

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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

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).

>> 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

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Holy Week



GOOD
FRIDAY

May Your Faith
In GOD Bring
Peace, Hope
and Love To
Your Heart and
Everlasting Joy
To Your Soul.

May the blessings of the
LORD shine upon you this
HOLY DAY and always.

Be the POSITIVE
SOUL SENSATIONS

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, Rui, Cátia and Helena (*Hymns*); Tracy (newsletter layout & stories of interest). **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: 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. ©

JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, number 210

5th April 2020

Palm / Passion Sunday, Year A

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/



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

This is the 2nd week of our "digital" format newsletter. This just means that instead of a printed issue handed out at Mass, there is only this "digital" version. We decided to do this after all Masses were suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. You can also find older issues of the newsletter online on the Chapel's website/blog (<http://rcmassmadeira.org/>). We hope you will enjoy reading today's newsletter and that it will help us all keep in touch during these uncertain times.

Have a blessed Palm Sunday and Holy Week!



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

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



Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalms 21(22)

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

In exile in Babylon, after Jerusalem was destroyed in 597 BC, the despairing people are tempted to give up their faith in God. In the 'servant-song', **Isaiah** offers consolation, recommending trust in the Lord. Today, Isaiah's words express both our horror at the way Our Lord was treated, and our admiration for his example of patient non-retaliation. Trusting confidently in his Father, he "sets his face like flint", even though it is covered with spittle. On the Cross, Jesus uttered the first words of this **psalm** which reflects his suffering. Not a cry of despair, but expressing Jesus' complete confidence in his Father and praising the redemption bought by his Cross. The hymn in **Philippians** rejoices: unlike Adam, Jesus did not seek to be equal to God. But God raised him to glory and gave him the name 'Lord'. Jesus on the Cross invites us to imitate his humility. **Matthew's** Passion, with its lively dialogue, shows Jesus aware and in control. Writing after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, Matthew blamed the Jewish leaders for Jesus' death. Jesus died just before Passover, when Jews celebrated their freedom from slavery. Soldiers, Jewish leaders, the inscription on the Cross, all ironically give Jesus his true title of 'King of the Jews', the Messiah. Jesus' obedience to God's plan gives the Cross meaning.

PSALM RESPONSE: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

** These Scripture notes are sent to us every week by Chris Oliver from the UK. If you'd also like to have these included in your parish newsletter, or sent to you, please contact Chris at: chris@chris-oliver.net*



JESUS, A SMASHED MOSQUITO AGAINST A WINDSHIELD

It was in 1984 when I made my first visit to Chicago. I was very lucky to be invited by a Jesuit friend to stay at a Jesuit Residence. Every moment was a learning experience. But I forgot all of them, even if I am sure they all stayed ingrained into my life. However there was one of them that I will never forget. I was very lucky to sit down with Father Freddy for dinner. **Father Freddy was confined to a wheelchair after a long battle of recovery from a severe stroke.** It was a

stroke that left him paralyzed for a long time. Thank God it didn't affect his mind. He was as brilliant as ever. Even very slowly he was able to tell his story and express his thoughts and his feelings.

Fr. Freddy had been a brilliant professor at the University and a brilliant speaker in special occasions. After hearing his experiences it was the first time, in my life, that I started disliking the word «disabled» or «disability». That word started making sense to me when referring to things like cars, cell phones, and other material instruments. After hearing Father Freddy's story I decided to call that period of life with a simple word. The word is «change». Father Freddy didn't become «disabled». Father Freddy just changed his way of ministering and serving the Church and the world. Which period was more meaningful and powerful? Before, or after the stroke? I dare to say that both were equally important.

Dr. Robert Schuler used to say that «Any person can count how many seeds are inside of an apple but only God can count how many apples are inside of a seed».

This happened when Fr. Freddy told me: «I have never felt so identified with Jesus, especially with Jesus on the cross, as when I was paralyzed in a bed without being able to move any part of my body. That's when I realized for the first time that I was going through the same experience of Jesus on the cross. Jesus was paralyzed on the cross like a mosquito smashed against a windshield of my car. He was not able to move any part of his body not even to swat a fly that had landed on his forehead. I was feeling the same. Like a helpless mosquito».

HOLY WEEK

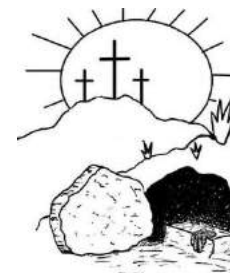
PALM SUNDAY: Today is Palm Sunday. It is the day when the Church celebrates triumph and Glory. Hosanna... I cannot imagine the excitement of the crowds applauding Jesus. However the Church offers the reading of the Passion of Jesus. It sounds like a contradiction. Jesus was smashed against the cross like a mosquito against the windshield of my car and we are singing Hosanna.

HOLY THURSDAY: Next Thursday is Holy Thursday: Jesus becomes a «Feet Washer» and inaugurates his friends and followers as a community of «Feet Washers». If it was not enough He transformed Himself into a «Thing». He transformed Himself into Bread that made Him say: «I am the Bread of Life». It was like saying «I am food» to nourish you and be with you **fo-re-ver**. Bread is a «thing». But how much power and love in that «thing» that is the Eucharist. Jesus became a «nobody» in order that the «nobodies» can become «somebody».



GOOD FRIDAY: The church celebrates the moment when Jesus became like a «mosquito smashed against the windshield of a car». Jesus died and was buried. It seemed like the end.

EASTER SUNDAY: Three days later the stone was removed, the tomb was empty and He became alive. Since then the Church started celebrating the Death and Resurrection of Jesus together. He is among us. Jesus is the «certain friend in our uncertain times».



This is going to be the most special, dramatic and confusing Holy Week of our lives. Pope Francis reminded us that the Passion of Jesus continues in our suffering. The world is going right now through an unpredictable suffering and great confusion. A cruel virus is changing the world. A cruel virus is causing lots of confusion, fear and suffering. But at the end I strongly believe that we are going to triumph over any virus as Jesus triumphed over death.

«*Courage is not to have strength to continue. Courage is to continue when we don't have any more strength.*». «*If God is for us who can be against us?*». «*To live is to believe that tomorrow is going to be better*».

Love & Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

April 5th, 2020, Palm Sunday

SOMETHING LOVELY – A poem by Kathleen O ' Meara (1869)

Many thanks to Joan Connolly for sharing this lovely poem, which we received by email. The poem was written after a plague devastated Ireland in the late 1860's.

SOMETHING LOVELY

1.

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and were still
and listened more deeply
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their own shadow
and people started thinking differently---
And people healed...

2.

And in the absence of people who lived in
ignorant ways
dangerous, mindless, and heartless....
The earth began to heal---
And when the danger ended
and people found themselves...
They grieved for the dead
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways to live
and heal the earth fully
just as they had been healed.



Kathleen O ' Meara (1869)

A DRAMATIC RESPONSE TO A DRAMATIC APPEAL

«CRIES OF THE POOR»

I just finished reading a book written by Sean O'Malley, Cardinal of Boston, with the title of «Searching for friends and Feet Washers». One day I was in a coffee shop, enjoying a delicious cup of coffee and had this book over the table. A young waiter seeing the name of the book asked me: «Are you looking for me? ». I think it was funny but at the same time made me think that we all need friends and feet washers. We are all called to be friends and feet washers.



We just started Holy Week. All the events of the life of Jesus we are going to celebrate this week are very very important. But Eucharist, the Priesthood, the New Commandment of loving one another would lose lots of meaning without the washing of the feet. It was a slave's job. It was unthinkable that a «decent» man would lower himself so down. Here it is: «Jesus rose from the table, took off his outer garment and tied a towel around his waist. Then he poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist». (Jo. 13: 4-5). «You should wash one another's feet». (Jo. 13:14)

A DRAMATIC RESPONSE TO A DRAMATIC APPEAL

COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS AND FEET WASHERS



After my dramatic appeal last week to help the poor who are being helped by the project «People Helping People» we really got a dramatic and an unexpected response. We felt like dedicating this newsletter mainly to say **thank you**. And in memory of the celebration of Holy Thursday I decided to call this group of people who sent in donations to help, the «Community of Feet Washers». That means «Servants».

I will make a list with all your names and put it on the little altar where I say my daily Mass at home with my niece. And then I will offer the Mass for you all.

During this combat against this ugly virus I will invite you to put in your hearts the words repeated 365 times in the Bible:

«Do not be afraid. I am with you».
«If God Is for us, who can be against us».

Love and gratitude ,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade
 April 5, 2020

The «Community of Feet Washers»:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Julie Marie S. | Patricia and Terence H. |
| James Bernard S. | Michael and Patricia K. |
| Graham and Mary H. | Nationwide Building Society |
| Lurdes S. | Jim and Morag |
| Jayne H. | Anthony S. |
| Froydis G. | Alan OB |
| Stefanie L. | Manuel Adolfo B.M. |
| Helmut U. and Sieglinde K. | Michael Andrew B |
| João S. | Francis and Joan C. |

A Special
THANK YOU

*«Thank You!» for giving from your heart... you all made a difference in someone's life this week!
 If you sent a donation and your name is not in the list above, please let us know.*

