

21st July 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass


16th 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

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THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. **We are blessed by the presence of our dedicated English Mass priest: Father Bernardino Andrade.** He celebrates the only English Mass on the island every Sunday morning here at the Chapel at 10h00. The Chapel 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. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they founded the Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. In 2015 the Franciscans moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos, and the Chapel reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal. The nave roof and the ceiling were repaired and restored a few years ago through the generosity of Sir Ronald McIntosh, a frequent visitor to our English Mass. The Diocese has also recently done some repairs in the social hall, and fixed the 3 bells in the Chapel's bell tower. More repairs are currently taking place inside the Chapel, above the altar, which are urgently needed to preserve the structure and beauty of this Chapel.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Gen 18:1-10; Ps 14(15):2-5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42)

Abraham, settled by the oaks of Mamre, near Hebron, south of Jerusalem, gives proper hospitality to his three special visitors. He addresses only one of them as Lord, who promises a son to the couple in their old age. God's covenant promise to Abraham of countless descendants can now begin to come true. **The psalm** lists the social virtues necessary to be at one with the Lord, especially justice and charity. Paul had explained to the **Colossians** that with Christ's death God's covenant plan is now back on track. Paul sees his afflictions as helping spread the knowledge of redemption and contributing towards the debt Christ has already paid on our behalf. The Jews believed that God would reveal his secret plans for creation: Paul says these have now been revealed - the mystery is Jesus the Christ, the man who is the revelation of God, now raised to the new life also promised to us. In **Luke's** description of Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary, their brother Lazarus is not mentioned. Like Sarah, Martha is busy preparing the meal. With so much to do she is naturally - but not obsessively - distracted, and asks for Mary's help. But Jesus reminds her that listening to the words of their prophetic guest is more important than domestic perfection.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.



« **WHEN MY PASTOR TOUCHED ME** »

I have never had a «good» reputation of being a strict follower of strict rules.

In my former Parish in California I always started my Sunday Masses with a little procession from the front door to the altar. The altar servers, the readers and Ministers of Communion were always very neat and very serious about their role. I cannot say the same thing about their Pastor who was supposed to give them a «good example» of a «sacred» behaviour. Sometimes I would tell somebody to sing louder, sometimes I would tell a lady to give a hug, in my name to her husband, when she got home after Mass or just tell him that was missing him, sometimes I would steal a baby from their parent's arms and then they had no choice but go to the altar if they wanted their baby back. Well sometimes it was funny... especially when the baby would make everybody smile, before jumping to his father's arms.



One of my «bad» habits was to gently touch people on their shoulders.

My Parish was very «white». If my Parishioners were not white they were Indians from Mexico or Central America, and a good number of Filipinos, but not Afro-Americans.

One Sunday I was following the entrance procession when I saw a very dark Afro-American man. Very well-dressed and polite. And as usual when I passed by him, I gently touched him on his shoulder.



The Mass ended and he got lost among the Sunday crowd. On the following Thursday, this same man appeared at the Rectory's door. I gave him a hug as usual, invited him to come in and sit down. And then, during this informal conversation he told me that the reason why he was visiting me was because he wanted to be baptized. I expressed my joy with another hug. I called the lady in

charge of the adults Baptism preparation and he joined the group of adult people who were in their journey to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Some people kept telling me that during their meetings, the man mentioned different times that *the moment* he decided to be baptized was the moment «*when Fr. Bernardino touched me*».

One day I was talking with him and I dared to ask him: «*George, some people have told me that the moment you decided to receive the Baptism and become a Catholic was the day I touched you. Is there anything, any story that I said that moved you to make that decision?*»

«Yes. You said some things that touched me, but the real moment I decided to receive the Baptism was one Sunday, when I was in church, and you were walking to start Mass and you touched me. I was new in the city, I didn't know anybody and you didn't know me and you touched me. You recognized that I was there. You didn't ignore me. You made me feel at home». Then I thought: «Who would ever guess that under that neat suit there was a «baby» in need to be touched?»

On that day I confirmed, even more, what I already knew. The Church has more than seven Sacraments. The Church has eight Sacraments. The eighth Sacrament is the Sacrament of **Hospitality**. But one day I said this to a colleague from Brazil and his answer was. «No. Hospitality is not the eighth Sacrament. Hospitality is the only Sacrament. Without Hospitality the other Sacraments are good for nothing».

Today's first reading (Gen. 18, 1-10) talks about the way Abraham welcomed three strangers. The Gospel (Lk. 10, 38-42) talks about the way Mary and Martha welcomed Jesus.

Many people will find Jesus and a meaning for their lives not through the Bible.... they don't know, and don't read the Bible. And not through Catholic activities, because most of those activities don't attract them. **They will find Jesus and his Church if we welcome them and love them.** This is the Sacrament of Hospitality.



Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

THE CHAPEL'S SOCIAL HALL – Come and have a look:



Please join us after Mass in the social hall of the Chapel (just across the garden) for a **cup of coffee, tea, homemade cake and a chat!** ☕

We have a **visitor's book** in the Social Hall, where you can leave a message, and tell us where you are from! There is a world map to the one side, where you can place a pin on your home town, and we even have a **Free Little Library**: a cabinet full of books. You're welcome to take a book, leave one in exchange, or contribute with a small donation for the book you take – all proceeds go to our *People Helping People* fund. Happy Reading!



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 former 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:

ACCOUNT NAME: *Associacao Gente Ajudando Gente/PHP*

BANK: Banco Santander Totta **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0003 4938 1759020

IBAN: PT50 0018 0003 49381759020 94 **SWIFT:** TOTAPTPL **NIB:** 0018 0003 49381759020 94

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:

Sundays:

10h00 English

11h30 Portuguese



Tea and Coffee

After Mass!!

in the Social Room
across the garden -
please join us!



"Cries of The Poor":

Msg received 25/06/2019 from Jorge:

"Please help, yesterday and today we didn't eat anything because we have no gas to cook."

Msg received 22/06/2019 from Carmen:

"Can you please help me. We have nothing to eat. Please can you help us with 2 pkts of spaghetti, 2 tins of sausages, 2 pkts of rice, 2 tins of tuna fish and 12 eggs and some bread and 3 litres of milk and some coffee..."

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 and Sharon (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*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 or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺