



15th September 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

24th 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

 **Instagram:**
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/



THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. We are blessed to have *Father Bernardino Andrade* celebrating Mass here every Sunday morning. Father Bernardino spent many years as a priest in Mozambique and also in the USA. **The special intention for this morning's mass is for John and Cecilia Gray.** For those who may be wondering about the "age" of this small Chapel... it was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, almost 400 years ago, and built on a "penha" or peak, by the sea. Please join us after Mass in the Social Hall across the garden for a cup of tea or coffee, and cake.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

(*Ex 32:7-11, 13-14. Ps 50(51):3-19. Tim 1:12-17. Lk 15: 1-32*)

Earlier in the **Book of Exodus**, God had given Moses the Ten Commandments and many other instructions, which the people had covenanted to obey, sealed by sprinkling sacrificial blood. During Moses' second ascent of Sinai, God wrote the Commandments on stone tablets. Meanwhile the people were already disobeying the first Commandment by worshipping a golden calf. No wonder God was angry – Moses pleaded with God not to let the Egyptians win after all. God relented – but Moses then angrily broke the tablets and God had to write them again later! In this most famous penitential **psalm**, we beg pardon for our sins, ask to be restored to grace and purity, and promise to make God's mercy known to others. Over the next 7 weeks we hear from the letters to **Timothy** attributed to Paul, giving detailed instructions for organising the developing Christian communities. At that time we hear about only 'deacons' and 'presbyter-bishops' as church leaders. 'Presbyter' simply means 'elder'. The Greek *episcopi* means 'overseer' or 'overlooker'. Later a three tier structure developed: Deacons, Presbyters, Bishops. In the Gospel, Jesus also shows how communities are to be managed: do not allow any members to be lost – the father runs to welcome back his prodigal son. Perhaps the most moving image we have of God.

* 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: I will leave this place and go to my father.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Larysa Makarova on the violin (from the Ukraine) and Rui César Gomes on the accordion (from Madeira)

Entry Hymn: "This is the day..." - n. 574

Offertory Hymn: "Let us break bread together" - n. 318

Communion Hymn: "This is my body..." - n. 572

Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

Final Hymn: "Walk in the light" - n. 561



The Greatest Short Story In The World (Lk. 15)

The lost son: This has been called "the greatest short story in the world."

It speaks about the deep effects of sin, the self-destruction of hatred and the infinite mercy of God. This is a story of love, of conflict, of deep heartbreak, and of ecstatic joy. The scene opens on a well-to-do Jewish family. With the immaturity of a spoiled brat the younger son demands impudently of his gracious father, "Give me the portion of goods that falls to me." Demanding inheritance while the father was alive was equivalent to treating the father as dead. Under Jewish law, when a father divided his property between two sons, the elder son had to receive two-thirds and the younger one-third (Dt 21:17). In Jesus' parable, the younger son offends his father again by selling out his share of the inheritance and then squandering the money in a faraway city. The land was sacred to the Jewish people because it was the Promised Land given to the Chosen People. Hence, each bit of land was considered holy, and no Israelite could lawfully sell his property (Lev. 25:23, 1 Kg. 21). Ancient "social security" basically consisted in sons farming their father's land and taking care of their parents until their death. Thus, in selling his land, the prodigal has sold his parents' social security.



The Return of the Prodigal Son
- a painting by Rembrandt

The conversion, return, and confession: When he becomes bankrupt, the prodigal son ends up feeding pigs, a task that was forbidden to a Jew (Leviticus 11:7; 14:8). Having sunk to the depths of economic, spiritual and moral depravity, the prodigal finally "comes to his senses" (v. 17). So he decides to return to his father, to ask his forgiveness and to beg for the status of a hired servant. When he sees his son returning, the ever-watchful father runs to him and gives him a cordial welcome along with a new robe, a ring and new shoes. Symbolically, the robe stands for honor; the ring for authority (the signet ring gave a person the power of attorney) and the shoes for the son's place as a member of the family (slaves did not wear shoes). The father also throws a great feast killing the "fatted calf" reserved for the Passover feast so that all may rejoice at the wanderer's return.

The "Prodigal Father" and the self-righteous elder brother:

The parable illustrates the wonder of God's love and unconditional forgiveness. God seeks out the sinner and forgives him unconditionally. Jesus recounts the story of the elder brother as his response to the accusation by the self-righteous Pharisees that he was the friend of sinners. The elder brother represents the self-righteous Pharisees who would rather see a sinner destroyed than saved. He reflects the Pharisees' attitude that obedience to Mosaic Law is a duty, not a loving service. Like the Pharisees, the elder brother lacks sympathy for his sibling and levels accusations against him. As a self-righteous person, he refuses to forgive. Thus, his grudge becomes a sin in itself, resulting in his self-exclusion from the banquet of his father's love. That is what we all do when we sin. We exclude ourselves from the banquet of God's love.

- Source: Father Tony Kadavil

Love and Peace

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF PENHA DE FRANÇA – last weekend

Last weekend we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Penha de França here at the Chapel. Festivities were held over two days (Saturday and Sunday), and D.Nuno Brás, the Bishop of Funchal, celebrated a special Mass here on the Sunday afternoon. The first and second readings were done in English and in Portuguese, and the Gospel was read in English by Fr. Bernardino Andrade, and in Portuguese by Fr. Vítor Sousa. After the Mass, there was a procession around the block near the Chapel. Here are a few moments from that day:



Fr. Bernardino and the Bishop



The Bishop of Funchal celebrating Mass with Fr. Bernardino, Fr. Vitor, and another two priests around the altar.



The procession after Mass



The image of Our Lady of Penha de França

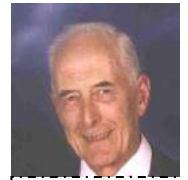
SEARCHING – For Friends and Feet Washers



It is the name of a book written by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, from Boston: *"Searching for Friends and Feet Washers"*. It is the title of this special appeal we are making today in favour of the association *"People Helping People"*. Until now we have been asking you to contribute with material things like money, groceries, clothes and so on for the poor. Now we are asking for your time. We are asking you to volunteer "to be friends and feet washers". We would like to invite those who are willing to go to the field and do something to help the poor, to **please join us** for a meeting that is going to take place this coming Thursday, September 19th, at 6.30 PM, at Moynihan's Pub. *Fr. Bernardino*

SCRIPTURE READINGS – Get them for your parish!

On the front page of our newsletter every Sunday morning you will see an introduction to the Scripture readings. These notes are sent to us every week by Chris Oliver in the UK. He started 9 years ago, and has now completed 3 cycles of the Sunday liturgy readings. These are very special and help to give a better understanding of the readings. Chris is willing to send these notes by email each week to anyone who would like to have them included in their own Parish newsletters too. The notes from 3 years earlier are revised each time, with information on the psalm added, and are always within a 250 word limit for newsletters. If you would like to receive Chris' notes, all you need to do is to contact him by email (chris@chris-oliver.net) and he will be happy to send them. Chris has been doing this wonderful work for our Chapel for many years now. Thank you Chris! Your hard work and dedication is very much appreciated! ☺



Chris Oliver

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:

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! ☺



SUNDAYS:

10h00 English

11h30 Portuguese

SATURDAYS:

18h30 Portuguese



PHP would like to say a Special Thank You to Ron and Julie, and also to Peter and Veronica who have sent clothes for baby Bianca after reading our Newsletter appeal asking for help for her mum who is unemployed and has 2 other children (a girl of 6 and a boy of 10). Bianca's mum is so grateful for all the help she has received. Thank you for remembering this little family! God Bless you!

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 Rui (*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. ☺