

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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>> 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

14th of May 2023

6th 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! The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass is for the soul of *Maria Zizina de Freitas Marques*, who attended Mass at our chapel for many years with her family. She passed away unexpectedly 5 years ago. †

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - 6th Sunday of Easter, Year A

(Acts 8:5-8,14-17; Psalm 65(66); 1 Peter 3:15-18 or 4:13-16; John 14:15-21 or 17:1-11)

After Stephen had been killed, Saul led "a great persecution" against the Church in Jerusalem. The Hellenists were therefore driven out of Jerusalem and Philip takes the gospel to Samaria. Peter and John came to investigate these first non-Jew converts. The apostles confirmed these new members by laying hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. **The Psalm** praises God's power as revealed throughout history but especially during the Exodus. Peter continues his advice to Christians suffering abuse and ridicule from their non-Christian neighbours. Do not be afraid! Stick to your principles, being ready to explain your reasons politely. And rejoice that your sufferings enable you to share in Christ's sufferings so that you may share in his glory. In **John's Gospel** description of the Last Supper, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to continue his work after he returns to his Father. The supper ends with Jesus' great prayer to his Father for the Church he is leaving behind. All three persons of the Trinity are mentioned in the gospels, but the Church only gradually developed its understanding of the Trinity over many centuries. We believe that the Spirit **proceeds** from the Father **and** the Son (*filioque*). The Orthodox Church says that the Spirit **comes from** the Father **through** the Son.

PSALM RESPONSE: Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

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

HYMN NUMBERS:

[1] **Entry Hymn:** "Let there be love" – n. 317

[2] **Penitential Act:** "Lord, have mercy" – n. 659

Responsorial Psalm: VI Sunday of Easter Year A:

"Cry out with joy to God all the earth" - n. 807

[3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Alleluia" – n. 679

[4] **Offertory Hymn:** "O Lord, my God - How great thou art" - n. 419

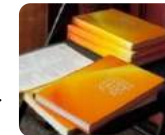
[5] **Sanctus:** "Holy" – n. 704

[6] **Agnus Dei:** "Lamb of God" – n. 737

[7] **Communion Hymn:** "Amazing grace" - n. 32

[8] **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental

[9] **Final Hymn:** "Go, the Mass is ended" - n. 175



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Cátia & Helena Marques





CHRISTIANITY, THE OPPOSITE OF LONELINESS

1 - I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU ORPHANS

«I will never leave you orphans. I will come back to you» (Jo. 14). This is one of the most encouraging messages Jesus offers to his apostles. This is one of the most encouraging messages Jesus offers to each one of us. We will never be alone. «My Father will give you another Advocate to be with you forever» (Jo. 14:16)



2 - I AM NOT AFRAID IF HE IS LIKE MY DAD

There is a touching story told of a humble, consecrated pastor, whose young son had become very ill. After the boy had undergone an exhaustive series of tests, the father was told the shocking news that his son had a terminal illness. The youngster had accepted Christ as his Saviour, so the minister knew that death would usher him into glory; but he wondered how to inform one in the bloom of youth that soon he would die. After earnestly seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit, he went with a heavy heart through the hospital ward to the boy's bedside. First, he read a passage of Scripture and had a time of prayer with his dear child. Then he gently told him that the doctors could promise him only a few more days to live. "Are you afraid to meet Jesus, my boy?" asked his devout father. Blinking away a few tears, the little fellow said bravely, "No, not if He's like you, Dad!" (Fr. Lakra).



3 - ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A FALLEN TREE

In one primitive culture, all the adolescents had to pass through a special ceremony which today we would call "a test", in order to become adults. In this particular culture, the ceremony was apparently simple but in reality, was terrifying. This was what happened to one particular boy. He was an adolescent and through that ceremony he was going to become an adult. His father accompanied him to a mountain. They walked together at the end of the day when night was falling. Arriving at this special place, his father explained to him the ceremony that he was going to go through.



«My son, first I am going to blindfold you. Then you are going to sit down at the end of this fallen tree. You will spend all night with your blindfold on, and you can only take it off when you start perceiving the beginning of the sunrise. Then you can take your blindfold and go home.



When you take your blindfold off, you will know that you are a man. You are not a child anymore. Are you ready?» The son had no choice but to say: «Yes father». «Good bye son». «Good bye father». Then, seated at the end of that fallen tree the boy started what was going to be the most terrifying night of his life. **The darkness was thick.** He knew that there were wild animals walking around. He knew that there were snakes that could kill him in seconds. There were night birds making strange noises, but the most terrifying aspect was that he could not, under no circumstances, take his blindfold off before the sunrise. That night felt like an eternity. He felt so lonely. Finally, when he felt the first signs of light, he knew that it was time to take his blindfold off and go home.

Yes, it was time. He was already a man. He had passed, what we would call today, "the test". He felt relieved and a little dizzy, and started looking around. Finally, after having survived the most terrifying night of his life, he had the happiest moment of his life. **When looking around, he saw that on the other end of the fallen tree** sat his father, looking back at him with a big smile. His father had spent the whole night at his side, seated on the other end of the fallen tree. His father had not left him alone, not even for one moment.

God is that father who is always seated on the same fallen tree, even if we are blindfolded and feel that around us everything is dark and scary. God is there even when we blame Him for our tests and our darkness that sometimes happens in our lives. God never abandons us even when we have to pass through very frightening tests. «I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU ORPHANS».

MAY 13, 1917


OUR LADY APPEARED TO 3 SHEPHERD CHILDREN IN FATIMA, PORTUGAL




Last Sunday was Mother's Day in Madeira. Father Bernardino decided to honour some of the mothers who attended Mass by giving them flowers! We could not give a flower to every mother at Mass, so Father chose the youngest mother (28 years old), the oldest mother (84 years old), and the mother with the most children (5). They each received some beautiful flowers to take home!



OUR LADY OF FATIMA



- **May 13, 1917 – October 13, 1917**
Our Lady appeared to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta six times in this period, urging them to pray for the conversion of souls. In her final apparition, she appeared as the 'Lady of the Rosary'.
- **October 13, 1917**
A crowd of 70,000 gathered together and witnessed the sun come out, dance, change colours and spin like a pinwheel.
- **May 13, 1981**
Pope John Paul II was shot 4 times and, miraculously, was not fatally injured. Attributing this to Our Lady, he said, "It was a mother's hand that guided the bullet's path." He offered the bullet extracted from his abdomen to the shrine; it forms part of the crown of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, today.



ARCHDIOCESE OF BOMBAY