



9th September 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

23rd 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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www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/



Photo Credit: Fr. Vítor Sousa

THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This weekend is a special one at the Chapel. **For the first time ever, we are celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Penha de França here at the Chapel!** Yesterday was the first day of the Feast, and it continues this afternoon! Please do come and join in, and experience for yourself a traditional Madeiran Feast! More information on the inside of the newsletter...

We are blessed to have **Fr. Ricardo Teixeira** celebrating Mass here this morning. Father Bernardino will be away during the month of September, and Father Ricardo will be celebrating the 10am Mass in English during his absence. Thank you Father Ricardo! ☺

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Isaiah 35: 4-7; Psalm 145(146):7-10; James 2: 1-5; Mark 8: 27-35)

First **Isaiah** preached in Jerusalem before the exile in 587 BC. In God's presence in the Temple, Isaiah became aware that the great sin is pride: we think we can "do it my way". The nation's disasters were their own fault. They must trust in God, especially in face of the constant threats from Assyria. After dire descriptions of the calamities to come, Isaiah paints this encouraging eschatological picture of the kingdom in the end time.

The **psalm** praises and thanks God for his generosity and kindness, especially to those who put their trust in him.

James continues his theme that faith must be shown in what we do. His mentioning "synagogue" reminds us how Jewish was the Christian community this "brother of the Lord" was writing for. He insists that faith in Jesus is not compatible with treating people differently depending how we see them. We are in no position to judge the worth of others.

In **Mark's Gospel** we see God's kingdom breaking into creation, as Jesus heals first the Syro-phenician woman's daughter and then a deaf-mute. Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled. Naturally the disciples cannot help spreading this good news far and wide. But Jesus cautions them not to do so yet, because his work will not be understood until after the Crucifixion.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: My soul, give praise to the Lord.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry Hymn: "“Bind us together, LORD” – n. 65

Offertory Hymn: "“O Lord, my God!” - n. 419

Communion Hymn: *Instrumental*

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

Final Hymn: "“Go, the Mass is ended” - n. 175

Recently I have had the privilege of being invited to spend 10 days in England. It was my first time in that beautiful country. It was a gift from a very special couple who attended the English Mass at the Chapel Penha de França, in Funchal. It is impossible to know Neil and Dena and not believe in the Sacrament of Marriage that is the symbol of the passion that God has for His people. Married for 53 years it is impossible to know Dena and Neil and not believe that Love is a growing journey. That love is growing together. That love is a commitment. That love is a decision. I strongly believe that they love each other more now than on the day of their Wedding. It is a marriage built on a rock as Jesus says in the Gospel (Mat. 7). It is impossible to know Dena and Neil and not believe that love is not love until it is shared with the world especially with the most vulnerable. Neil belongs to the Church of England and Dena to the Catholic Church.



Besides their strong faith in God, their healthy communication, they also have something special. It is their sense of humour. That's why laughter is the best music we can hear in that house. That's what motivated Dena to buy a card for her grandson's birthday with this saying: «*My internet went down the other day so I had to go downstairs to speak to my family. They seemed like good people*» Visiting England for the first time I felt like my internet had to break down for me to be able to «*go downstairs*» to know England and the marvelous English People.



One day in California I said to one of my colleagues: «*I have a handicap. The more peoples and cultures I know, the less ready I feel like to put labels on them*». He said: «*No. That is not a handicap. That is a gift to see beauty in diversity*». Africa was a mosaic of peoples, cultures and religions. The United States is a mosaic of peoples and cultures and religions. And they are really like a beautiful mosaic full of diversity and beauty.

However I don't understand why I fell into the trap of believing that the English People were formal, distant and sometimes cold.

Each moment and each person and each corner of any street was for me a surprise. It was like a show with no intermission.

The place where I stayed was more in the country side of Shrewsbury. Those roads, escorted by beautiful trees extending their arms and embracing each other over the passing cars, the fields of wheat, cows and lambs grazing through those little hills... it is a scene that will stay forever in the eyes and hearts of those who visit them.

And... what about those «cold and distant» people? I confess that every moment and every person I met was a pleasant surprise. And one of the best parts of this discovery was that I was rewarded for expressing my feelings. In the airport I was close to a coffee shop, waiting for my flight. The waiters were so kind and always smiling and treating each customer like as if he/she was the only customer. I went to buy a cup of coffee and expressed my feelings about their service. I got my coffee. Then I asked a normal question: «*how much is it?*». The answer was: «*That's on the house*». His name was Patrick. I wish I could meet Patrick again. But actually I met him again in every person I encountered in England.

Soon I will write another story about a social gathering made of «Cheese and Wine» that brought € 555,00 to the poor helped by «People Helping People» in Madeira.



For the first time ever, we are celebrating the *Feast of Our Lady of Penha de França* here at the Chapel this weekend !

Yesterday's festivities started at 7pm and finished at midnight.



PROGRAMME FOR TODAY:

17h00

Mass (in Portuguese) celebrated by D. António Carrilho, the Bishop of Funchal. **1st and 2nd readings during Mass will be in English and in Portuguese.** (We need 2 volunteers willing to do the readings in English please).

- Mass will be followed by a procession along the roads surrounding the Chapel.

19h00 – 22h00

- There will be groups providing music: Funchal Municipal Band, fado music, etc.

- And on sale: traditional foods (pork meat and beef sandwiches) etc., and also other snacks, cakes, and beverages (including tea/coffee).

22h00

- Feast Ending.



Why not 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:

EUROPE: Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

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USA: Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 1-925-813-2888

Email: larryjanc@aol.com

>> 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 Franca 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 Movnihan'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