

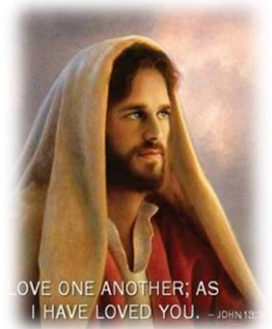
# JOYFUL GIFT

Sunday 24th April 2016, 5th Sunday of Easter, Year C

Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch:

<http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

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



## The Roman Catholic English Service Mass in Madeira

Good morning and welcome to the **Chapel of Penha de França**. Father Bernardino Andrade will be saying mass this morning. Our small chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas almost 400 years ago, 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 it 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 14:21-27; Psalm 144:8-13; Rev 21:1-5; John 13:32-35)

Last week we heard in Acts the start of the first mission of Paul and Barnabas, preaching in synagogues, with mixed receptions. Many Jews became Christians. But many stirred up hatred and violence against the Apostles, leaving Paul for dead. Barnabas and Paul then preached to the Gentiles, showing how they could recognise God's activity in nature. Today we hear how this first mission ends, with religious leaders appointed in each church, and a report of "what God had done".

In Revelation the promise of salvation described last week is now accomplished. The new Jerusalem, symbol of the church, comes adorned as a bride for her marriage with the Lamb, the union of the Messiah with the community of the elect. God dwells with men on earth in the continuing church, after the "former heaven and the former earth" are replaced by a "new heaven and a new earth", separate no longer. God's ancient covenant is fulfilled.

In John's Gospel we hear the beginning of Jesus' long farewell discourse at the Last Supper. Jesus, like Paul, is sad to leave his followers. After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus draws out the meaning of this action. He predicts his coming death and gives a stronger commandment: to have as great a love for one another as Jesus has for us.

- Brought to you by Chris Oliver

**Psalm Response:** I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

**Hymns:** **Entrance:** 65 (*Bind us together, Lord*)

**Offertory:** 419 (*O Lord, my God*)

**Exit:** 317 (*Let there be love*)



**Music played by:** *Larysa Makarova*

## From My Heart to Your Heart – IS POPE FRANCIS INSANE?

Brought to you by – Fr. Bernardino Andrade

I heard, many years ago, during a priest's retreat, a statement that impacted my life tremendously: «**Lovers always look insane for the non-lovers**». Then, throughout my mind, like in a movie, I could see lots of people who really looked insane for the non-lovers.

I saw Brian from Seattle who was a successful lawyer, married to his beautiful wife Pat, with a few children, a six room house and after long period of prayer and discernment with his wife and children, decided to leave his career, sell his house and spend his life preaching missions, spreading the Gospel of Jesus in many Catholic Churches in America. Brian was Catholic. Very often Brian and Pat conducted spiritual retreats for couples helping them to live and enjoy the Sacrament of Matrimony.

I saw John, from Florida, a successful financial planner, also Catholic, who left his career to accompany Brian in his mission. They have been twice in my Parish preaching in the morning and in the evenings.

Brian told me that when he made this decision, (always in dialogue with his wife and children), he took from his wrists and fingers the value of over 30.000 dollars in gold (rings, wrist watch and bracelets). Isn't this insane? Ask the non-lovers. They will even say that this is not just insane... This is stupid.

Is Pope Francis insane? Ask the non-lovers.

About one week ago he left everything important behind him and flew to Lesbos to visit a large camp of refugees. He didn't preach to them, try to moralize or convert them. Pope Francis asked their forgiveness for the indifference and lack of hospitality they found after crossing the ocean to arrive in Europe.

He said that we need to see as brothers and sisters all of those who have to flee from their lands because of the oppression, war and poverty. He underlined: «Each one of you refugees who knock at our doors has the face of God. Your experience of pain and hope reminds us that we are all foreigners and pilgrims. The pope asked us not to see the refugees as a problem and a burden but be understood as a gift and as a bridge to unite distant peoples, promoting the encounter between cultures and religions.

One of the actions that nobody expected was for the pope to bring with him, on the same plane, twelve refugees with the promise to take care of them. And they were Muslims.

Is Pope Francis insane? No. He is a lover. You and I will look insane if we decide to do the same. Let us decide to look insane like the Pope and like Jesus. Let us decide to become a bunch of lovers even taking the risk of looking insane.

«I will give you a new commandment: Love one another. (John 13: 34)

Love and Peace,  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:



After Pope Francis' visit to the refugee camp in Lesbos, reporters flying to Rome with him and the 12 refugees asked him if his gesture was not really so small as to be insignificant. He replied that people used to tell Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta that what she was doing was meaningless when there was an ocean of need in the world.

“And she responded, «*It's a drop in the ocean, but after this drop, the ocean won't be the same,*»” the Pope said. “I'll respond the same way. It's a little gesture. But all of us, men and women, must make these little gestures in order to extend a hand to those in need.”

## Collection for Ukraine – At all Catholic churches throughout Europe today

Source: [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)



**At the request of Pope Francis, this morning's collection will be for the people of Ukraine.** On Divine Mercy Sunday, Pope Francis asked that Catholic parishes throughout Europe take up a special collection on April 24<sup>th</sup> to support the people in Eastern Ukraine, which have been suffering for some time the consequences of an armed conflict, which he says *"has been forgotten by many"*. The 2-year long

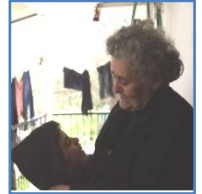
war which has caused thousands of deaths and forced more than 1 million people to seek refuge abroad was started in March 2014 when Russia annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine, and fighting began along Ukraine's eastern border. *"I thank ahead of time all those that will contribute generously to the initiative. This gesture of charity, beyond alleviating material suffering,"* the Pope says, *"expresses my personal closeness and the solidarity of the entire Church."*

## Story of an Inspiring Giver – A Grandmother's generosity to refugees

Source: [www.facebook.com/UNHCR](http://www.facebook.com/UNHCR)

### **An 82 year-old villager, Panagiota Vasileiadou, offers free meals and showers to refugees**

who are stranded at the Greek border, near her home. She hosts 5 refugees in her house in Idomeni, and more visit each day. She welcomes them warmly with home-cooked food, hot showers - and limitless grandma hugs. *"Enough with this war. These people are not to blame for anything"* says this Greek grandmother who was herself a child refugee during World War II. She knows what it's like to lose a home. *"I was 7 years old when our house was burned down. We didn't have a spoon, fork, bread or clothes. The only thing we had left were the nightgowns we were wearing."* Her



*When we came she welcomed us.*

pension is €450. She spends it on the refugees. They call her 'Mama', and she says refugees are her family now. *"My life changed because I have company in the house now. I talk, we laugh. Even though we can't understand each other"*. An Iraqi refugee that she helps, says: *"When we came she welcomed us. She made the kids happy and said «you can come any time» when she heard that their mother was dead. This old woman made our lives easier. I thank her so much."* Over 10.000

refugees still remain stranded at Idomeni Camp between Greece and Macedonia.

## The "Madeira Auto Parade" in Funchal - Tomorrow, 25th April, at 4pm

Tomorrow in the streets of Funchal there will be a **parade of classic vehicles and motorcycles to end off the Flower Festival**. The event aims to join both the glamour of classic vehicles and motorcycles, alongside with the flowers of Madeira, and is organized by the Regional Bureau for the Economy, Tourism and Culture with the collaboration of "The Classic Motor Exhibition" association (ACME) and the Madeira Volkswagen Beetle Club. *The Madeira Auto Parade* will integrate 400 vehicles including 150 motorcycles, which will circulate in pairs in a **parade through "Avenida do Mar"** down to the roundabout of the Port of Funchal, where the participating automobiles will be **on display until 10pm**.



## 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 any Donations, as well as food, toiletries or clothes for PHP.**

**Bank: Banco Santander Totta**

**IBAN: PT50 0038 0000 40900916771 75**

**BIC (SWIFT): BNIFPTPL**

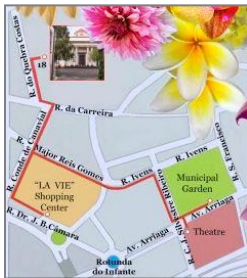
**ACCOUNT NUMBER: 000409009167710**

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

### CONTACTS:

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email: [bernardinodandrade@gmail.com](mailto:bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

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



### Bible Group

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic Bible Group: **THURSDAYS**  
2pm in the English Church Library.

### 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/>

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



**Last week's**

**Collection: € 90.27**

**Expenses: € 80.00**

**Total : € 10.27**

**Tall?**

**Please beware  
low door lintels**

