



JOYFUL GIFT

Sunday 1st May 2016, 6th Sunday of Easter, Year C

Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch:

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The Roman Catholic English Service Mass in Madeira

Welcome to the **Chapel of Penha de França**. This small Chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, almost 400 years ago, 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, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. The nave roof has recently been repaired and the ceiling restored through the generosity of a frequent visitor to our English Mass. Father Bernardino de Andrade is the presiding priest for the English Service Mass on Sundays.



Today's Scripture Readings

(Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Psalm 66(67); Rev 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29)

In Acts, after the success of the first mission of Paul and Barnabas in setting up Gentile churches, Jewish Christian visitors from Jerusalem came to Antioch saying Gentiles must be circumcised to be saved. So Barnabas and Paul went up to Jerusalem for what is called the First Council of the church. Underneath the apparently simple question of circumcision were two other issues: whether Paul's new Gentile Christian communities could remain in communion with the rest of the church; and whether Christianity could remain within Judaism. No-one claimed Jesus' sayings in support. The Holy Spirit leads to a decision through discernment and discussion.

Revelation gives us two brief excerpts from John's beautifully detailed vision of the new Jerusalem, the church, founded on the apostles. There is no temple because Christ is present throughout his church.

In today's gospel, Jesus' Last Supper discourse helps us to feel the joy Jesus has that he will soon return to his Father. He promises to send "another" Advocate who will make Jesus present in his church for the rest of time. The name "Advocate" captures the several roles the Holy Spirit plays in the church and for us. He both consoles and advises or counsels us, while also representing us to God in the heavenly court.

- Brought to you by Chris Oliver

Psalm Response:

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

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

Mass: Lord, have Mercy: 652

Offertory: 462 (*Peace, perfect peace*)

Exit: 359 (*Make me a channel of your peace*)



HYMN SING

Music: Larysa Makarova

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GUILHERME – brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade

An American Bishop made mandatory that all the meetings held in his Diocese should always start with this question: «*What's the importance that this meeting has for the poor?*» This included all the group meetings held at Diocesan and parish level. Some parishes had hundreds of groups. I don't know how many parishes existed in that Diocese. I confess that, when I was a Pastor in America, I tried the same in my Parish but I don't think I had too much success. The poor are «insignificant». The «good groups» made of «good people» don't like to «waste» time with «insignificant things». They need to impress. But those who are familiar with the Gospels, and with the fascinating person of Jesus, especially Luke 4: 18-19, will not understand that Christian meetings could be held otherwise. Actually they don't understand that Christian lives could be lived otherwise. **«The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor» (Luke. 4: 18).**

Guilherme (13) and Henrique (11) are two brothers who grew up being questioned by their relationship with the poor.

When Guilherme celebrated his 5th Birthday all his special friends each received an invitation with special information for his Birthday party. They had a babysitter who was also a cleaning lady. She was a very young and a very poor immigrant from Belorussia and was expecting the birth of a baby girl. In his special invitation for his little friends, Guilherme asked for something very special: for all of them not to bring gifts for him but to bring as many gifts as possible for his babysitter and her baby!

Last Sunday (April 24th) Guilherme celebrated his thirteenth birthday. His friends and some adults brought birthday gifts to his party. When everything was over and after collecting all his gifts with the help of his brother Henrique, who is also very sensitive to the needy, both approached their mother and Guilherme informed her of a decision that they (not just him) had made. «*We decided to contemplate two poor families to share part of all the gifts with them. We [consciously] chose two vouchers: one for the supermarket where they can buy food, and the other one for a sports store where they can buy shoes or other things they need. This way we don't choose for them but they will choose what they need.*»

Guilherme and Henrique understood what People Helping People is about. They understood Jesus' «Mission Statement» which is “to bring Good News to the poor” (Lk. 4:18). Well I have tears in my eyes. Thank you Henrique and HAPPY BIRTHDAY GUILHERME.




Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Today we celebrate Mother's Day in Madeira! Most other countries around the world will only celebrate Mother's Day next week (always on the 2nd Sunday of May). In the UK and Ireland, Mother's Day was already celebrated on the 6th of March, while in Norway it was on the 14th of February this year! Other countries also celebrating Mother's Day today:



 Angola
 Cape Verde
 Hungary

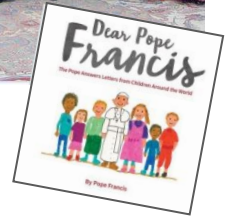
 Lithuania
 Mozambique
 Portugal

 Romania
 Spain

Dear Pope Francis – Children of the World bring their questions to Rome

If you could ask Pope Francis one question, what would it be? Now imagine what you might ask as a child... Small children have BIG questions. Some are fun. Some are serious. And some will quietly break your heart. A new book by Loyola Press called «*Dear Pope Francis*» consists of the Pope's personal responses to 30 handwritten letters and drawings collected from children aged 6 to 13 from all around the world. Twelve of these children got to have a special audience with the Pope and were each given their own personal copy of the book to take home.

One of the book's editor's, Fr. António Spadaro described the Pope's initial reaction to the idea of writing a book for children: «*I talked with him about this project and he immediately said "Yes I want to do it". When the Pope talks to children, the adults listen*» says Fr. António Spadaro.



One of the difficult questions that the Pope had to answer, came from a 7 year old boy from Australia, called Luca.

He wrote: *Dear Pope Francis, my mum is in Heaven. Will she grow angel wings?*

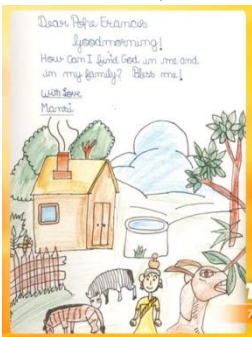
The Pope's response was:

« Dear Luca,

No, no, no! Your mom is in heaven – beautiful, splendid, and full of light. She hasn't grown wings. She is still your mom, the person you know, but she is more radiant than ever. And she watches you and smiles at you as her son. Your mom is happy whenever she sees you behaving well. And if you don't behave, she still loves you and asks Jesus to help you become a better person. Think of your mother like this: beautiful, smiling, and full of love for you.»

Franciscus

Another question that Pope Francis answered was from a little girl called Mansi. She is from India: *Dear Pope Francis, Good morning! How can I find God in me and in my family? Bless me! With love, Mansi*



His reply was:

« Dear Mansi, You can find God in your family by loving your mom, your dad, your brothers, your sisters, your grandpa, your grandma, and your aunts and uncles. If you love the people in your family, you will find God, and everything will be harmonious. And your drawing is like this – it's beautiful, serene, and harmonious. You are there, and I can tell that you are happy. You also have animals and plants. And there's your house. The doors are closed, but smoke is coming out of the chimney. Love is not just the result of your actions. It is also a grace that you receive from God. And it is a grace that you have to help grow. You have to water it like you would water a plant. Every day learn to water the grace of love toward your family. Then you will find God in your home.»

Franciscus

And Ryan, from Canada, asked: *What did God do before the world was created?*

Pope Francis answered: « He loved. God loved. »

Franciscus

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



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

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. We have tried to keep them warm, keep them hopeful, keep them dreaming...

DONATIONS - please help:

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

CONTACTS:

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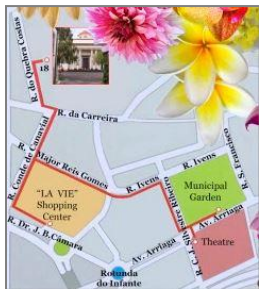
Bank: Banco Santander Totta

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BIC (SWIFT): BNIFPTPL

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 000409009167710

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



Bible Group

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

Mothers' Prayer Group

Last Thursday of each month
11-12 am at the English Church
Mothers & Grandmothers of all ages welcome.
More information: <http://www.mothersprayers.org/>

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

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 ☺

