



26th August 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

21st 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

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Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622! This 10 am Sunday Mass is the only Catholic Mass celebrated in English on the whole island of Madeira.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18; Psalm 33(34); Eph 5: 21-32; John 6: 60-69)



The Book of Joshua summarises Israel's history from the death of Moses until they settle in the Promised Land. Before he dies Joshua invites the tribes of Israel to promise to obey the Lord and to put aside all other gods. In solemn assembly the people rehearse all the Lord did for them when Moses led them through the desert.

Three times they solemnly renew the covenant by the stone at Shechem, in Samaria. Last week the **psalm** urged us to fear the Lord; now it assures us that the Lord rescues the just man from all misfortune. Our last reading from **Paul's letter to the Ephesians**: we must imitate Christ, whatever our role in society. We should "be subject to one another". "Wives, be subject to your husbands" and "children, obey your parents"; balanced by "fathers, do not provoke your children" and "husbands, love your wives". In chapter six of **John's Gospel** we hear more reactions to Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. Like Nicodemus not understanding how he could be "born from above", many disciples could not accept this teaching. Why is eating his flesh more difficult to accept than his Ascension? These things are "real" – part of the heavenly realm, which we are invited to share, but life given only by the Spirit.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry Hymn: "Morning has broken like the first morning," – n. 368


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

Communion Hymn: *Instrumental*

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

Final Hymn: "The Spirit lives to set us free" - n. 561



This morning's hymns are led by **Larysa Makarova** on the violin  (Larysa is from the Ukraine) and **Irene de Sousa** who is from London, UK. Irene is on holiday in Madeira and has joined Larysa for the last two Sundays! Irene is a professional church organist, who has played around the world. She has played the organ from the age of 15, and does a Youth choir in her Parish Church in Purley! Thank you Irene and Larysa! 😊

1.

Jesus is a fascinating man. Jesus is a very kind and a very attractive man. He attracted multitudes. Healed the sick, played with children, left 99 good sheep and looked for the stupid, for the least, the last, the lost, the run-away. And when He found His lost sheep, bleeding, dirty, and smelling like urine and feces, approached her, very gently, with no questions asked, took her in His arms and brought her home.



Sometimes the Sunday Mass can be very beautiful, very alive, and very inspirational and very attractive. Sometimes it can be boring, uncomfortable, challenging and disturbing. The truth is that the Eucharist is never meant to be a Sunday spiritual entertainment.

In today's Gospel (*21st Sunday of the year, Cycle B, John 6: 60-69*), Jesus gives to people a completely different image of what His followers thought He was. That sweet and attractive Jesus all of a sudden becomes very disturbing. He talked about eating His flesh. And the biggest challenge was that eating His flesh had disturbing and subversive consequences. What happened then? «Many of His disciples left Him and stopped going with Him. Then Jesus said to the twelve: *What about you? Do you want to go away too?* » (John 6: 60-69)

2.

A Disturbing Jesus in a disturbing world

According to the Assistant Director General of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, about one-half billion of the over four billion people who live on earth are at the brink of starvation daily.

Some 200 million children become mentally handicapped or blind due to a lack of nutritious food, and another 10 million succumb to other hunger-related illness. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately one-third of the world's population is underfed and one-third is hungry. Four million people die each year of starvation and 70% of children under six are undernourished. Equally alarming are the statistics which estimate that approximately three billion members of the human family suffer from chronic *spiritual* hunger and/or malnutrition. These hunger pangs must also be recognized, as this hunger can be just as lethal as its physical counterpart. In recognition of this fact, the Church puts the gathered assembly in touch each week with the food that will satisfy its hungers. Each week the community is fed with the Bread of Life, in both word and sacrament; nourished by this essential food, every believer receives the strength needed for continuing to live a committed life. (Celebration)

This is highly disturbing: There is a lady who attends Mass in one of the churches where I help, when she hears me talking about the poor and the suffering she very openly leaves the church during my sermon to return when I finish. It is really an act of protest against bringing to church themes that are «not proper». Nothing new. His disciples did the same. I am afraid that many Christians don't agree about the «proper themes for a proper church».

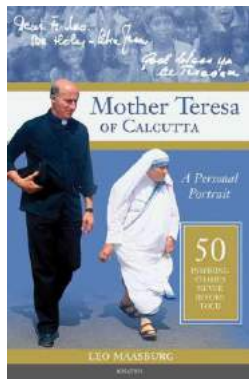
Love and Peace

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



THE MEMORARE – Mother Teresa’s “Flying Novena” to Our Lady

Source: www.ncregister.com/blog/joseph-pronechen/mother-teresas-express-line-to-heaven-novena



Have you ever prayed *The Memorare prayer* - Mother Teresa’s “Flying Novena”? It is reported that she often prayed this miraculous prayer whenever big problems arose that needed an immediate dose of grace. Msgr. Leo Maasburg, her friend and spiritual advisor, explained in his book *“Mother Teresa of Calcutta: A Personal Portrait”* that it was “Mother Teresa’s spiritual rapid-fire weapon. It consisted of ten Memorares - not nine, as you might expect from the word *novena*. Novenas lasting nine days were quite common among the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity. But given the host of problems that were brought to Mother Teresa’s attention, not to mention the pace at which she traveled, it was often just not possible to allow nine days for an answer from Celestial Management. And so she invented the Flying Novena.” A novena is typically a nine-day period of prayer for a particular petition. **But sometimes a**

petition is so urgent we can’t spare nine days. For these occasions, we can use St. Teresa of Calcutta’s flying novena. A quick internet search uncovers hundreds of stories of miracles attributed to this prayer. Testimonies of fixed financial problems, new jobs, redeemed relationships, and physical healing fill the comment sections each time the novena is mentioned. With a flying novena, you pray nine Memorares immediately in a row. Because she often experienced miraculous effects through her flying novenas, Mother Teresa typically added a tenth Memorare as a gesture of thanksgiving for what was sure to be an answered prayer. “Mother Teresa used this prayer constantly: for petitions for the cure of a sick child; before important discussions, or when passports went missing; to request heavenly aid when the fuel supply was running short on a night-time mission and the destination was still far away in the darkness”.

Typical Quick Answer

A few years ago during a conversation with Father Brian Kolodiejchuk of the Missionaries of Charity, the postulator of the cause for Blessed Teresa’s canonization, **gave an example of what happened when Mother Teresa prayed this Flying Novena** as the need arose or a difficulty presented itself. He quoted Mother herself describing one of many instances: “In Rome during the Holy Year (1984), the Holy Father was going to celebrate Mass in the open, and crowds of people were gathered. It was pouring rain, so I told the sisters, ‘Let us say a flying novena of nine Memorares to Our Lady in thanksgiving for beautiful weather.’ As we said two Memorares, it started to pour more rain. We said the third ... sixth ... seventh ... and at the eighth one, all the umbrellas were closing, and when we finished the ninth one, we found all the umbrellas were closed.”

Here is how to pray the way Mother Teresa did it: What you do, is make the sign of the cross, then state your intentions, then (sincerely) pray the Memorare prayer:

“Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to Thy protection, implored Thy help, or sought Thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto Thee, oh Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To Thee do I come, before Thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. Oh Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petition, but in Thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.”

... then state your intentions again, then (sincerely) pray the Memorare prayer, and you keep doing this until you have stated your intentions and recited the Memorare 9 times, and a tenth Memorare immediately, in thanksgiving for the favor received.”

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: 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*); Larysa and Josefina (*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 by email every Sunday, just email the word "Newsletter" to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com, or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org