

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: sineadmoynihnan7@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.

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

JOYFUL GIFT

14th of March 2021

4th 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



THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Good morning! **As many of you may know, March 17th is Saint Patrick's Day.** Saint Patrick is one of the world's most well-known Saints, and the foremost patron saint of Ireland. Here at the Chapel of Penha de França every year we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our Irish community and visitors!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(2 Chron 36: 14-23; Psalm 136 (137); Eph 2: 4-10; John 3: 14-21)

Today's reading from **Chronicles** recalls Israel's exile. The Temple, central to the Jewish religion, had been defiled, followed by Israel's seventy year exile in Babylon. Then the Persian King Cyrus called for the people to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple on Mount Moriah, where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac. After their return in 540 BC Ezra re-discovered the Jewish Law and the people renewed their covenant with God. **The Psalm** then recalls how the Israelites refused to sing for their captors while in mourning for Mount Zion. **Paul's letter to the Ephesians** emphasises the unity of the world-wide Church, based firmly on God's saving love, shown in Jesus Christ. We have been saved by grace, a gift from God. The phrase "in Christ Jesus" occurs frequently, reminding us of the ending of every Eucharistic Prayer. Christ will bring all things to perfection "in him" – and that includes us! "We are God's work of art". In **John's gospel**, after telling Nicodemus that he must be "born again", Jesus tells him "God sent his Son into the world" so that "the world might be saved" through him. Jesus' coming provokes judgement, both now and in the future. If our deeds are true we come into the light.

PSALM RESPONSE: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

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

Penitential - "Kyrie, kyrie, kyrie, eleison..." - n. 656

Offertory - "Give me a new heart, O God..." - n. 160

Sanctus - "Santo, santo, santo..." - n. 485

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

Agnus Dei - "Lamb of God..." - n. 738

Communion - "I received the living God..." - n. 245

Final - "Hail, Glorious Saint Patrick..." - n. 202



Statue of St. Patrick,
gifted to the Chapel in
March 2017



WHAT I LEARNED FROM A DOOR-MAT

1 - MY VISIT TO PENNSYLVANIA

When I visited the State of Pennsylvania in the United States, two things marked me. The first was to see a countryside Church opened during the day. It reminded me when Pope Francis said that Churches which are always closed are museums but not Churches. The second one was a door-mat at the entrance of the Church with an inspiring message written on it.

When people entered the Church they could read in big letters: «**WELCOME TO PRAY**». When people left the Church they could read also in bold letters: «**GO TO SERVE**».

2 - COME TO PRAY

The English Mass at Penha de França is the only Mass I know that has these two challenging and inspiring words formalized in two important moments.

Debbie De Jesus prepares, every week, the Prayers of the Faithful as if she has travelled the world every week, and then she brings to Mass the entire world with her. Debbie summarizes in those prayers the main problems, sufferings, joys and hopes of the entire world... and presents them to the Community, ending with a special invitation to pray «*Let us pray to the Lord*». And the entire community, after being touched and informed about the needs and hurts of the world, responds with a very simple and short and sometimes agonizing prayer: «*Lord hear our prayer*».

Here are some of the prayers that were presented in these last Sundays: «May the 1.3 million refugees, living in the world's largest camp in Bangladesh, not be forgotten by the world». «May the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, living in Bangladesh, be able to return and rebuild their homes and villages in peace». «May the political instability in Belarus, Venezuela, Myanmar, Russia, Syria, Haiti, Afghanistan and Iraq be resolved through wise diplomacy». «May this week's World Wild Life Day, with its theme of «Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planets», move governments to protect our forests eco-systems for the sake of endangered species and the people who live there», «We pray for the Pope who celebrates the Eucharist with Catholics in Bagdad and Erbil, and prays in Mosel». Also there is always a prayer addressing the situation of Covid 19.

In that small Chapel, in that small community the world is present because the Church is present in the world. When I say Mass in other churches, most of the time, the prayers are just a mere formality read from books that have frozen those intentions for five or more years, in old books that have nothing to do with today's world.

3 - GO TO SERVE

After being inspired and nourished by the Word of God and by receiving Holy Communion, here comes Alan O'Brien telling us: «*Now, that you know some of the main problems of the world and that you have been strengthened and energized by this Eucharist, please go*». Go where? «*Go to the world and be People Helping People*». Get involved with Jesus' project of bringing good news to the poor. At the same time his wife, Anne, goes to the front door of the Chapel, holding her "white" bag. «For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life». (John 3:16).

I am afraid that if worship is not transformed into service it will be no more than a religious Sunday entertainment. **COME TO PRAY AND GO TO SERVE.**



Alan, inspiring People to Help People



Debbie with the Prayers of the Faithful



Anne with the famous white bag

BRAVE NUN'S PLEA IN MYANMAR - "Shoot me instead..."

Sources: <https://www.ucanews.com/> www.dnaindia.com/

In a brave and heroic act, a Catholic nun (member of the Sisters of St. Francis Xavier), **kneeled down before armed policemen** in a northern Myanmar Town, pleading with them to spare the life of protestors and take her life instead. Several young people have been protesting against the military coup in the country. The image of *Sister Ann Roza Nu Tawng*, kneeling on a street in the town of Myitkyina on Monday (March 8th) went viral on the internet. She can be seen speaking to two policemen who were also kneeling.



Sister Ann on March 8th kneeling before the police

Priests, nuns and seminarians in Loikaw have expressed their solidarity with the people of Myanmar since anti-coup protesters took to the streets nationwide following the February 1 coup. They also rallied to pray for peace in the country by reciting the rosary in early February. Kayah state is regarded as a stronghold of Catholicism in the Buddhist-majority country. The military's brutal approach in recent days has drawn strong condemnation from the United Nations and Western countries including the US and Britain.

POPE FRANCIS MEETS WITH PORTUGAL'S PRESIDENT

Source: www.jm-madeira.pt/



On Friday, March 12th, the **President of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, met with Pope Francis**, in a private audience in the Vatican, following the tradition of five years ago, when he also went to the Holy See. Justifying the visit is the fact that the Holy See was the first state to recognize the independence of Portugal, in 1179. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, who took office on Tuesday for a second term, met with Pope Francis, and they discussed the Portugal presidency of the European Union Council and the Pope's recent historical trip to Iraq. Their discussions ranged from multilateralism, commitment to peace, and the need to overcome the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

AN IRISH BLESSING



CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

Confessions with Father Bernardino are available during Lent, by request. Feel free to call Fr. Bernardino on 916.192.783 or contact him by email (bernardinodandrade@gmail.com).



SUNDAY SMILE

May those that love, love us; and those that don't love us, may God turn their hearts; and if He doesn't turn their hearts, may He turn their ankles so we'll know them by their limping.

- An Irish Prayer

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