



30th September 2018– 10h00 Sunday Mass

26th 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:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França.

We have been blessed to have **Fr. Ricardo Teixeira** celebrating Mass here at the Chapel for the last three Sundays while our parish priest, Fr. Bernardino, has been away. Fr. Ricardo has spent 4 years as a priest in China, and is now back in Portugal. **This morning will be his last Sunday with us**, as Fr. Bernardino will be back next Sunday.

This 10h00 Mass is the only Catholic Mass celebrated entirely in English on the whole island of Madeira. Father Vitor Sousa, Chaplain, celebrates Mass in Portuguese here at the Chapel every Saturday evening at 18h30, and on Sunday mornings at 11h30.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Numbers 11:25-29; Psalm 18(19); James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-48)



The Book of Numbers mainly describes Israel's wanderings in the wilderness from Mount Sinai towards the Promised Land. The people frequently murmured complaints against Moses, who found the burden of leadership too much to bear. Bored with the daily diet of manna, the people complain, so God gives them heaps of quail, but then punishes them for their greed. God gives some of his spirit to seventy elders to share Moses' burden, but even if the whole people became prophets Moses must continue alone as leader. **The psalm** rejoices in the way both the heavens and God's commandments reveal the glory of the Lord, while reminding us that we need cleansing from even our "hidden faults".

Our last reading from the letter of **James** reminds those who are well off that life is short and their sins will be punished. We should patiently share the earth's fruits until the Lord's coming. **In Mark's Gospel** we hear Jesus' last teachings before he starts his final journey to Jerusalem. Like Moses, Jesus confirms that people may work in God's name even if they have not been formally appointed. God's work is not limited to formal organizations. Above all, we should keep our mind on God's kingdom, not be tempted away from it by the pleasures of this world.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.



This morning's Hymn music will be led by **Larysa Makarova** who is from the Ukraine. She will be joined by **Rui César Gomes**, 63 years old, who has been playing the accordion for 6 years now. It's one of his favourite hobbies! Today it will be his second time playing accordion in our Chapel.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

- By: Larysa Makarova

Entry Hymn: "Bind us together, Lord," - n. 65

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

Communion Hymn: *Instrumental*

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

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

FROM FR. RICARDO'S PEN - "The deal between the Vatican and China"

Brought to you by: Father Ricardo Teixeira



The amazing news about a deal between the Vatican and the Popular Republic of China caught everyone by surprise. Not that for several years this "deal" has not been talked about; Several times, envoys had started, and from one side to the other the "cultural" diplomacy was tried - from music concert exchanges, to museum pieces, and even, let's remember, that it was Pope Paul VI that asked the United Nations to accept China into the organization.

The deal is seen as a triumph. Nevertheless, when we try to see what the deal is about, what was agreed, there is nothing, no real paper sign, nothing to show how the agreement will work. We just know that **the Pope accepted 7 excommunicated bishops for episcopal ordinations without the pope's authorization, and a new diocese created in the borders of Beijing.** In some sense we have to use the expression "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" to try to understand the "deal" of the Vatican with China.

I worked there (in China) just 4 years, and I'm sure not an expert about it.

If on the one side we could find both churches (*government* and *loyal to the pope*) working together, on the other that will not be possible, not even with this deal; the wounds are too deep and there are people that have lost a lot in the fratricide* battle. In no way could a full and very detailed deal be arranged between the two parts.

After this "mysterious" deal was announced, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed that this was a first of several other steps. Pope Francis uses the same expression. **A step was done, let's pray and hope that others will come.**

And just a very few hours ago a new letter from Pope Francis to the Chinese Catholics was released. There in the number 2 §5 the Pope tells us that this is a path that we need to continue to work on.

Let's continue to say thanks for the path we travel and pray for more success in the other we need to pass.

My best wishes,

Fr. Ricardo Teixeira, scj

* *fratricide* (from the Latin words *frater* "brother" and *cida* "killer") is the act of killing one's brother.



Religious books vandalized with the inscription in Chinese: "dark religion"



Chinese center for handicap children run by the local Catholic Church.

The full letter of Pope Francis to the Catholics of China can be read here:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2018/09/26/180926b.html>

POPE FRANCIS' HISTORIC AGREEMENT WITH CHINA

Source: <http://time.com/5406614/pope-francis-beijing-bishops-china/>



On Saturday, September 22nd 2018, a historic agreement was signed between the Vatican and China. Pope Francis provided some details during an in-flight news conference while coming home from the Baltics on Tuesday. **The historical deal aims to end decades of tensions over bishop nominations that had contributed to dividing the Chinese church.**

China's estimated 12 million Catholics are split between those belonging to the government-backed Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, which is outside the pope's authority, and an underground church loyal to the pope. Underground priests and parishioners are frequently detained and harassed. Pope Francis - and before him Pope Benedict XVI - had tried to unite the two communities, and years of negotiations kicked into high gear over a year ago. **Pope Francis said the deal calls for a process of dialogue over possible bishop candidates, but that ultimately the pope decides.**

The issue of bishop nominations had been the main stumbling block to restoring diplomatic relations that were severed nearly seven decades ago when the Chinese communists came to power. *The Holy See* insisted on the pope's right to name bishops to preserve the apostolic succession that dates to Jesus' original apostles. China considered the Vatican's insistence as an infringement on its sovereignty.

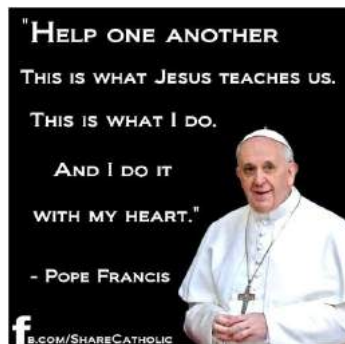
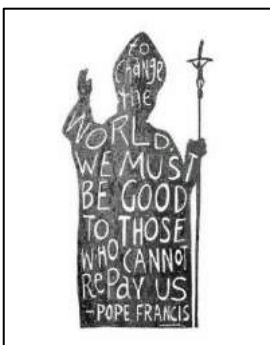
Because of the dispute, China over the years named some bishops without papal consent, some of whom were then excommunicated by the church. The key part of the deal calls for the Vatican to recognize the seven living illegitimate bishops and regularize their status in the church, while also arranging for two legitimate ones to step aside. Pope Francis said he took personal responsibility for the deal, and signed each of the decrees reconciling with the seven bishops. The Vatican announced the deal Saturday, saying that **from now on all bishops in China are in communion with Rome.** The Vatican said it was provisional in nature, suggesting it could be revisited periodically.

While acknowledging the suffering of some underground faithful in China, Pope Francis pointed to what he considered is a good sign that the church is beginning to unify.



Pope Francis and Chinese clergy at St. Peter's after a general audience on May 10th last year. (photo: catholicworldreport.com)

Inspirational Quotes Of The Week



f b.com/SHARECATHOLIC

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 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 (*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: penhafanca.newsletter@gmail.com, or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org