




23rd December 2018 – 10h00 Sunday Mass
4th 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. 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

(*Micah 5: 1-4; Ps 79(80); Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-44*)

Micah was prophesying in Judea around 720 BC. The rich were defrauding the poor, and prophets even misleading the people by assuring them that all was well. Which is what people wanted to hear. No, said Micah: "Zion would be plowed like a field" – utterly destroyed, as happened in the exile in 586 BC. But a remnant would survive, and a ruler would come from Bethlehem, David's birthplace. When "she who is to give birth gives birth", the mother of the Immanuel, then the remnant will come back to the Lord.

The Psalm pleads that the Lord's help come soon, as Israel is being hard pressed by its enemies.

Hebrews continues to explain the differences between Christ's sacrifice and animal and food sacrifices offered in the Temple: these had to be repeated again and again, because they did not bring forgiveness of sin. Only Christ's sacrifice could remit sins: it is the fulfilment of God's will, rather than the holocausts he does not want. Jesus is seen as explicitly offering himself, so that not only are our sins forgiven but we may be made holy.

The Gospel begins the Christmas story with Mary's visit to Elizabeth, soon to give birth to the last of the Old Testament prophets.

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

PSALM RESPONSE:

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.



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: "Colours of Day (Light up the Fire)" - n.93

FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – A «Ruined» Christmas Sermon

- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade



The Pastor of a Church in New York, conscious of his responsibility as a presider of a good Liturgy, spent hours preparing what he considered should be a good sermon for the Midnight Christmas Mass. He read about the birth of Jesus, he took notes and rehearsed the sermon he was supposed to deliver.

A Christmas play, mobilizing a group of children and young people, was very well prepared to act after the reading of the Gospel, right before the sermon. It was a very inclusive church where everyone would have a chance to participate.

To emphasize inclusion, they decided to invite Tom to act as a shepherd. Tom was a very special 17-year-old boy with learning difficulties because of his down syndrome condition. After trying a few rehearsals, there was a little frustration due the difficulty Tom had to learn a very simple role as a shepherd. Then they decided to change roles. Maybe Tom would be a good innkeeper. Tom was open to anything as long as he could be part of the play.



Great. After the first try, it was easy to decide that Tom would be the perfect «actor» to act as an innkeeper. The only thing he had to do was to wait in front of the altar, put his hands on his hips, look tough, and when Joseph and Mary came asking for shelter he would say: «No room for you at the Inn».

It took some time and lots of work but there was no doubt that Tom was ready. Even at the last minute they were whispering: «Don't forget Tom... put your hands over your hips, look tough and say: - there is no room for you at the Inn. Are you ready?

- Yyyyes. I am... am ready».

The moment came. Joseph and Mary walked slowly towards the altar. Tom was standing there. They approached Tom and asked for a place to spend the night. Besides, Mary was ready to give birth to her baby. Both looked very tired. But Tom did as he had been trained to do: He put his hands over his hips, looked tough and yelled in a loud voice:

«There is no room for you at the Inn! ».

Joseph and Mary did as they have been trained to do too. They looked very sad, turned around and started walking towards the front door. Just a few seconds after they left, Tom started crying, with tears rolling down his face, and ran after them and repeated a few times: «Wait... wait... you can stay at my house... You can stay at my house. Please, don't go»!

At that moment, the pastor approached the microphone and with tears in his eyes, said:

«I couldn't make a better sermon than the one that was just done by Tom. «Please Jesus stay at my house». Merry Christmas».

The Priest then went to his chair and spent a few moments in silent meditation, which inspired all the congregation to do the same.

*Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade*



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Morning Mass on Christmas Day – at 10:00am



Christmas Schedule for the Masses at the Chapel:
(English and Portuguese Masses)

Monday, December 24th – Mass in Portuguese only (at midnight)

Tuesday, December 25th (Christmas Day):

– Mass in English at 10:00am

– Mass in Portuguese at 11:30am

Saturday, December 29th – Mass in Portuguese at 6:30pm

Sunday, December 30th

– Mass in English at 10:00am

– Mass in Portuguese at 11:30am

Tuesday, January 1st

– Mass in English at 10:00am

– Mass in Portuguese at 11:30am

SPECIAL MASS ON TUESDAY MORNING:

On **Tuesday, January 1st**, there will be a **Mass** in English at **10am** to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. It is a Holy day of Obligation for Catholics. The Solemnity of Mary is a liturgical feast day honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary's motherhood in the wake of the birth of the baby Jesus Christ. Please join us! ☺

THE BEAUTIFUL POLISH TRADITION OF BREAKING BREAD – On Christmas Eve

In many Polish homes throughout the world, a family tradition is the breaking of the *oplatek* on Christmas Eve.

The *oplatek* (pronounced opwatek) is a thin wafer made of flour and water, similar in taste to the hosts that are used for communion during Mass. These wafers are stamped with elaborate Christmas scenes. On Christmas Eve, the family eagerly awaits the first star in the night sky, recalling the star of Bethlehem that signaled the birth of the Saviour. Once the star has been spotted, the Christmas Eve meal begins.

The father (or eldest

member of the family) begins the ceremony by taking the *oplatek* and breaking a piece off of it, giving it to his wife. When he does this, he may say what he is thankful for, wish her good health, or ask for forgiveness. It's a time to tell each other, 'I love you, I care about you.'

After this, the *oplatek* is then shared with each member of the family in a similar manner, starting with the oldest down to the

youngest. It is a touching ceremony, one that can help heal hurts from the past year. After the breaking of the bread is completed, a small meal is served that eagerly anticipates the Midnight Mass, which many Polish families would attend on Christmas Eve. The tradition has survived the test of time and is still celebrated in many parts of the world. It is a beautiful tradition, one that keeps the true "spirit of Christmas," and unites a family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.



An *oplatek* with image of Mary and baby Jesus



Sharing of the *oplatek*



Merry Christmas

I was a refugee and an immigrant and you welcomed me. (Mat.25)



Christmas is God's Way Honouring the Insignificant

- Rev. Dr. Robert H. Schuller



I wish you a very Happy Christmas
and a New Year radically committed with the Messia's project:
to bring the good news of liberation to the poor. (Lk 4)

Love and Peace, Fr. Bernardino Andrade

Jesus was born not in a maternity unit of a decent hospital but in a poor cave. This was not His choice or His parents choice.

Short time later the Baby Jesus, along with His parents, (Mary and Joseph) was a refugee in a distant land. Egypt was not their choice. Every time a refugee drowns Jesus is drowning. Every time a refugee cries, Jesus cries.



*Merry
Christmas*

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

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).



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

>> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

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>> 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 English 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: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺