

## 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:** Larry and Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 707-333-5501

Email: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

### >> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

#### ACCOUNT NAME:

Associacao CEDSSG Ajudando Gente

**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.



### >> PAYPAL:

genteajudandogente2016@gmail.com

### >> DONATIONS FROM THE USA:

**Instructions for sending funds to People Helping People in Madeira, Portugal, from USA:**

**Write a check made out to:** Fr Bernardino Andrade PHP  
in the bottom of the check in Memo area add: **PHP**



#### Mail the check to:

Mr. L.A. Contreras  
60 Meeks Lane  
Oakley, Ca 94561

The funds will then be transferred to the People Helping People account in Madeira, at no cost.

Any questions or concerns please contact Larry Contreras at 707-333-5501 or email him at: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

### >> DONATIONS FROM THE UK:

**ACCOUNT NAME:** Sinead Moynihan

**BANK:** Lloyds Bank

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 02461743

**BRANCH:** Univ. of Cambridge

**SORT CODE:** 30-13-55

**IBAN:** GB05 LOYD 3013 5502 4617 43

**BIC:** LOYDGB21035



The funds will then be transferred to Madeira. Any questions or concerns about transferring to this account, please contact Sinead Moynihan at: sineadmoynihnan7@icloud.com

When sending any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) with the date, amount, and name on the transfer so that Fr. Bernardino is able to confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received. Thank you.

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

24<sup>th</sup> of May 2020

Ascension, Year A

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha

de França,

Rua Penha de França 3,

Funchal, Madeira



Ascension

Vol. 3, number 215



**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

**Instagram:**  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

### CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

Today's newsletter is the 6<sup>th</sup> issue of our "digital" format newsletter. We hope that you have been receiving all of them so far, and that they have brought a little bit of inspiration and helped to brighten up your days. You can read all issues of the Chapel's newsletter online or download them from the internet on the website/blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

**Acts 1:1-11**

**Psalms 46(47)**

**Ephesians 1:17-23**

**Matthew 28:16-20**



Luke's Gospel opens in the Temple in Jerusalem with the angel appearing to Zechariah, and ends, after the ascension, with the disciples joyfully praising God in the Temple, still in Jerusalem. **Acts** starts with Jesus' appearances over 40 days and his ascension, but finishes in Rome. This "double ascension" links Jesus' ministry "to the lost sheep of Israel" with the apostles' witness "to the ends of the earth". Jesus' restored kingdom will be his continued presence on earth in and through the witness of his people, the Church. Jesus promises he will return to the Mount of Olives, where the Jews expect all the nations to stream for the Lord's return at the end of time. **The psalm** calls on all peoples to accept God as the true God and as universal king. Paul opened his letter to the **Ephesians** by reminding them that God has made known to us the mystery of his plan "to unite all things in Jesus". He then prays that they may know the hope - ie confidence - that this revelation gives us. **Matthew's Gospel** ends with Jesus commissioning the Apostles to "make disciples of all the nations". Both Luke and Matthew, writing about 40 years after the Ascension, emphasise that Christians are to show their commitment by being baptised.

### PSALM RESPONSE: God goes up with shouts of joy, the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

\* 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](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)



THE UNFINISHED PROJECT

The Italian composer Giacomo Puccini wrote, among other operas, *La Boheme*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Tosca*. It was during his battle with terminal cancer in 1922 that he began to write *Turandot*, which many now consider his best work. He worked on the score day and night, despite his friends' advice to rest, and to save his energy. When his sickness worsened, Puccini said to his disciples, "If I don't finish *Turandot*, I want you to finish it."

He died in 1924, leaving the work unfinished. His disciples gathered all that was written of *Turandot*, studied it in great detail, and then proceeded to write the remainder of the opera. The world premier was performed in La Scala Opera House in Milan in 1926, and Toscanini, Puccini's favorite student, conducted it.

The opera went beautifully, until Toscanini came to the end of the part written by Puccini. He stopped the music, put down the baton, turned to the audience, and announced, "Thus far the master wrote, but he died." There was a long pause; no one moved. Then Toscanini picked up the baton, looked at the audience and, with tears in his eyes, announced, "But his disciples finished his work..." The opera closed to thunderous applause and to a permanent place in the annals of great works.



Arturo Toscanini

Jesus instructs us in His Ascension message to finish His work of saving mankind by proclaiming His Good News by words and deeds.

Jesus brought to the world an enormous project. The project of Jesus sent by his Father was to build the Kingdom of God. The Father didn't send His Son to the world to build the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church is just an instrument to build the Kingdom of God. But He didn't finish his job. Now, like Puccini's disciples, it's up to us to continue His job. To build the Kingdom of His Father.



Giacomo Puccini

Love & Peace,  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

May 24, 2020

TODAY IS ASCENSION SUNDAY



In some countries (including the UK), Ascension Day falls on the Thursday just after the 6th Sunday of Easter.

But in Portugal, and here in Madeira, the feast day is not celebrated on the Thursday, but is moved to the following Sunday.

That is why today we celebrated Ascension Sunday!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING - Friends and "feet washers" make a difference



Recently Father Bernardino made a dramatic appeal to ask for help as many local families being helped by "People Helping People" have really been struggling. **Many lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic**, and would be going hungry if it was not for the generosity of all those of you who have generously helped by donating.

"Thank You" very much on behalf of all these families! Every donation, no matter how small, makes a big difference. It makes it possible to help struggling families buy food, medication, settle part of their rent payments, or pay some of their bills. A most sincere *Thank You*, from their hearts to yours!

If you would like to help someone who is struggling right now, please have a look at the last page of this newsletter for the different ways available for you to help. **Father Bernardino continues to make a list with all of the names of those who donate**, which he puts on the little altar where he says Mass every day at home with his niece.

*If you sent a donation and don't see your name on the list below, please let us know by sending an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com so that we can check what has happened. Thank you.*

Donations received this month:

- 04 May - Ron & Julie G.
- 04 May - Marie & John W.
- 04 May - Manuel Adolfo B.M.
- 04 May - Alan OB
- 04 May - Anthony S.
- 04 May - Jane & Peter C.
- 05 May - Anthony & Jaquine D.
- 05 May - David Arthur V.
- 05 May - Michael Andrew B.
- 06 May - Annemarie M.
- 08 May - Debra & David V.



Thank You

- 08 May - Denis and Mary D.
- 08 May - Patricia K.
- 08 May - Maria Arlinda S.
- 11 May - Helmut U. & Sieglinde K.
- 12 May - Robert John M. OBE
- 12 May - Michael Andrew B.
- 13 May - Lurdes S.
- 13 May - Alastair R. & Ann T.
- 15 May - Mike & Veronica B
- 17 May - John & Joan T.
- 20 May - Maria Francisca F.

*(To respect confidentiality of those of you who have donated, we are using only the first names and the initial letter of the surname of the donors).*

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

