

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:

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USA: Larry 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.



>> 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: sineadmoynihian7@icloud.com

Food items are also appreciated and can be left in the basket at the Chapel door on Sunday mornings. When sending any donation, please send an email to penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com with the date, 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, nr. 358

16th of April 2023

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

2nd Sunday of Easter, Year A

10h00 Sunday Mass

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



CATHOLIC MASS - ENGLISH SERVICE

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This English Service Mass is a tradition that dates back to 1966, when Fr Rafael Andrade, having just returned from his first visit to England, complied with the Bishop's request to start an English celebration. Fr. Rafael presided this mass for over 30 years, when he had to stop in 1999 due to overlapping duties. For eight years there was no Mass in English in Madeira, until it began again on the first Sunday of Lent in 2007.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 117(118); 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31)

Between Easter and Pentecost, readings from the Old Testament are replaced by the **Book of Acts**, about the beginnings of the Church as the Holy Spirit continues Christ's work on earth. Today Luke describes the early believers' close-knit community, holding their resources in common, and practising their Jewish faith before meeting in their homes for Eucharist. More verses from the **Psalm** used for the Easter Masses, rejoicing at the coming of the king. This year the second readings during Eastertide are from the **First Letter of Peter**, the only time this letter is read on Sundays. Written from Rome to the Gentile Christians in Asia Minor. God gives us a new birth and a hope based on the resurrection. We must try as good citizens to maintain Christian standards amid pagan people. Suffering can purify our faith, enabling us to imitate Christ more. God cares for us while we look forward to our inheritance in heaven. This first week of Easter ends with the first ending of **John's Gospel**. Jesus appears twice to the apostles, sending them out to forgive sins. After doubting without seeing, Thomas utters the most complete expression of faith. The brief accounts of Jesus' ministry are that we may "believe that Jesus is the Christ, and "have life in his name".

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

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 - "Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!..." - n. 279

Offertory - "Gifts of bread and wine..." - n. 159

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

Communion - "Father, I place into your hands..." - n. 134

Thanksgiving - "Now the green blade riseth..." - n. 389

Final - "Go the mass is ended..." - n. 175





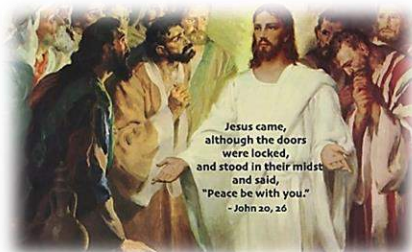
«THE WOUNDED HEALER»

Among many organizations that were functioning in my parish in California, there was one that I felt closer to my heart. It was the Association of the Alcoholics Anonymous mostly known by AA. There were six AA groups that met weekly in different days. Because they were «open groups», meaning that any person could attend the meetings, I had the privilege of attending many of them. Every time I attended one of those meetings there were two things that always came to my mind. One was the book written by Henri Nouwen called «The Wounded Healer» and the other one was today's Gospel which is my favourite apparition story of Jesus after His Resurrection (Jo. 20: 19-31).



All those people, men and women, who were part of the AA and had experienced the «hell» of alcohol abuse were deeply wounded. There is a saying among them that goes like this: «There is a difference between religion and spirituality. Religion is for those who don't want to go to hell. Spirituality is for those who have been there». One man added: «I have been there». Then the meeting consists mainly in each one of them sharing his/her wounds. Many of those wounds bleed for long time. But in the process of sharing without being judged, they get the healing they are looking for. All of us have been wounded. There is no doubt that many people have been wounded by us and we were wounded by many people we considered friends and even by relatives. But sharing our wounds with one another is when the wounded becomes a healer.

In this apparition of Jesus after His Resurrection, the Gospel says that «... the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them: «Peace be with you» and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. His hands and His side were the parts of Jesus' body that had the deepest wounds.



Thomas was not present. When the disciples told Thomas they had seen the Lord, he refused to believe. One week later Jesus appeared again and showed his wounds to Thomas and in a few moments, Thomas was saying «My Lord and my God». The wounds of Jesus healed the wounds of Thomas. There is no doubt that Jesus is the WOUNDED HEALER. Let us approach Him and present to Him our wounds knowing that He has the power to heal them.

NOBODY «DESERVES» MERCY

The second Sunday of Easter is dedicated to the Divine Mercy. Mercy is not for those who deserve it. Mercy is for those who need it. God's Mercy has no limits. I have heard Christians mentioning that the Mercy of God has limits. I consider that a blasphemy. No matter what happened in our lives, God is always with open arms to welcome us, to hug us and to forgive us. «Every Saint has a past and every sinner has a future»

The Emperor Napoleon condemned a soldier to death. His mother pleaded with the Emperor to please have mercy on her son. Napoleon told her: «It was a second offense that your son

committed. He doesn't deserve mercy». The mother replied: «Sir, if he deserved mercy, it wouldn't be mercy and mercy is the only thing I ask for.

The Emperor answered: «Well, then, I will have mercy».

Love & Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

16/04/2023

ST. FAUSTINA AND THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY



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.



The original Divine Mercy image

EASTER IS NOT A DAY BUT A SEASON



CONFESSIONS

Easter is 50 days. It starts on Easter Sunday and ends at Pentecost Sunday which this year of 2023 falls on May 28th. Many Catholics have a tradition of going to Confession during Lent or Easter.

If any of you would like to go to Confession during this Easter time and experience God's Mercy, please approach the priest who says the English Mass or talk to Manny and he will be very happy to help you to contact the priest.

