JOYFUL GIFT

2nd September 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass
22nd 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/

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França!

Lady of Penha de França!
 The special intention of this morning's Mass will be for David Hodge who passed away 2 years ago, on the 4th of September 2016. David lived in Madeira with his wife Manuela, and was a successful accountant for the Pestana group for many years before his retirement. He is very much missed by his wife, his 3 daughters, his friends Tadhg and Sinead Moynihan, and by all who knew him. May his Soul rest in peace ¹/₁

Here at the Chapel we are blessed by the presence of two dedicated priests: *Father Bernardino Andrade*, who celebrates the Mass in English every Sunday morning at 10h00, and *Father Vitor Sousa*, who celebrates Mass in Portuguese at 11h30.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Deut 4: 1-2, 6-8; Psalm 14(15): 2-5; James 1: 1-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

After the testamentary speech from Joshua last week, this week we have the beginning of Moses' last testament, following God's refusal to allow Moses to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land. In **Deuteronomy**, Moses sums up the Law, but with some relaxations from the strict Law given by God on Sinai. As God's representative, Moses allowed divorce and hating enemies. But God's justice cannot change, and Jesus will later reverse these changes, made "because of their hardness of heart". Observing God's Law "will demonstrate to the peoples" their wisdom and understanding.

The psalm summarises the moral qualities required to be "at one" with the Lord, especially the social virtues of justice and charity. James also insists "do what the word tells you", especially helping the vulnerable and avoiding contamination by the world. We must be "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger". More practical advice from James in the coming weeks.

Jesus gives the same message: his disciples should do what the Pharisees say, but not what they do. As Peter is to learn later before preaching to Cornelius, "nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean". It is what we do that can make us unclean, not lack of washing. This teaching is underlined immediately by the faith of the Syro-Phoenician woman.

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

<u>PSALM RESPONSE</u>: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry Hymn: "This is the Day" – n. 574 Offertory Hymn: "Come, Lord Jesus, come" - n. 104 Communion Hymn: Instrumental Thanksgiving: Instrumental Final Hymn: "Holy Virgin, by God's decree...Avé Maria" - n. 231







(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

It happened 35 years ago, during the month of August. Actually it was August 15. I remember not because I have a good memory, but because it was the day when the church celebrates the *Feast of the Assumption of Mary*. Another thing I remember very well was that it was during the peak of the Summer's heat.

I was standing at the altar celebrating the Eucharist. In my home Parish it is the Feast of «Nossa Senhora do Monte» (Our Lady of the Mountain). I was facing the people. The Church was packed. Many people were standing. Among the standing people there was Gina holding her four-year-old daughter, Irene, in her arms. I assumed that no matter the child's weight, she was not a light weight for Gina.



At a certain point of the Mass I saw Gina lifting her daughter to the level of her face, and she deposited a very gentle kiss on her sleeping daughter's forehead. Very naturally. Very normally. Very gently. Then she kept looking at the altar.

I confess that this was a little epiphany for me.

In that moment I thought: «That sleeping child will never know that her mother kissed her today. She will never know how much her mother would always find ways to express her love for her, even when she is asleep».

Yes. It was an epiphany for me. Besides the Bible, mothers have always been for me the best teachers about God's love and my relationship with God. I fell into contemplation and started thinking and I still think that Irene was asleep and she would never know that her mother kissed her in that moment. It was a gentle and secret kiss. I believe that the majority of expressions of love that mothers have for their children go unnoticed. During that day I fell into deep contemplation thinking of how many times God kisses me during the day and during the night without being noticed by me. Then I discovered that God is a permanent surprise. He always holds me in His arms and always kisses me, performing so many miracles in my life even when I don't notice it. God is a permanent surprise. The only thing I ask God in this moment is that He will help me to be open to his gentle and secret kisses. To his gentle and secret surprises.

Love and Peace

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

PS. The mother kissing her daughter, in this picture, is Irene, the one who was kissed by her mother 35 years ago. Now she is 39. She is my cousin. Irene is doing to her one-and-a-half month old daughter what her mother did to her 35 years ago. In my story I said that Irene would never know that she was kissed by her mother on that very hot day when both of them were perspiring in Church. Now she knows because I told her many years ago. The baby is called Lara Virginia, after her grandmother who died recently.





BOOKS DONATED TO OUR LITTLE LIBRARY



We have received some more 2nd-hand books for our little library in the social hall ! ^(C) We are so grateful for these donations. Thank you! Please come and browse through our cabinet of books. There are many different genres: thrillers, romances, adventure, etc....



Feast of Our Lady of Penha de França – Here at the Chapel - Next weekend!



For the first time ever, we are going to be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Penha de França here at the Chapel !

The Feast will take place next weekend (on Saturday & Sunday, 8th - 9th of September).

There will be a Mass on Saturday at 7pm (held in Portuguese) followed by musical animation which will end at midnight. On the Sunday, we will have our usual 10am Sunday Mass in English. Another Mass will be held at 5pm (in Portuguese, by the Bishop of Funchal) which will be followed by a procession along the roads surrounding the Chapel. There will be groups providing musical animation, also folklore dancing, and on sale: traditional foods, snacks, cakes, and beverages.

Please come along and experience a traditional Madeiran Feast!

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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Email: larryjanc@aol.com

>> <u>BANK INFO:</u>

BANK: Banco Santander Totta NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17 SWIFT: TOTAPTPL Bask Address: Cominho do Sonto ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0008 0130 1547020

IBAN: PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

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 Librarv** where vou're welcome to take a book. leave one in exchange. or contribute with a small donation for the book vou take - all proceeds go to our *People Helping People* fund [we are in partnership with Sinead (from Movnihan's Irish Bar, on the corner up the road from the Chapel) who collects any unwanted books]. **So please join us!** ^(C)

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