



13th January 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

Baptism of the Lord, 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.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 103(104); Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22)

Writing in Babylon about 540 BC, second **Isaiah** majestically consoles Israel in its exile. God tenderly commands his attendants to comfort Israel and to prepare a sacred way for them to return to Jerusalem. He will lead his people to freedom across the desert in a new Exodus. The coming of God's rule should be announced to the whole world, shouted from the mountain-tops. The **psalm** magnificently praises and celebrates God's creative wisdom and power. **Titus** worked with Paul and later administered the church in Crete. In this pastoral letter Paul advises Titus on setting up church structures and choosing suitable presbyters for each local church. All Christians, and especially Church leaders, are urged to lead godly lives. We should reveal God's love to others in our good behaviour, while not disrupting the lives of others, in confident expectation of our redemption. **Luke** saw us as living in a time of waiting, one of three phases he saw in salvation history. Luke's time of promise, the period of Israel, ended when John was put in prison by Herod, after John the Baptist's prediction that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' baptism begins the period when this promise is fulfilled. Luke's Book of Acts describes his third phase, the beginning of the church.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

By: Larysa Makarova (from the Ukraine)

Entry Hymn: "Hark the herald-angels sing.." – n. 212

Offertory Hymn: "Away in a manger" - n. 53

Communion Hymn: "Silent night" - n. 498

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

Final Hymn: "Gloria in excelsis Deo" - n. 36





1.

WHAT PUNK ROCKERS TAUGHT ME ABOUT BAPTISM

One day, I was taking a walk through one of the streets of the city of San Francisco (California). With me there were two friends from Portugal. One was Fr. Aires Gameiro, at that time professor of Psychology in the Catholic University of Lisbon, and presently living in Funchal, and the other one was Jorge (at the time an immigrant from Portugal, living in San Francisco). We were just enjoying our walk, and talking about people, about ideas and about things.

At a certain moment we saw a group of young people, doing nothing, just talking and laughing together, dressed in a strange way, with strange colours and strange hair styles, also in different and strange colours. I was told that they were a group of «Punk Rockers». I thought that I was, and I think I am, very open to diversity and to surprises, but I confess that I was not open to see what I considered to be such an ugly scene. They were not doing anything wrong. They were just making an «ugly-looking» scene. If one of them hugged me I would feel the need to take a shower. Then I said «I wish I had a friend punk rocker.» My intention was not to change him or to convert him or her, but to ask what they found attractive about that way of living and that way of dressing. Because to me, that looked so ugly and even repugnant to see those boys and girls like that. They were not doing anything wrong. They were just dressing and acting like a bunch of idiots wasting their time. How could they find that attractive, when to me they looked so repellent? This was the question I would have liked to ask.



That's when Fr. Gameiro told me: «They are not there because they find it attractive. They are there to fulfil their need of belonging». Then he added that **«the basic need of the human being is the need to belong.** Most of them don't belong to a family anymore. They don't belong to a church anymore. But they still feel this terrible need burning them from inside out. They need to belong. And when they see any young person dressed like that they *know* that they belong to them.

2.

THAT'S WHY I AM SO MISERABLE

He was what they call «a dangerous guy». One day, when this car was passing by, surrounded by body guards and in a caravan carrying «Very Important People» he pulled out a gun, killed the Mayor of the city and wounded another man». It was not difficult to catch the killer and arrest him. During one of the interrogatories he was asked: «What church do you belong to?». His answer was: «I don't belong to anything. I don't belong to anybody, that's why I am so miserable».

3.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today, January 13, 2019, the Catholic Church celebrates the Festivity of the Baptism of the Lord. Celebrating the Baptism of the Lord we are celebrating our own Baptism. Since I had this experience with the punk rockers I started calling BAPTISM, THE SACRAMENT OF BELONGING.

With our Baptism we start belonging to the Body of Christ. We start belonging to the family of God. We start belonging to one another. We are important to one another. We need one another.

Some Bible scholars think that the Church started at the Calvary when Jesus, hanging on the cross, said: «John! Take care of my mother. Mother take care of John». Life is about relationships. Church is about relationships. We are baptized to be part of the family of God and to take care of one another. **Life is about belonging. Church is about belonging. Belonging is about taking care of one another.**

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



POPE FRANCIS - calls for end to diplomatic stand-off over 49 stranded migrants

Last Sunday, Pope Francis called on European leaders to stop arguing over the fate of 49 migrants aboard two humanitarian ships in the Mediterranean and to offer them a safe port of call. Addressing around 60,000 people gathered in St Peter's Square for the feast of the Epiphany, the Pope urged leaders to show their support for the migrants who have been stranded aboard the *Sea-Watch* and the *Sea-Eye* vessels for about 14 days. *"I am making a heartfelt appeal to European leaders to demonstrate concrete solidarity for these people,"* Pope Francis said. They are *"looking for a safe port where they could disembark"*, he added.

On Wednesday, 9th January, the migrants were allowed to disembark in Malta after an agreement to redistribute them between 8 European countries, including Portugal. The two ships, *Sea-Watch* and *Sea-Eye*, had been allowed to shelter from bad weather in Maltese waters a week ago, but the agreement to disembark the migrants took longer because Malta required that another 249 migrants which the small Mediterranean country had relieved and welcomed in previous days be included in the redistribution agreement. These migrants will now be divided between Germany and France, who will receive 60 each, Ireland, Romania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Italy; and Portugal, which will receive 10.



BETHLEHEM'S CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY – Open once again

Source: www.aleteia.org/2018/12/13/church-on-the-site-of-jesus-birthplace-undergoes-a-major-renovation/



Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity is opening once again after a five-year restoration. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, built over the cave where tradition holds that Christ was born, is nearing the end of a 5-year-long renovation. For the first time in hundreds of years, visitors to the church will soon be able to see intricate floor mosaics dating back to the 4th century. The church is the oldest one in the world that is still in service. It was first built under Emperor Constantine but most of the existing structure dates back to the Emperor Justinian, in

the mid-6th century. Today, Catholics, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian Orthodox Christians share responsibility for maintaining the church.

“SANTO AMARO” FEAST – January 11th to 15th

Source: <http://www.visitmadeira.pt/en-gb/what-to-do/events/search/santo-amaro-feast->

Madeirans celebrate, in a particularly festive and ceremonial way all over the island, the religious festivity of “*Santo Amaro*” (Saint Mauro), which is held from January 11th to 15th. “*Santo Amaro*” is when families gather to share the remaining delicacies of the festive season, take off the Christmas decorations and dismantle the “*lapinhas*” (nativity cribs) and “clean” the kitchen cabinets – a custom deeply rooted in the traditions of the people of Madeira. On these days the municipality of Santa Cruz pays tribute to its patron saint in a very lively religious festivity, which marks the end of the Christmas holidays.



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:

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! 😊



MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturdays: 18h30 Portuguese

Sundays: 10h00 English

11h30 Portuguese

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

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

Tea and Coffee After Mass!!

in the Social Room
across the garden -
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: 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. ☺