


# JOYFUL GIFT

**Sunday 10th April 2016, 3rd Sunday of Easter, Year C**

Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch:

 <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>



[www.facebook.com/PenhaDeFrancaChapel.Funchal](http://www.facebook.com/PenhaDeFrancaChapel.Funchal)



## The Roman Catholic English Service Mass in Madeira

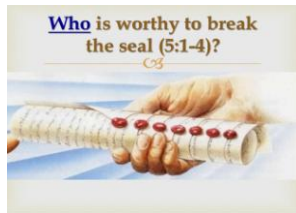
Good morning! Welcome to the **Chapel of Penha de França**.

Father Bernardino Andrade is our priest who will be saying mass this Sunday morning. Almost 400 years old, this small Chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, and built on a "penha" or peak, by the sea. It 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. When the Diocese of Funchal took possession of the chapel it was used as the Bishop's Summer Residence for many years. 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. As of last year, the Chapel has reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal. The nave roof has recently been repaired and the ceiling restored through the generosity of a frequent visitor to our English Mass.

## Today's Scripture Readings

*(Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Psalm 29(30); Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19)*

After the healings we heard in last week's reading from the Book of Acts, the Apostles were again arrested and put in prison, only to be miraculously freed during the night. They immediately continued teaching in the Temple, and were again brought before the Sanhedrin, where they defended themselves strongly. Omitted from today's reading is Gamaliel's urging that they be released because if their activity "comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them"



In the Book of Revelation John sees God seated on a throne, with praises rippling out through widening circles of heavenly creatures. The one on the throne holds a scroll written on both sides and sealed with seven seals. An angel proclaims "Who is worthy to

open the scroll?" But everyone is in despair because there seems to be no one worthy to break the seals and open the scroll. But then someone says "The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David has triumphed". Instead of a lion, a slain lamb steps forward to receive the scroll.

After the reading last week of the first ending to John's Gospel, we hear today most of the second ending. With his three repeated questions, Jesus forgives Peter's three denials, and insists that the essential pre-condition for authority is love. But the sheep continue to belong to Jesus.

*- Brought to you by Chris Oliver*



**Hymns: Entry: 251** (*I will sing, I will sing*)

**Mass: 652** (*Lord have Mercy*)    **Offertory: 313** (*Let all that is within me*)

**Peace: 317** (*Let there be love*)    **Exit: 434** (*O the word of my Lord*)

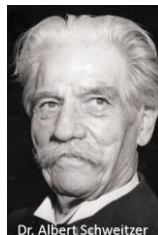
**Music played by: Larysa Makarova**

## From My Heart to Your Heart – A WALKING SERMON

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*Brought to you by – Fr. Bernardino Andrade*

Reporters and city officials gathered at a Chicago railroad station, one afternoon in 1953. The person they were meeting was the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner. A few moments after the train came to stop, a giant of a man, with bushy hair and a large moustache, stepped from the train. Cameras flashed. City officials approached him with hands outstretched. Various people began telling him how honoured they were to meet him. The man politely thanked them and then, looking over their heads, asked if he could be excused for a moment. He quickly walked through the crowd until he reached the side of an elderly black woman who was struggling with two heavy suitcases. He picked up the bags and with a smile he escorted the woman to the bus. After helping her aboard, he wished her a safe journey.



As he returned to the greeting party he apologized, «Sorry to have kept you waiting. » The man was Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous missionary doctor who had spent his life helping the poor in Africa. In response to Schweitzer’s action, one of the members of the reception committee said with great admiration to the reporter standing next to him, «That’s the first time I ever saw a sermon walking. »

After the Eucharist do I become a walking sermon? How? If worship is not transformed into service we miss a lot of our worship. Maybe we misunderstood our worship. Worship is a school where we learn how to wash feet.

Love and Peace,  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



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## Madeira’s Flower Festival

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**Today is the highlight of Madeira’s famous flower festival. At 4pm today,** the main streets of Funchal will be transformed with **dancing children and flower-filled floats.** The flower parade takes place every year, two weeks after Easter, and has been a tradition on the island since 1979. Yesterday, April 9th, as part of the flower festival, thousands of children gathered in the Praça do Município

(the town square in front of the *Colégio Church*) where they built a ‘Wall of Hope’, made of flowers. The children each placed a flower on the wall to symbolize the hope for a better and more peaceful world. Other activities that took place in Funchal this week were the making of flower carpets in the streets, folklore performances, flower shows, classical music concerts and variety shows.

# The Michelangelo of Mexico

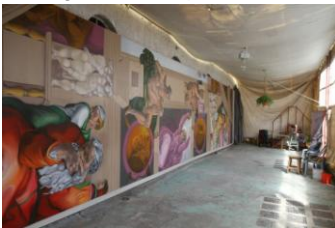
**A Mexico City artist, Miguel Macias, is recreating the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in his hometown.**

Normally, the art world does not encourage artists to *copy* other artists, but when retired graphic-artist Miguel Macias decided to recreate Michelangelo's glorious Sistine Chapel paintings on the ceiling of a church near his home in Mexico City, copying it is exactly what he set out to do. The idea struck Macias after visiting the Sistine Chapel fifteen years ago. Admiring the beauty of Michelangelo's work, he realized that many of his friends and neighbors back home in Mexico would not be able to travel to the Vatican, and therefore never enjoy the masterpiece in person: **"I had the idea of capturing this... and bringing it to Mexico for all the people who can't afford to go to Europe and visit these works of art,"** he says.

So, upon returning home in 1999, Macias began reproducing the ceiling. The artist began by painting images on 14 separate canvases, which he then glued to the 33-foot ceiling of the *Perpetuo Socorro* church in Mexico City. **In 2016, he's now 80 percent done.**



Miguel Macias poses with his unfinished Sistine chapel replica



**"I think this was something that God wanted me to do,"** Macias says. "When I was there I even paced up and down the chapel to measure its length and width." When asked why it "only" took Michelangelo four years to complete the fresco and it's taking Macias nearly five times as long, Macias joked that Michelangelo was "paid in gold" for the project, while he is paying out of his own pocket to finance his project. "It took Michelangelo only four years to finish his version," Macias says. "But he had the Vatican's support, and around 40 assistants." **Macias buys many of the painting materials with his pension money, and works for free at the Church in Mexico City with two volunteers.** "A priest told me I can't die without finishing this," the retired graphic designer says.

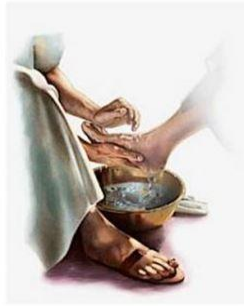
The self-taught artist said the main difference between his church and the Sistine Chapel is the height. The ceiling at the *Perpetuo Socorro* church is 10 meters lower than the Sistine Chapel's, which makes Macias' paintings of scenes from the book of Genesis appear bigger, even though they're the same size as the original. **Slowly, they are beginning to form a colorful, and fairly accurate replica of Michelangelo's masterpiece.**

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

***"Live your life so that those who approach you may find God's presence."***

# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

People Helping People (PHP) 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! In a short period of time we have created partnerships with restaurants and supermarket chains, 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 to lose their homes, get their electricity cut off, run out of gas.



"You should wash each other's feet"  
(John 13:14).

**DONATIONS** - please help:

**Moynihans Irish Bar, on the corner up the road from the Chapel, accepts Donations of food, toiletries or clothes for PHP.**

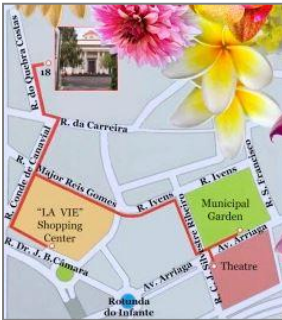
**Bank: Banco Santander Totta**  
**IBAN:** PT50 0038 0000 40900916771 75  
**BIC (SWIFT):** BNFPTPL  
**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 000409009167710

**Bank Address:**  
Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A,  
9020-119, Funchal,  
Madeira, Portugal

## CONTACTS:

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**USA:** Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561.



## Bible Group

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic Bible Group:

**THURSDAYS**

2pm in the English Church Library.  
Gospel of John: Chapter 19

## Mothers' Prayer Group

**Last Thursday** of each month

11h00-12h00 at the English Church

Mothers & Grandmothers of all ages welcome.

More info: <http://www.mothersprayers.org/>

**Tall?**

**Please beware  
low door  
lintels**



Don't forget to leave your yellow *Hymn Book* and *Order of the Mass* sheets outside the Chapel entrance after mass ☺



**Total of last week's  
first Collection:**

€ 121,33

**Tea and Coffee  
After Mass in the  
meeting room  
across the garden  
- please join us.**

