



2nd December 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

1st Sunday of Advent, Year C

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

 www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This 10h00 Mass is the only Catholic Mass celebrated entirely in English on the whole island of Madeira! Our priest this morning is Fr. Bernardino Andrade, who celebrates the Mass in English every Sunday morning at 10h00. There are also masses celebrated in Portuguese here at the Chapel: on Saturday evenings at 18h30, and on Sunday mornings at 11h30.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Jeremiah 33:14-16; Ps 24(25); 1 Thess 3:12 - 4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

A few weeks ago we heard **Jeremiah** promising the deliverance of his people. This week he describes how this hope will be realised, even though Jerusalem and the Temple had been destroyed. A descendant of David will bring honesty, integrity and security to Israel.

Jeremiah's complex writings changed Jewish expectations from a single Day of Judgement to a gradual process: an initial time of suffering, then an in-between period. This was identified by early Christians as now, after Christ's death had inaugurated the New Covenant, while we await the promised completion in Christ's second coming. These rather mild verses from the **psalm** fail to show its directness: "In your kindness, recall me – You".

The earliest New Testament writing, Paul wrote this first letter to the **Thessalonians** from Corinth, probably in 51 AD, where Timothy had brought news of the Thessalonian church's progress. Paul prays that the Lord should increase their love for one another, exhorting them to show this love by leading moral lives.

We are starting the year of **Luke**, but the gospel for the beginning of Advent is from the end of Jesus' ministry, where he warns us to be ready for the end times. Every one of us faces an end time, and we must live our lives as if it comes today.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

By: Larysa Makarova

Entry Hymn: "Kum ba yah, my Lord" – n. 302

Offertory Hymn: "Blest are you, Lord" - n. 69

Communion Hymn: *Instrumental*

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

Final Hymn: "Shine, Jesus, shine" - n. 344



- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade (bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



1 - ANTS

My niece, Romaninha, came from Brasil to spend some time with me in California. One day I «caught» her in the patio, seated on the pavement and playing with ants. She was already an adult, a matured woman, married and mother of two children. She felt a bit embarrassed because she felt that she had been «caught» doing something very childish. What was the game? The ants were forming a long long line as they usually do. They always communicated with those that were walking in a different direction, as they always do. And my niece's game was to put obstacles in their path to divert them from their destiny. She tried little rocks, little sticks, bigger rocks and bigger sticks but nothing worked. The conclusion was that if you want to divert ants from their destiny you have to kill them. Death only. Nothing else works. They have a goal, and they get the support from one another and always try to overcome any kind of obstacle. They have a goal and are willing to give their lives to achieve their goal. Death only can stop them.



2- FIREMEN

Last week (24/11/2018) I had the privilege of being invited to say a special Mass for, and with, the firemen of Funchal. I reflected with them about their job. And how much inspiration I get from them in my life. I compared them with the «normal» institutions. I told them different stories of different institutions and compared it with their stories.



A mother of a large family was called by a special institution to go there to pick up some food that had been reserved for her family. Of course the institutions don't provide transportation even if they know that the poor have no transportation. Margaret (not her true name) asked Dalila (her true name) for a lift. Dalila went to help Margaret. When they arrived, there were five bags of food waiting for them at the institution. Margaret was very happy. Meanwhile the institution had the obligation of checking for crossing information. Yes. Margaret was caught. According to the rules of this institution Margaret was a cheater. Another institution, the week before, had given to Margaret's family, some money. According to the rules of the institution that was enough probably for the rest of their lives. According to them Margaret was a cheater. According to them, she was taking advantage from two different institutions. The five bags of food were left on the floor. Dalila and Margaret and her little son, Cristiano, left with their empty hands, their empty stomachs and their empty souls. On their way home, Dalila called me and invited me for a cup of coffee. I went for a cup of coffee. We offered Margaret and her son something to eat. I will never forget this scene:

Cristiano grabbed the glass of milk and a pastry we had ordered for him and he didn't «drink» the milk or «eat» the pastry. Cristiano *devoured* everything almost without breathing. He was so hungry and so skinny. But the institution hadn't ask them if they were hungry. Instead they had asked a cold and cruel computer.

Recently we accompanied to an institution, a lady who had arrived from Venezuela where she had had everything. She came to an Island where she has nothing. We just asked for some food. The social worker was very kind, which is not usual. When we finished the conversation, I was expecting some food that they had in abundance. To my disappointment what we brought from that institution was a list of documents that the lady was supposed to present to see if she qualified for help!



I had thousands of stories like this to tell the firemen.

Then I told them some stories about firemen and compared it with the institutions.

When firemen are asked for help they don't ask who owned the knife or the pistol, who started the fight, who lit the fire, who was over speeding. They don't even ask for their names or any documents. The only questions they ask are: «Where is it hurting? Where is it bleeding? What is broken? How can I help you? How can I help to alleviate your suffering?»



3 - THE GOOD SHEPHERD

For me the story of the Good Shepherd is, like the story of the Prodigal Son, (Luke 15) a Gospel inside the Gospel. The Shepherd was taking care of one hundred sheep. One got lost. He leaves ninety nine and goes looking for his lost sheep. When He has found it he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices and tells his friends and neighbours, saying to them: «Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep that was lost». He does not ask for papers, for documents or the reasons why the sheep got lost. No questions asked. Just love transformed into service.



Mother Teresa says that «when we start by judging we have no time to love».

ANTS, FIREMEN AND THE GOOD SHEPHERD have been for me the greatest inspirations of my life.

With ANTS, I have learned to have a vision and never quit even if I have to give my life for it. «Don't start quitting... Never quit from starting», It's the name of a book.

With FIREMEN, I have learned to help people without judging them.

With the GOOD SHEPHERD, I have learned to reach out for everyone with a special preference for the lost, the least and the last.

Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

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.

Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

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

Email: larryjanc@aol.com

>> BANK INFO FOR DONATIONS:

BANK: Banco Santander Totta **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0008 0130 1547020

ACCOUNT NAME: Bernardino Correia Andrade **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

Every Sunday morning at the door of the Chapel there will be a **basket to collect food for the poor**. You are welcome to bring any little thing to help alleviate their suffering. (Rice, pasta, milk, canned tuna, biscuits etc.) Thank you to all who donated last week Sunday! ☺



Tea and Coffee After Mass!!

in the Social Room
across the garden -
please join us.



Please sign our Chapel's Visitor's Book in the Social Room

- We'd love to know
which
country you're from!



MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturdays: 18h30 Portuguese

Sundays: 10h00 English

11h30 Portuguese

Other Holy Day Masses in English:

Dec.8th – Immaculate Conception.

10h00

Dec.25th - Christmas Day.

10h00

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 which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺