



9<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

2nd 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](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

 [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)



## THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH



**Good morning!** Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. **The special intention of this morning's Mass** is for **John Gray who passed away in Scotland on Wednesday.** May his Soul rest in peace. ✠

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. This 10h00 Mass is the only Catholic Mass celebrated entirely in English on the whole island of Madeira!

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Baruch 5: 1-9; Ps 125(126); Phil 1: 3-6. 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6*)

**The Book of Baruch**, was probably written during the second century BC and attributed to Jeremiah's secretary. It deals with problems of Jews permanently exiled in the diaspora. Today's reading offers consolation for refugees, seeing hope for Jerusalem as the mother of all exiles. Realistically it insists that we must come to terms with life where we are. In all ages, families living in exile must find salvation from the living word of God. **The psalm** is usually seen as Israel's rejoicing after their return from exile. But it may be more consistently read as an intense visualisation of the future restoration of Israel by the Lord. Paul wrote the **Letter to the Philippians** from prison between 55 and 63 AD, addressing it to the "saints, bishops and ministers" of the community. He prays lovingly that their love and knowledge of Christ may increase, so that they dare to proclaim the gospel fearlessly. For these 3 weeks of Advent we hear from **Luke's gospel** about preparations for the coming Messiah. Today John the Baptist is positioned in history, proclaiming a baptism of repentance and, like Baruch, quoting from Isaiah. Just as with Elizabeth's greeting on the last Sunday of Advent, Luke firmly links the coming birth to the Old Testament, which it fulfills.

- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. ([www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info))

**PSALM RESPONSE:** What Marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

## TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

By: Larysa Makarova

**Entry Hymn:** "Jesus is coming" – n. 90

**Offertory Hymn:** "We are waiting to welcome Jesus" - n. 603

**Communion Hymn:** *Instrumental*

**Thanksgiving:** *Instrumental*

**Final Hymn:** "How lovely on the mountains" - n. 235



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



1.

There are many symbols that remind us about Christmas. There are carols, lots of lights, decorations and many many more beautiful things that unite believers and non-believers around the same event that is the Birth of Jesus. For me, nothing else reminds me more about Christmas than the presence or the thought of a pregnant woman. Every time I see a pregnant woman, the first thought that comes to my mind is the thought of a tabernacle carrying a living Jesus. It is also the thought of Advent. This time of Advent is not the time of «waiting» for the Birth of Jesus but it is especially a time of «expectation». «Waiting» is more a passive action like when we are waiting for the bus or in the airport waiting to embark when the airplane is arriving two or three hours late. «Expecting» is being in action 24 hours a day. That's why Advent is supposed to be a very active time inside each one of us, like the growing process of the Baby Jesus inside the womb of His mother or the growing process of any baby growing inside the womb of its mother. Advent is a time of change. It is, like Lent, a time of renewal and cleaning. What am I planning to happen inside me during this time of Advent? Would you like to make a short list and try? Christmas will be a better Christmas if we have a better and more spiritual Advent.

2.

**Every year, around the second Sunday of Advent (December 8th), the Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** It is like a «Baby Shower» for Jesus' Mother.

In this «Baby Shower» of Jesus' Mother, there are two key words that can be of great inspiration for us.

One is «**Rejoice**». «Rejoice, the Lord is with you». This was the way the Angel Gabriel greeted Mary when he announced to her that she was going to be the Mother of Jesus.

I know people who, instead of greeting each other with the traditional «Good morning» or «Good evening», use the words the Angel Gabriel used to greet Mary in such an important moment of her life and the life of the world. It can be: «Rejoice, Thelma, the Lord is with you». «Rejoice Francis, the Lord is with you». «Rejoice Rita, the Lord is with you». I learned a long time ago that every word carries energy. I suspect that greeting each other with these words from the Gospel (Luke 1) will have an impact in each other with a very positive energy that can change the day of a friend or of an enemy. REJOICE. THE LORD IS WITH YOU!

The other word is «Mary, **do not be afraid**... for nothing is impossible to God» (luke 1).

Why not, instead of saying «Good bye», «I will see you tomorrow», just say «John, do not be afraid, for nothing is impossible to God», «Lutchi, do not be afraid. For nothing is impossible to God». «Ana, do not be afraid, for nothing is impossible to God».

Please have a very happy Advent... Please rejoice, the Lord is with you... Please do not be afraid for nothing is impossible to God.



**Love and Peace,**  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



1.

For the first time, **People Helping People** has been collecting vegetables from some farmers who live far away in the country side. It has been a very exciting time. It has been the best Christmas preparation provided by *People Helping People* for the poor families we have ever

had. Because *People Helping People* does not recognise boundaries, lots of time and gas has been spent in the streets of Madeira Island with the purpose of alleviating the suffering of so many hurting families. Most of them don't have access to other institutions or don't qualify for help. No papers and no documents are asked. Our point of reference is always the suffering of the people and our love for them.

## Adopt-a-Family



2.

### ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS - TO PRESERVE ME, TOUCH ME.

The best gift we can give to the poor for Christmas is our love. When I visited an old museum on my visit to England I saw many signs with these words "TO

PRESERVE ME, DON'T TOUCH ME". And I thought: with *People Helping People* it works in the opposite way. I felt like walking around the city of Funchal and putting signs on every poor and homeless person I found, with these words: "TO PRESERVE ME, TOUCH ME". We are proposing to you a new experience for this Christmas that is: "ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS". **Please ADOPT A FAMILY. We have a long list of needy families.** One of the ways of adopting a family is to give your name to a member of our project PHP, and this person will make the bridge between you and *Dalila Oliveira*, who is the Coordinator of the distribution. You can mention your preference: If you want to know the family and donate personally, or if you would like to help a family with children, or if you just want to donate to any family. You are welcome to buy food or a special present or just some special financial gift. No rules. No strings attached.

The couple to contact is *Koen & Manuela Van Doninck*.

Phone: 96-29-28-026 or 93-34-28-813. EMAIL: [koen.manuela@gmail.com](mailto:koen.manuela@gmail.com)

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## CHRISTMAS TREE & NATIVITY SCENE IN SAND – At the Vatican!

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The Vatican illuminated a 65-foot Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square on Friday. Pope Francis shared the deeper meaning by saying: "**The Christmas tree with its lights reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world**, the light of the soul that drives away the darkness of animosity and makes room for forgiveness". **The Vatican also unveiled the annual nativity scene in St. Peter's square, this year sculpted entirely out of 700 tons of sand!** Three sand artists from Russia, Holland and the Czech Republic, working under the direction of Rich Varano, an American professional sand artist, sculpted the Nativity scene. The artists worked on site for weeks behind a screen to prevent people from seeing the scene before it was finished. Pope Francis, in thanking sponsors for the Christmas tree and the Nativity scene, said that the sand "a poor material, recalls the simplicity, the smallness with which God revealed himself with the birth of Jesus in the precariousness of Bethlehem." The sand sculpture will remain there until January 7th.



## 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.25th** - Christmas Day.

10h00

**January 1st** - Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God.

**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: [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org) which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺