

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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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: sineadmoynih7@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 Fr Bernardino (bernardinodandrade@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

31st of December 2023

Holy Family - Sunday after Christmas - Year B

10h00 Sunday Mass

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

Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

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CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning. Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, founded by António Dantas in 1622 (400 years ago!). This 10am Mass is the only one on the Island that is celebrated entirely in English. Fr Thomas Muzhuthett will be celebrating Mass this morning, assisted by Deacon Tito Pereira. Tomorrow (January 1st 2024) there will be Mass at the Chapel at 10am to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Psalm 104 (105):1 -6, 8-9; Hebrews 11:8,11 -12, 17 -19; Luke 2:22-40)

God responds to Abram's concern at his lack of heirs by promising him countless descendants. Even before male circumcision became a sign of this covenant, Abram was held righteous because he trusted in the Lord's promise. Such was his faith that he travelled to a new land, and believed God's promise of a son even in his old age. Sarah named their son Isaac, meaning "he who laughed": Sarah had laughed at God's promise that she would bear a son – now she perhaps feels the laugh is on her, caring for a new-born child in her nineties. **The Psalm** praises God's goodness to his people, recounting His promises and care for them. The letter to the **Hebrews** describes how Abraham's faith was strong enough for the supreme test: would he sacrifice his son – his only son – to God? Just as God sacrificed his only son on the Cross to show how much he loves us. **Luke's** description of the consecration to God of Jesus, as Mary's first-born son, links Jesus' birth to God's promises: the promised redeemer has come, and Abraham's descendants in faith will indeed be as numerous as the stars. But God is always faithful to his promises and, in his justice, innermost thoughts will be revealed.

PSALM RESPONSE: He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

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 HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "The first Nowell..." - 541
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** (Celtic Alleluia) "Alleluia, alleluia..." - 679
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "O come, all ye faithful..." - 394
- [4] **Amen:** "Honour and glory, amen!..." - 727
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "Silent night, holy night..." - 498
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "Father, I place into your hands..." - 134
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Joy to the world! The Lord is come..." - 292





FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

1.
The Feast of the Holy Family comes at Christmas, a time when families are thrown together more than usual. A sense of belonging can help to experience the love and joy of being part of this particular family. I asked Deacon Tito to write about something he experienced as a child when his family moved to England:



2.
HOW LARGE IS YOUR FAMILY?

- By Deacon Tito Pereira

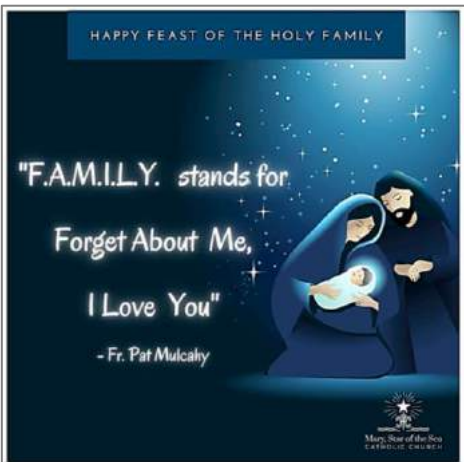
Upon my arrival in England and commencement of school, the teacher initiated a discussion about family size within the class. Responses varied - one child mentioned four members, another three, and so forth. I distinctly recall marvelling at what seemed to me like remarkably small family units. When the teacher turned to me and inquired about my own family size, I hesitated, admitting uncertainty but suggesting it might exceed 100 members. A wave of laughter engulfed the classroom as the teacher dismissed my estimate as ridiculous.



In my mind, family encompassed not only parents and siblings but also grandparents, great aunts and uncles, aunts, uncles, and cousins. This expansive definition was met with scepticism in the classroom that day. Upon recounting the incident to my mother, she dismissed the teacher's reaction as absurd, asserting that our extended family likely exceeded three or four hundred individuals.

As the years passed, I came to recognise that the concept of family extended beyond blood relations. As a Christian, I embraced a global family of brothers and sisters, and I began to appreciate an even broader perspective - that all individuals are children of God. This revelation expanded my understanding of family far beyond the confines of a mere headcount.

3.
HOW TO PROMOTE THE HEALTHIEST PEOPLE - (<http://frtonyshomilies.com/>).



A few years ago, a study was undertaken to find the U.S. city with the lowest incidence of cancer and heart disease.

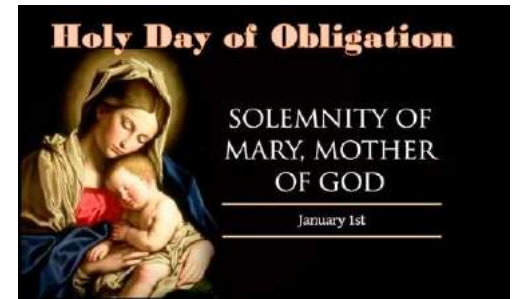
The winner was Rosetto, Pennsylvania. Soon experts descended upon the city expecting to see a town populated by non-smokers, people who ate the correct food, took regular exercise, and kept close track of their cholesterol. To their great surprise, however, the researchers discovered that none of the above was true. They found instead that the city's good health was tied to the close family bonds that prevailed within the community. This suggests that there is much to be said for a close and loving family relationship. (Robert Duggan & Richard Jajac).

Love and Peace
Fr. Bernardino Andrade 31-12-2023

Monday January 1st 2024, there will be a Mass in English here at the Chapel to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Time: 10am

Please join us! ☺



A Portuguese Treat

To try at home – make it & enjoy it!

Recipe reprinted from our newsletter of 11/12/2011:



Broas de Mel – Molasses Cookies

In Portugal there are some very old, rich and sweet traditional treats, that date back from the XV century, which we call *conventual* confectionary. They are known for having big amounts of sugar and eggs, and in Madeira some of those delicacies are made with our very own sugar-cane molasses. The sugar cane was very important to the first years of colonization; due to its excellent sugar quality it made Funchal prosperous up until the XVI century. Nowadays there are five sugar cane mills in production, remaining a must-use ingredient in our cuisine (molasses with sweet potatoes, molasses with *malassadas*, super famous Honey cake, etc). However, because the honey cake requires a lot of kneading effort, we first show you how to make these little traditional cookies, called *Broas de Mel*. We Madeirans treat ourselves to this cookie all year round, but they belong to the Christmas season (best served together with a homemade liquor).

INGREDIENTS

- 500gr of flour
- 500gr of sugar
- 125gr of butter
- 125gr of lard
- 1 spoon of cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon of nutmeg
- 3 spoons of molasses
- 2 eggs
- Zest of 1 lemon
- Almonds



STEP BY STEP

- 1 Knead all the ingredients together by hand, except the eggs and the sugar-cane molasses. Then make a hole in the middle and pour the molasses and the eggs (some recipes use up to 4 eggs and more honey too), kneading again until the dough becomes smooth (without sticking to the bottom).
- 2 Prepare this dough the night before and then on the next day roll little cookies, which you can also put an almond in the centre as a finishing touch. Take to a hot oven and cook for about 15min. Enjoy!

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Dear friends: sisters and brothers, members of the Community of Penha de França! I felt deeply touched, almost like a baby, when Lourdes, tenderly, delivered to me a bag with unexpected Christmas gifts from the community. I didn't expect such a surprise and I don't think that I deserved it. Thank you. You have all helped me to be a better priest and because you have tried, I am also trying even if not big success. But because of you all I will keep trying. You are my inspiration.

God loves you and so do I. Fr. Bernardino

