



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

3rd 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. 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

*(Zeph 3:14-18; Ps Is 12; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18)*

About 600 BC Zephaniah preached that Judah's idolatry would lead to a "day of wrath". But the Lord "is in your midst" and will mercifully spare a holy remnant. Jerusalem will finally enjoy the peace and joy of the Day of the Lord celebrated in this song, and recalled by Luke: "the Lord is with you".

Before 700BC first Isaiah prophesied that idolatry and social injustice would bring about the destruction of the northern kingdom Israel. But, he said, "a shoot shall spring from the root of Jesse" bringing justice to the world, and he celebrated this rescue with today's psalm.

After instructing the Philippians in right moral behaviour and community living, Paul encourages them to look forward to the Lord's coming with confidence that the peace of God will come to them. They should celebrate publicly their joy in the Lord, but not so exuberantly that others are offended or put off. They should always show kindness to all.

Luke's gospel continues from last week with the moral teaching preached by John the Baptist before Jesus started his ministry. Repentance must include conforming to God's justice. But John insists that he is not the Messiah, who is coming and will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

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

**PSALM RESPONSE:** Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.



## TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

By: Larysa Makarova

**Entry Hymn:** "Oh come, O come, Emmanuel" – n. 397

**Offertory Hymn:** "The angel Gabriel from heaven came" - n. 534

**Communion Hymn:** *Instrumental*

**Thanksgiving:** *Instrumental*

**Final Hymn:** "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" - n. 111

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



## CHRISTMAS IS GOD'S WAY OF HONOURING THE INSIGNIFICANT

One of the highest moments of my first trip to England (when I was invited by my friends Neil and Dena Spence last summer) was my visit to *Powis Castle* in Wales. It is impossible to believe that place has been a family residence unless someone tries hard to convince you. Now, of course, it is a museum with a fascinating garden. Inside the Castle

there are many big things and many little things. But all of them are a symbol of grandiosity and wealth.

One of the things that constantly called my attention were signs located in different places close to different objects that said: «To preserve me don't touch me».

Every time I saw one of those signs I thought «I wish I could go around the world and put a sign in every person, especially in the poor, in the homeless, in every child and in every unborn child, in every elderly person, in every saint and in every criminal, in every nun and in every prostitute, every farmer and in every politician, in every prisoner no matter the cause of his imprisonment, in every race, colour and religion, in every insignificant human being but with the opposite message: **«If you want to preserve me please touch me».**



Powis Castle in Wales

«If you want to preserve me hug me, let me cry in your shoulder, feed me even if I look dirty, smell bad and look like a bum. Please touch me, alleviate my pain, free me from this horrible misery, walk with me until I am free from my addictions, teach me about God. I know that I am insignificant and you feel embarrassed before your friends if they see you talking with me or having a cup of coffee with me. But... please touch me. Please don't just say that I am like this because I want. That hurts me and doesn't help me.



**«Christmas is God's way of honouring the insignificant» (Rev. Dr. Robert Schuller).**

God became man with the purpose that every human being would become God. «Please touch me. But please touch me with the same respect and tenderness that a priest touches a consecrated host».

**Christmas is God's way of honouring the insignificant.**

Christmas will be my and your way of honouring the insignificant. My dream is that one day you will find a person who feels he or she is insignificant and you invite him/her to come to church with you and sit at your side.

I am planning to ask our Bishop permission to say a Sunday Mass, weekly or monthly, especially dedicated to the homeless but open to all people, with this slogan: «Come as you are». Yes! No matter how insignificant you feel you are. Just come. If you are wearing the same clothes for one year without taking a shower, just come as you are. If you are smelling like urine or anything else, please come as you are. If you have no shoes and long toenails come as you are. If your hair has not seen a comb for one month or more, come as you are. Come and sing even if you don't know how to sing, come and pray even if you don't know how to pray. If you come late or leave early don't worry, but please come as you are. If you are Catholic, Protestant, Muslim or Hindu or no religious affiliation, just please come as you are. Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me. (Math. 25: 40)

**«Christmas is God's way of honouring the insignificant»**

*Love and Peace,*

*Fr. Bernardino Andrade*



## CRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Morning Mass on Christmas Day - at 10am

Christmas Schedule for the Masses in English at the Chapel:

Sunday, **December 23rd** - Mass in English at 10:00am.

Monday, **December 24th** (Christmas Eve) - NO MASS in English.

Tuesday, **December 25th** (Christmas Day) – Mass in English at 10:00am



**Please come and join us.**



## “MISSA DO PARTO” (CHILD BIRTH MASS) – A Madeiran Christmas tradition

In Madeira Island, the «*Missas do Parto*» (Child Birth Masses), are one of the most popular and old traditions that mobilize the entire population on their journey of preparation for Christmas.

Nine days before Christmas (starting on December 16th), these traditional «Child Birth Masses» are celebrated in every Parish around the Island very early in the morning, usually between 5am and 6am! These Masses are held every morning for 9 days. Traditional Christmas hymns are sung, and after Mass there is a social outside the church with different goodies to eat and share, different musical instruments playing and people singing and socializing.



## CHRISTMAS IN FUNCHAL

- What you can expect to find at this time of year

In Funchal, the Christmas atmosphere has been felt since December 1st, when the bright festive lights were switched on in the streets of Funchal. Every year it is an amazing experience for both locals and visitors to Madeira island. *Avenida Arriaga* (in the city centre) has been the main setting for Folklore groups, Youth Choirs, and Orchestras to perform every day. Most shop windows in town are not decorated with *Father Christmas* but rather with scenes of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the manger. Near to the Cathedral is a life-size Christmas nativity scene, with mannequins of animals, the 3 wise men bearing gifts, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. There are also little “huts” selling local traditional products (liqueurs of aniseed, cherry etc.), the famous *poncha* drink, *ginjinha* (liqueur made by infusing ginja berries (sour berries) in *aguardente* [firewater] and served in a chocolate cup, sandwiches with pork meat marinated in wine and garlic (*sandes de carne vinho e alho*) and much more! Funchal is well worth visiting this time of year!! © MERRY CHRISTMAS!



## ABOUT THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF PENHA DE FRANÇA:

Because it's Christmas we decided to write a little bit about the history of the Chapel.



Photo of the Chapel from the 1800s, showing the peak on which it was built. Photo credit: from the facebook page: *Madeira Quase Esquecida*

This small chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622 (that's almost 400 years ago!) It was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the *Pontinha* Redoubt (*stronghold*) in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. The Chapel was reconstructed in 1712 and further enlarged around 1880. From 1935 to 2015, the Franciscans based their Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, and in 2015 they moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos. The Chapel reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal at that time, and in October 2016 a Chaplain, Fr. Vitor Sousa, was appointed to the Chapel.

The English Mass is a tradition that dates back to

1966, when Fr Rafael Andrade, having just returned from his first visit to England, complied with the Bishop's request to start an English celebration. Fr Rafael presided over this mass for over 30 years, when he had to stop in 1999 due to overlapping duties. For eight years there was no Catholic mass in English in Madeira, until it began again on the first Sunday of Lent in 2007.



Fr. Bernardino

**Father Bernardino Andrade** is our dedicated English Mass priest on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. He was born and grew up in Madeira but has worked as a Priest in both Mozambique and, for many years, in California, before returning to Madeira.

## Children's perceptions of the Angels – A Little Bit of Humour to Brighten Your Day

It's not easy to become an Angel! First, you die, then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through, and then you got to agree to wear those Angel clothes.

– **Matthew, age 9**

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.

– **Henry, age 8**

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it. – **Vicki, age 8**



What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. – **Sarah, age 7**

Angels are like Moms. They know you inside and out and love you just the same! – **Michelle, age 6**





## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE – Mobilizing Many People

**The best gift we can give to the poor for Christmas is our love.** “People Helping People” (the project started at the Chapel to help the poor) has a long list of needy families. Thank you to all those who have been bringing food items to fill the basket at the Chapel door on Sunday mornings. It’s greatly appreciated!

Besides feeding the poor, *People Helping People* also tries to help in other difficult situations too. For example:



Food Basket at the Chapel Door

### 1- A PREGNANT MOTHER IN NEED.

The baby is about to be born. The mother is in panic because she has nothing for her baby. She has already approached another institution but no luck. If you would like to help, please contact Carla Rodrigues (the person of contact with People Helping People).

E-mail: fcarla.mrodrigues@gmail.com (Ph. 96-72-14-835)



### 2 - EXTRA FURNITURE?

A lady with two small children just went through the tragedy of a very sad separation. No furniture was left at home. If you have, or know of any person who has, any extra furniture please contact Carla Rodrigues.

E-mail: fcarla.mrodrigues@gmail.com (Ph. 96-72-14-835)



### 3 - IN NEED OF A SECOND HAND CAR.

A large family with 4 children, with a very low income is in a terrible need of a car. The father who is a very dedicated father has to take his children to school every day. Because he earns very little he can not afford to buy even a second-hand car, so to fulfil this need he depends entirely on his friends who also need their cars. He really needs help to buy a second hand car.

If you know of any second hand car or another kind of help please contact Carla Rodrigues. E-mail: fcarla.mrodrigues@gmail.com (Ph. 96-72-14-835)



## ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS – A SUCCESS!

In last week’s newsletter there was an appeal to “Adopt a Family for Christmas”. There were No rules, and No strings attached. *People Helping People* has a long list of needy families, and last week was an unexpected success. **After the appeal almost 20 families have been adopted!** Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!! May God bless you all.



If you’d still like to Adopt a Family for Christmas, and need more information, you are welcome to contact *Koen & Manuela Van Doninck*. E-mail: koen.manuela@gmail.com

Phone: 96-29-28-026 or 93-34-28-813.

They will make the bridge between you and *Dalila Oliveira*, who is the Coordinator of the distribution.



## 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  
(No mass on Christmas Eve)

**Jan. 1st 2019** - Solemnity of Mary,  
Mother of God. 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](mailto:penhafanca.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. ☺