

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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).

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

>> 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:

Associação Gente 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: sineadmoyhian7@icloud.com

When sending any donation, please send an email to 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.

JOYFUL GIFT



28th of February 2021

2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal,
Madeira



Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>
www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Gen 22:1-2,9-18; Psalm 115(116):10.15-19; Rom 8:31-34; Mark 9: 2-10)

In Genesis God sets a greater test of Abraham's faith than might appear: Isaac seems now to be Abraham's only son. His wife, Sarah, had persuaded Abraham to drive out into the desert his other son, Ishmael, with her mother, Hagar, the slave woman. God had promised Abraham would be father of a host of nations, with as many descendants as stars in the sky. How could this now come about? On the way Isaac had asked "Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham answered: "God will provide himself". Abraham's faith is rewarded and God renews his covenant. **The Psalmist** offers sacrifice and grateful praise after God heard his prayer at death's door. Paul urges the **Romans** to have similar trust in God. That God gave up his only Son to death shows how completely God loves us. Paul insists that nothing can separate us from the love of God. In our last reading from **Mark's gospel** until the Ascension, the disciples appear confused by Jesus' transfiguration. Although God has again confirmed Jesus as his Son, they do not understand how Jesus relates to Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets. After Jesus' resurrection they would realise Jesus had come to fulfil the whole of Israel's scriptures.

PSALM RESPONSE: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

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

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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "Be still, for the presence of the Lord..." - n. 58

Penitential - "Lord, have mercy on us all...." - n. 663

Offertory - "Take my hands..." - n. 525

Sanctus - "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." - n. 704

Peace - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495

Agnus Dei - "O Lamb of God..." - n. 740

Communion - "Be still and know I am with you..." - n. 56

Final - "O, the joy of the Lord is my strength..." - n. 241





MOUNTAIN-TOP EXPERIENCE

One of the best definitions that I have ever heard about what the Bible is, came from Sandy (not her true name). Sandy is a woman without any academic studies who told me one day: «The Bible is a parable of our lives». Then she explained that when she opens the Bible it is like seeing herself in a mirror. She sees what is happening, or should happen in her life.



Today, the second Sunday of Lent, the Church offers us the reading of the Gospel of Mark (Mk: 9, 2-10) about the Transfiguration. «Jesus took, with him Peter, James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. «There in their presence He was transfigured». Mark explains, but even after his explanation, I don't think that any of us can grasp even a little bit of what that mountain top experience was. It is not difficult to express ideas but it is very difficult to explain experiences. Very often when couples bring their babies for Baptism, holding them in their arms, and «squeezing» them against their chest or their cheeks I ask them: «What do you feel when you are holding your baby like that?» the answer is: «hum... hum... hum... Father I can't explain» and... that's the end, and usually ends with a gentle kiss. What we know is that Peter, James and John were so intimately absorbed in that profound and touching experience that made Peter say: «Rabi, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah». And then Mark adds: «he did not know what to say... and there came a voice from the cloud: «This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to Him». But, later, Mark adds the hard part. «They came down from the mountain». The experience had ended.

But one thing we know. We know that Jesus came down with them. I really wanted to see their faces when they were contemplating the transfiguration of Jesus and also when they were coming down from the mountain to the valley. Were they happy? Were they talking with one another and with Jesus? Were they somber and depressed? I don't know. What I know is that they wanted that experience to last forever. But there is also a very important thing that I know: Jesus was coming down **with them**. And I know that the Jesus of the mountain was the same Jesus of the valley.



Yes! I agree with Sandy. The Bible is a parable of our lives. We all have *mountain-top* experiences, but on the other hand we all have *valley* experiences. We have all had moments that we didn't want to end. What we wanted was to build tents and stay there forever. But life doesn't work like that. Life works with *mountains* and *valleys*. However, we must remember that the Jesus of the *mountain* is the Jesus of the *valley*.

Especially during this Lenten season, I would like to invite couples, families and groups to sit down and make a list of those moments we have had in our lives that we didn't want to end. We also can do that at the personal level. Maybe we can write a list of the main ones. And then, when life goes wrong and we are facing troubles and dark moments in our relationships, we can talk about that with one another and thank God for those moments. I don't have any doubts that if we try to focus on our mountain top experiences, also at a personal level, we are going to improve our mental health, especially depressions, and our relationships will be greatly improved.



Love & Peace
Fr. Bernardino Andrade
28/02/2021



Every Sunday of Lent, after Mass, Father Bernardino will be available in the privacy of the UPPER ROOM of the Moynihans Restaurant (which is up the road from the Chapel) to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Confessions.

Those who are not planning to go to Confession (including non-Catholics and children) are also welcome to approach the priest for a special blessing in the UPPER ROOM.

BLESSED ASHES - Last Sunday during Mass



The season of Lent has begun. There was no Ash Wednesday Mass at the Chapel, but last Sunday, Fr. Bernardino blessed small packets of Ashes during Mass, for those attending Mass, to take home.



Father Bernardino had an idea which he suggested this year. His idea was for people to prepare in their homes a "Little Corner of Lent" to keep the ashes, which would be like replacing the "Christmas Tree" for Christmas. It would remind them to pray together, even if it is a very short prayer... to be a daily reminder of this special season of Lent.

SUNDAY SMILE

GOD- SNEEZING; BLESSING -

Dolly was brought up in a home, where, if anyone sneezed, the others would respond with a blessing: "GOD BLESS YOU!". As a child will, she wondered about this, and one day expressed her curiosity by asking: "What do the people in heaven say when God sneezes?"

Taken from the book:
"Jokes Priests can tell,
Vol.4" -
by Msgr. Arthur Tonne



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

