




1st September 2019 -10h00 Sunday Mass

22nd 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



Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. We are blessed to have **Father Bernardino Andrade** celebrating Mass in English here at the Chapel every Sunday morning at 10:00am. **The special intention of this morning's Mass** will be for **David Hodge** who passed away on the 4th of September 2016. David lived in Madeira with his wife Manuela, and was a successful accountant for the *Pestana* group for many years before his retirement. He is very much missed by Manuela and his 3 daughters and granddaughters; his close friends Tadhg and Sinead Moynihan, and by all who knew him. **May his Soul rest in peace ☩**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Sir* 3:17-20, 28-29. *Ps* 67(68):4-11. *Heb* 12:18-19, 22-24. *Lk* 14:1, 7-14)

Part of Wisdom literature, the **Book of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus**, was written by Ben Sira about 200 BC. Based on deep experience, it is full of traditional Jewish and worldly wisdom and morals. After describing our duties towards God and our parents, today's reading emphasises the need for humility in face of God's greatness and the wisdom that comes from listening carefully. The omitted verses advise us not to seek what is beyond our power nor tasks beyond what has been assigned to us. This triumphal **psalm** celebrating God's goodness was sung as David led the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. Our final reading from **Hebrews** describes the exciting delights of the heavenly city we have now entered, after our baptism. Instead of fearsome Sinai, Zion – the new "Temple Mount" where God resides - is full of angels in tumultuous joyful festival, with believers and saints made perfect being welcomed by Jesus and our God. What a welcome! But God is still judge: as we have been given the privilege of Jesus as covenant-mediator, we have the responsibility of offering thanksgiving to God. **In Luke's gospel** we hear about Jesus having dinner with a Pharisee. Two parables illustrate the themes from the first reading of humility and not giving ourselves airs.

* If you would like to include these kind of Scripture notes in your parish newsletters, please contact Chris Oliver.
His email address is: chris@chris-oliver.net

PSALM RESPONSE: In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

By: *Larysa Makarova (from the Ukraine)*
and *Irene de Sousa (from the UK)*

Entry Hymn: "Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess" - n. 215

Offertory Hymn: "Take our bread, we ask you..." - n. 528

Communion Hymn: "Lay your hands gently upon us" - n. 307

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

Final Hymn: "Go, the mass is ended" - n. 175





More Powerful Than The Atomic Bomb

I went to Brazil for the first time in 1983 when I was working full time with the Portuguese Community of the Diocese of Oakland in California.

Fr. José Marins, a great Pastoralist and Theologian, who had been an expert during all four sessions of the Council Vatican II had told us in California that Latin America was the laboratory of the Church of the future. I was anxious to learn about the Church of the future. Before leaving to Brazil I asked permission to stay there for three months exploring the «laboratory» of the Church of the future.

I visited Parishes, talked with priests, with people, Bishops, visited shanty towns (favelas) and especially talked with the poorest of the poor that I could find around me. At a walking distance from the place where I was staying (my sister's house), there was this super-miserable and filthy shanty town, one of the famous «favelas» of Brazil. No running water, no electricity; the walls of the «houses» were made of cardboard and pieces of plastic. Right on the corner of that «favela» there was a room under construction by the Parish, where people could have meetings. It was in that room with little mountains of sand and wood that I was asked to talk about God. It was in *that* room under construction that a little five-year-old girl, Sandra, changed my spirituality when she taught me that God is our Mother.

There was a Bible group made up of women who used to meet on Wednesdays to share the word of God. I don't think that any of them had studied beyond their primary school; not even my sister, Matilde, who was the leader of the group. I found interesting that usually a reading was given and there was always one of them who would say: «*Can you please read it again*»? Sometimes the same text of the Bible was read two or three times. Then they would start sharing. Not an intellectual discussion but a simple sharing from their heart. «*What word or sentence or verse touched me most?*». They were aware that the Word of God is the «salt of the earth and light of the world» (Math. 5; 13, 14). That's why the biggest challenge was «*What does this Word have to do with the reality where we live*». I had no idea that in that small room, under construction, a group of almost illiterate «subversive» women were building something more powerful than the atomic bomb.

One day I saw a group of women walking in the direction of the

city hall. Again, Matilde was leading them. They had posters in their hands upon which were written their requests to the President of the city. They were asking for three things only: *Water, Electricity, and Safety without violence.* This last one was referring to police assistance in that surrounding area to avoid crime. But they added «*non-violence*». The reason was that in general, to *avoid* violence, it was normal for the police to *use* violence. Sometimes they would kill in order to prevent killing.

These same women would visit the street markets and would ask for vegetables that were not good for sale, like potatoes, tomatoes, onions, and green leaves that had been damaged. They would bring those products with them and cook big pots of soup, especially for the children. **Those big pots of soup were able to transform every day into Christmas day.**



This was one of the many things that I saw in Brazil before returning to California.

Years later, I visited Brazil again. It was very hard to believe my eyes. That filthy, dark and violent shanty town was completely transformed. In the place of the shanty town there was what looked like a little city with beautiful and attractive houses, a school and a church where I said Mass and baptized babies.

The Bible in the hands of a small group of «crazy» Christians is more powerful than an atomic bomb. Love is more powerful than indifference.

Love and Peace

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

RESTORATION WORK ON THE ALTAR CEILING – In progress



THE CEILING ABOVE THE ALTAR



Restoration work on the ceiling above the altar of the chapel continues! Over a year ago, restoration work was started to repair and restore the beautifully decorated ceiling in our almost 400-year-old chapel. Here are some updated photos which were taken by our Chaplain. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far and helped make the restoration works possible!



To raise funds for the restoration work, a Feast in honour of Our Lady of Penha de França was held last year. This year, once again, the same celebration takes place... on September 7th and 8th. More details below....

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF PENHA DE FRANÇA - Next weekend!



It's that time of the year once again! We are going to be celebrating the *Feast of Our Lady of Penha de França* here at the Chapel – **NEXT WEEKEND!**

The Feast will take place **on Saturday and Sunday, 7th - 8th of September**. This will be only the second time that we are celebrating the feast. Last year was the first time ever!

The feast programme is as follows:

- **On the Saturday there will be a Mass (in Portuguese)** at 7pm, celebrated by Fr. Vitor Sousa and Fr. Jorge Magalhães, followed by musical animation which will end at midnight.
- **On the Sunday, we will have our usual 10am Mass in English.** Another Mass will be held at 5pm (in Portuguese, by the Bishop of Funchal) which will be followed by a procession along the roads surrounding the Chapel.

On both days (the Saturday, and the Sunday) there will be groups providing musical animation, also folklore dancing, and on sale: traditional foods, snacks, cakes, and beverages.

Do come along and experience a traditional Madeiran Feast!



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 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).



"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:

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



What does love look like?

It has the **hands** to help others.

It has the **feet** to hasten
to the poor and needy.

It has **eyes** to see misery and want.

It has the **ears** to hear the sighs
and sorrows of men.

That is what love looks like.

—Saint Augustine

AZ QUOTES



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 and Irene (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*newsletter layout*). **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. You 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. ☺