

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.

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

JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, number 254

11th of April 2021

Divine Mercy Sunday, 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 ONLY CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH MADEIRA:

Good morning! Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. If it's your first time here, welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. The Chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas almost 400 years ago, in the year 1622.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Acts 4: 32-35; Psalm 117(118); 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31)

During the six weeks of Easter the first readings are from the **Book of Acts**, in which Luke describes Jesus continuing his ministry through the Church after his earthly life ended. Not intimidated by his arrest, Peter continued to attract many Jews to follow Jesus. Today we hear how this growing community held their assets in common. The next verses give two examples: Barnabas who gave the proceeds from selling a field; and Ananias and his wife, who held back some of the proceeds and were struck dead by Peter in his Apostolic role as a Judge of Israel. The dramatic Passover **Psalm** from Easter Sunday is repeated today more fully, thanking God for repeatedly coming to our rescue and saving us. The second readings in Eastertide are from the first letter of **John**, whose gospel said little about Jesus' humanity and his moral teachings. Some members of John's community needed to be reminded that our faith is in a man, Jesus, who is Son of God, God's Christ. Loving God means keeping his commandments. The gospel reading is the beautiful first ending of John's gospel, after Thomas, in the highest expression of faith in any of the gospels, acclaims Jesus as "My Lord and my God".

PSALM RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His love has no end.

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 - "Bind us together, Lord..." - n. 65

Penitential - "Lord, have mercy on us...." - n. 659

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

Sanctus - "O Holy Lord..." - n. 710

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

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

Communion - "Lord of all hopefulness" - n. 342

Final - "Walk in the light!" - n. 561





CULTURAL DIFFERENCES: A PROBLEM OR A BLESSING?

Even if I believe in plans, I have to confess that my life and the life of many people, like me, is made more by events than by plans. Things happen. And very often they change our plans and our lives forever. There is a saying that goes like this: «If you want to make God laugh tell Him your plans».

Last Sunday was Easter Sunday. As usual I had the privilege of celebrating the Eucharist in English with the beautiful community of Penha de França. Because it was Easter Sunday, I thought that it would be a good idea to say the *Our Father* in the languages of the forty-seven people who were attending Mass. We had the *Our Father* prayed in nine languages: English, Polish, Indian, Spanish, Chinese, Greek, Ukrainian, Irish and Portuguese.

It was so beautiful to experience the vast diversity of languages praying to the same Father, being so different, and so united, in the same Eucharist. It was really a preview of what heaven will be like. We looked so different, but we were so united. This is what we dream for tomorrow's world.

Then at the end of Mass, I thought that it would be a good idea to count how many nationalities were in this little chapel. The result was very surprising. Who would ever guess that in those forty-seven people in this small chapel, singing the same hymns, praying the same prayers, speaking different languages with so many different accents, being nourished by the same Word of God and the same Eucharist, wearing different masks sanitized by the same alcohol gel, observing social distance because of the corona virus... that we would have sixteen nationalities? Cultural diversity is not a problem. Cultural diversity is a Blessing.



Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

11/04/2021

Are you curious to know which nationalities were represented at Mass last Sunday ?

From the quick "survey" done of everyone present, we discovered that these were the 16 nationalities represented:

- British (9), Irish (5), Indian (1), Colombian (1),
- Venezuelan (1), Swiss (1), Polish (5), Ukrainian (1),
- Namibian (1), Zimbabwean (1), Singaporean (1),
- Greek (1), South African (8), Dutch (1),
- English (1)..... and..... Portuguese (9)

St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. She was born in 1905, and belonged to the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy; she was a Polish Roman Catholic nun and mystic. **Throughout her life, Faustina reported having visions of Jesus** and conversations with him, of which she wrote in her diary. On the night of Sunday, 22 February 1931, Jesus appeared to her as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays emanating from his heart. In her diary she wrote that Jesus told her: « Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You" [in Polish: "Jezu, ufam Tobie"]. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.». - Jesus also told her that he wanted the Divine Mercy image to be «solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.». - Not knowing how to paint, Faustina approached some other nuns at



the convent for help, but received no assistance. Only three years later, after her assignment to Vilnius, the first artistic rendering of the image was performed under her direction. The painting now hangs in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Symbolic meaning: The coloured rays streaming out from the heart of Jesus have symbolic meaning... red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls, and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The brightest point in the picture is the heart. The light on the forehead signifies the presence of the Father. - The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.

Help Me, O Lord
that I may be Merciful
Help me, O Lord, ...
that my eyes may be merciful,
so that I will never be suspicious
or judge by appearances
but always look for
what is beautiful
in my neighbours' souls
and be of help to them...
That my ears may be merciful,
so that I will be attentive
to my neighbours' needs
and not indifferent
to their pains and complaints....
That my tongue may be merciful,
so that I will never speak badly
of others
but have a word of comfort
and forgiveness for all....
That my hands may be merciful
and full of good deeds....
That my feet may be merciful,
so that I will hasten
to help my neighbour,
despite my own fatigue
and weariness....
That my heart may be merciful,
so that I myself will share
in all the sufferings of my neighbour.

By St Faustina Kowalska
(1905-1938)

