are able to love ourselves.

– St. John Chrysostom

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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

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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>> BANK INFO:

BANK: Banco Santander Totta

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0008 0130 1547020

NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17

IBAN: PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

SWIFT: TOTAPTPL

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

JOIN US AFTER MASS FOR TEA AND COFFEE!

- The **Social Room** is right across the garden, **in front of the Chapel**. Please feel free to go there after mass this morning, and **enjoy a cup of coffee or tea**, and cake.



- We also have a **Visitor's Book** there, where you can leave a message, tell us what country you are from, write a short note about your experience of being at mass in Penha de França Chapel, or give us any suggestions.

- We have a **world map where you can put a pin on your home town**. Please take a few minutes to do this... we'd love to know where you're from!



- And we also have a **Little Free Library** where 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 please join us!** 😊



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*). **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. **We can email this newsletter to you every week. If you would like to receive it, just email the word "Newsletter" to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com**, or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org