

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: Alexandre Silva, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com

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 USA:

Please contact Mr. Larry Contreras (contact info below) for instructions on sending funds to People Helping People in Madeira, Portugal, from USA.



Larry Contreras

Tel: 707-333-5501

Email: 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: 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 we are able to confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received. Thank you.

JOYFUL GIFT

11th of February 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 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/>

www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning. Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today is the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, and also the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Mass this morning will be celebrated by Fr. Joseph Arun. This mass is the only one on the Island of Madeira that is celebrated entirely in English! There are also masses celebrated in Portuguese here at the Chapel: on Saturday evenings at 18h30, and on Sunday mornings at 11h30.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

(*Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46; Psalm 31(32): 1-2,5,11; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1: 40-45*)

Leviticus, the third book of the Pentateuch, describes rituals used by the priests. Laws and rituals kept Israelites in the state of legal purity to which they were called, as a sign of their union with the Lord. A leper had to live apart in a dishevelled state, warning people to keep away. A cleansing ritual was specified for anyone cured. This penitential **Psalm** celebrates the joy of confessing sins and knowing forgiveness. An omitted verse describes the misery of deferring confession. Paul continues his theme of not placing obstacles which might hinder the spreading of the gospel. The **Corinthians** should eat whatever is put before them. They should not risk giving offence to their host, even if they suspect some food is ritually unclean by being offered to heathen gods before being sold in the market. But they should not eat food that they are told has been offered to idols - because that would offend their informant's conscience. **Mark's gospel** continues with another healing, this time Jesus shows enormous tenderness in insisting that - of course - he wants to heal the leper. And he does so by wants to heal us.

Brought to you by Chris Oliver - (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

TODAY'S HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star..." – 204
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia, alleluia..." – 679
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Take our bread, we ask you..." – 528
- [4] **Amen:** "Honour and glory, amen!"... – 727
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." – 495
- [6] **Communion:** "Love is his word, love is his way..." – 353
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "O Lord, hear my prayer..." – 418
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Immaculate Mary!..." – 256



REMEMBERING FATHER BERNARDINO

– By Rt. Rev. Tom Burns (Bishop Emeritus of Menevia)

Over the past 3 weeks since Father Bernardino's death, we have received some emails and messages in remembrance of Father Bernardino's life, and ministry. Today we would like to share with you an email received from Rev. Tom Burns (Bishop Emeritus of Menevia) who celebrated Mass with Father Bernardino on a few Sundays here in our Chapel:



Dear Tracy,

Thank you for getting in touch with me. The news about Fr Bernardino is devastating for everyone who knew him, near and far. The Lord has taken to himself one of the best priests I have ever come across during my time as a bishop. He was a true Servant of the Lord, humble in so many ways, caring for everyone he met, and never bothered about himself. His gentle call rallied troops and resources to help

those in need. That was his priority. He wore himself out, along with his smile, but has left a wonderful legacy of the mission to the needy.

I hope someone is able to take up the baton and continue this hidden and holy outreach to those who so often have had no voice to speak for themselves. Through the practical works of mercy, he showed how to take the Lord to others in so many beneficial ways - and took the Capella congregation implicitly with him. It has been an honour and privilege for all of us who followed him to feel we have played a small part in our prayer and support, whether we have been residents in Madeira or overseas, long-standing parishioners or short-term visitors. He has always been constantly in our hearts. He will be greatly missed.

I hope the Lord will allow him to inspire priests and people to continue the work he began. Father Bernardino has left us - but he has also left us a work that is still to be done. Today he receives his final reward as he meets the Lord in His eternal kingdom. I suspect he'd rather still be here on earth!

If any of my comments in this email are useful to you, please feel free to quote whatever you wish. Many more people, who knew Father Bernardino much better than I, and many who have so many reasons to be grateful to him, will want to say their farewells. Surely this will give you material to compose a Newsletter for the next few weeks, to keep Father Bernardino's memory alive, and his ministry alive, so that someone may be able to take it up again - soon.

I will be with you all in prayer as I say Mass on Sunday for the repose of this wonderful servant of the Lord. I am now retired and "supply" in 2 or 3 parishes every weekend. I will tell the people about Fr Bernardino and his work, as well as how he recruited so many supporters and volunteers. I will ask them to join me in prayer for him. May he rest in peace and happiness for ever. Thank you for all you are doing, and have been doing. I hope you will be able to continue your own work on the Newsletter for the Capella community. It speaks volumes!

Yours sincerely, and with great sadness in my heart and tears in my eyes,

+ Bishop Tom

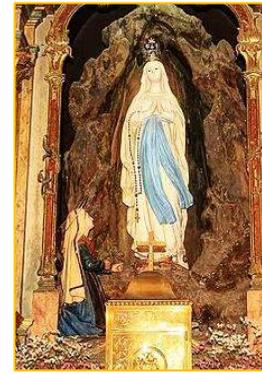
Friday 19 January 2024

tomburns@freeuk.com



Celebrating Mass together, 4 years ago
-12/01/2020

FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES – February 11th



Today, February 11th, is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, one of the most famous apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary that took place in southern France (where Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858).

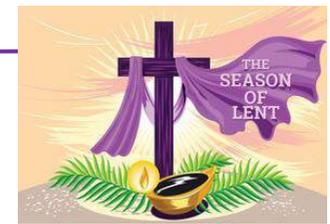
Here in our Chapel, a little above and behind the altar, you will see a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes set in a "cave", with St. Bernadette kneeling at her feet. This statue was offered to Bishop D. Manuel Agostinho Barreto (Bishop of Funchal from 1877-1911) who lived permanently here at Penha de França during the 34 years of his pontificate. This bishop had the altar in this Chapel adapted to receive the image of Our Lady of Lourdes, the first of the island, which was offered in 1878 by the French citizen *M. Goubeaux* who lived in Madeira.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lent begins this week!

Lent begins this coming week on Ash Wednesday (February 14th). Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. This year, Good Friday falls on March 29th, and Easter Sunday on March 31st.

Did you know that Lent is not only observed by Catholics? It is also observed by other religions such as: Anglicans, Eastern Orthodox, Lutherans, Methodists, Moravians, and



Presbyterians. Lent is observed by Christians all over the world in various ways. Those belonging to orthodox and traditional denominations typically follow a strict fast. Other Christians may opt to give up a single indulgence for Lent, such as chocolate, meat, or alcohol. It has become increasingly common for individuals to forgo other activities during this period to reorient their faith, including watching television, going to the gym, and even social media. Many Christians also use Lent as an opportunity to engage in more intensive Bible study and prayer.

What Are You Giving Up?

coffee	complaining
chocolate	ice cream
meat	movies
internet	smoking
shopping	social media
caffeine	television
soft drinks	sweets
elevators	junk food



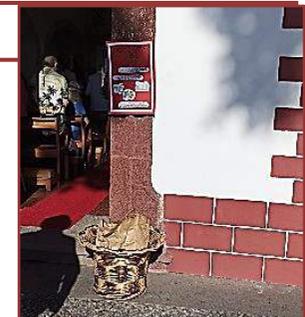
HAMPERS FOR EASTER 2024

We are collecting items for personal hygiene; dried and tinned food; and Easter eggs for the children. Please bring in what you can spare and place in the basket at the entrance of the church. These will be distributed amongst families who need our help.

Collection is until **SUNDAY 24th of March.**

For further details please e-mail Debbie:

deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk



CHAPEL'S SOCIAL ROOM – Remembrance messages and Rosaries

Three weeks ago a Mass was held here at the Chapel in memory of Father Bernardino. It was an emotional mass attended by a large number of people, many of whom had to sit outside as there was no room inside the Chapel. During Mass, a eulogy was read out by Father Bernardino's nephew (which can be found on our Chapel's Website / blog) here:

<https://rcmassmadeira.org/eulogy/>



A large white board with Fr. Bernardino's photo was placed at the Chapel entrance where those attending Mass were able to leave a message or sign their names. This morning the board is in a corner of the social room for anyone still wanting to leave a message. (There are also two memorial books which can also be used for messages). These books will be returned to Father Bernardino's family.



BLESSED ROSARIES



This morning there will be a few Rosaries for sale in the social room. The Rosaries were all made by hand, by Sofia, who is a member of our choir. She will be donating part of the proceeds to the "People Helping People" charity, and to the Chapel. These Rosaries are all special as they were made with love, and also... they were all blessed by Fr. Bernardino at her son's christening in 2012.



Fr. Bernardino blessing the rosaries at the Christening of Sofia's son on Easter Sunday in 2012.



FATHER JOSEPH – 12 Years serving God as a priest !



This week Fr. Joseph Arun will be celebrating his 12-year anniversary as a priest! Father Joseph was ordained a priest in Kerala, India, on February 15th, 2012.

He is a Carmelite priest at *Igreja do Carmo*, in Funchal, and has been in Madeira for 4 years now. He celebrated Mass for our community here at the Chapel for many months while Father Bernardino was ill last year.

We congratulate Fr. Joseph on his upcoming anniversary, and pray that God may continue to bless his ministry and grant him many more years of a happy and blessed priesthood.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK – February 11th 2024



32 years ago, in 1992, Pope John Paul II initiated The World Day of the Sick to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness, and for their caregivers. Every year since then, the pope will set a theme for the World Day of the Sick and write a letter to the faithful with a special message.

The theme for this year is: *"It is not good that man should be alone" - Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships.*

In his message, Pope Francis writes: *"It is not good that man should be alone" (cf. Gen 2:18)... "Our lives, reflecting in the image of the Trinity, are meant to attain fulfilment through a network of relationships, friendships and love, both given and received. We were created to be together, not alone."... "In this regard, I think of all those who found themselves terribly alone during the Covid-19 pandemic: the patients who could not receive visitors, but also the many nurses, physicians and support personnel overwhelmed by work and enclosed in isolation wards. Naturally, we cannot fail to recall all those persons who had to face the hour of their death alone, assisted by healthcare personnel, but far from their own families" ... "Let us remember this central truth in life: we came into the world because someone welcomed us; we were made for love; and we are called to communion and fraternity..."*

Pope Francis' message can be read in full here:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20240110-giornata-malato.html>