




3rd February 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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 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

(Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Psalm 70(71); 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Luke 4:21-20)

In 626 BC, **Jeremiah** was appointed by God to be his prophet during the forty troubled years before the exile. Israel had fallen away from God's covenant, worshipping pagan gods. Jeremiah warned them that unless they turned back to the Lord, Jerusalem would be destroyed – as it was by Babylon. But the prophet's life is not easy, even though sure of God's support, and Jeremiah suffered much at the hands of his own people.

The **psalmist** implores the Lord's help in affliction, confident he will be heard.

Paul has emphasised to the **Corinthians** that the different abilities of each member are essential to the work of the church. In today's beautiful reading he contrasts these diverse skills with the overriding virtue of love, needed by everyone. And more important than the gift of tongues, which the Corinthians valued highly.

In **Luke's** gospel Jesus continues from last week's reading, saying the text he had read from Isaiah is being fulfilled as he is speaking. With these words He inaugurates the time of fulfilment of the Jewish Scriptures. But his words were seen as unexpectedly gracious for a mere carpenter's son. He could work no miracles there in his home town. He tells them Gentiles will prove more receptive to the word of God. Jerusalem would be destroyed yet again.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: My lips will tell of your help.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry Hymn: "I sing a song to you, Lord" – n. 246

Offertory Hymn: "For you are always close to me..." - n. 248

Communion Hymn: "Let there be love shared among us" - n. 317

Final Hymn: "All over the world the Spirit is moving" - n. 19

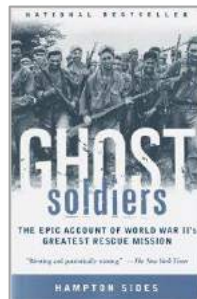




Homeless who «WANT» to be Homeless

In his book «Ghost Soldiers», *Hampton Sides* tells the story of a dramatic mission during World War II. On January 28th, 1945, 121 hand-selected Army Rangers slipped behind enemy lines in the Philippines in an attempt to rescue 513 American and British POW's who had spent three years in a hellish prison camp near the city of Cabanatuan.

Hampton Sides describes the first effects of liberation as chaos and fear. The prisoners were mentally too brittle to understand what was taking place. Some even scurried away from their liberators. One particular prisoner, Bert Bank, refused to budge, even when a Ranger walked up to him and tugged his arm. «C'mon, we're here to save you», he said. «Run for the gate». Bank still would not move. The Ranger looked into his eyes and saw they were vacant, registering nothing. «What's wrong with you?» he asked. «Don't you want to be free?» Finally, a smile formed on Bank's lips as the meaning of the words became clear, and he reached up to the outstretched hand of the Ranger. The Rangers searched all the barracks for additional prisoners, then shouted, «The Americans are leaving. Is there anybody here?» Hearing no answer they left. The freed prisoners marched 25 miles and boarded their ship home. With each step, their stunned disbelief gave away to soaring optimism.



One of the most unjust, ignorant, and offensive judgements and excuses to do nothing, which I have ever heard in dealing with the poor and the homeless is the despisement and the accusation that they are homeless because they «want» to be.



Portuguese actor, *Pedro Carvalho*, who spent a night on the streets disguised as a homeless man

A short time ago the Portuguese actor, *Pedro Carvalho*, spent one night on the streets disguised as a homeless man with homeless people on a very cold night in the city of Lisbon.

He realized that in some cases this seemed to be true: it seemed that some homeless people don't want to leave the streets. They don't want to leave that misery. That observation left him completely lost. Who «wants» that kind of life? Who «wants» to check two, three, five or even more garbage cans before finding a piece of hamburger, or a piece of chicken mixed with other garbage and mixed with cockroaches, ants and

dead flies in order to be able to satisfy their hunger? Then he decided to call one of his friends who is a psychologist to see if she would be able to find something that would make sense. And yes. Her answer made sense. After living like that for a while they become mentally sick. They get this pathology that doesn't make any sense to us and neither to them. Schizophrenia is probably the most common.

One homeless man told me that he was not able to sleep more than half an hour at a time. It's the noise, it's the inhuman conditions, it's the bathroom that they don't know where to find, it's a police officer that kicks him out just saying: «You cannot sleep here». But one of them told me «they don't tell us where to go». They start their journey again. A very well-known psychiatrist from Funchal told me one day that «their brains don't work like ours».

What about the institutions? I have to confess that I have tried to work with a famous institution in Funchal that is supposed to shelter the homeless, but I have never had a good experience.

One of the homeless told me that it looks more like a concentration camp and «the way they treat us is like being in a concentration camp».

My belief is that the homeless, the poor like everybody else, should be treated like a priest treats a consecrated host.

After reading the story of the soldiers that were freed from the Philippines, maybe it will be easier to understand the minds of people like the homeless, and prisoners who have been brutalized by their miserable life conditions which have left them miserably sick.



None of the American soldiers, including Bert Bank, “chose and wanted” to stay in that hellish prison.

None of the homeless around the world “chose and want” to be homeless.

«When we start by judging, we have no time to love».

(Saint Mother Teresa)

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

FIRST EVER PAPAL VISIT TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES!! – Feb. 2019

Source: www.thetablet.co.uk/news/11305/pope-to-preside-over-largest-act-of-christian-worship-in-the-arab-world-when-in-uae-

Pope Francis will next week become the first pope to celebrate an open-air Mass on the Arabian peninsula! The mass is due to be attended by up to 135,000 people at the *Zayed Sports City Stadium* in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. **This will be the largest act of Christian worship in the Arab world ever when the pope visits the United Arab Emirates from the 3rd to 5th of February.** The UAE, an oil-rich federation of emirates formally established as a country in 1971, prides itself on being one of the most religiously tolerant states in the Middle East, and has allowed churches to be built in the region since 1965. St Joseph’s Cathedral in Abu Dhabi is home to the largest single congregation in any Muslim-majority country and is situated within walking distance from the “Mary, Mother of Jesus” Mosque, recently renamed to demonstrate the importance of co-existence between the religions. **The country has at least 40 churches and around a million Catholics,** many of them migrant workers from southern India and the Philippines who will be among those filling the seats at the *Zayed stadium* on February 5th. In a message issued before his visit, the Pope praised the UAE as a “model of coexistence” adding that faith in God should unite people and distance them from “hostility and aversion.”



The logo for Pope Francis' apostolic visit to the United Arab Emirates



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:

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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 have donated so far! 😊



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, Sharon & Josefina (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*stories of interest, newsletter layout*). **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. If you would like to receive this newsletter 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. ☺