Free Newsletter

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).

>> 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:

Associacao 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.



>> <u>DONATIONS FROM</u> 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

>> <u>DONATIONS FROM THE UK:</u>

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: sineadmoynihan7@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

18th of February 2024 1st Sunday of Lent - Year B 10h00 Sunday Mass



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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



<u>CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM</u> (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning. Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today is the 1st Sunday of Lent. This morning we especially remember Fr. Bernardino, our beloved priest, who passed away one month ago today...on the 18th of January 2024.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - 1st Sunday of Lent - Year B

(Genesis 9: 8-15; Psalm 24(25):4-9; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 12-15)

Genesis describes how, after the Great Flood, God established the first covenant with humanity, promising not to destroy all living creatures again. Every rainbow reminds us of God's care for all creation. The Psalm asks for God's guidance and pardon, before meditating on God's goodness towards the just. Peter applies the Genesis story to Jesus. We should not "repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse" but repay hurt with a blessing. If God wills that we suffer, then it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. God's promise to Noah is fulfilled in Christ, who "in the body was put to death, in the spirit was raised to life". Just as Noah was saved by water, so we are washed in the water of baptism and make "a promise to God from a good conscience" rising into a new life in Christ. In Mark's gospel, Jesus' baptism is followed immediately by this very brief description of his temptation in the desert. Angels guided the Israelites during the Exodus. Now angels look after Jesus as he rejects Satan and remains obedient to God, announcing the Good News to begin his human ministry.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.



TODAY'S HYMNS:

- |1| Entry Hymn: "O Lord, all the world belongs to you..." 416
- [2] Gospel Acclamation: "I will sing a song unto the Lord..." 251
- |3| Offertory Hymn: "Christ be beside me..." 82
- **[4] Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." **495**
- [5] Communion: "To Jesus' heart, all burning..." 585
- **[6] Thanksgiving:** "Make me a channel of your peace..." **359**
- |7| Final Hymn: "Go in peace to serve the world..." 529

REMEMBERING FATHER BERNARDINO - By Chris Oliver

In last Sunday's newsletter we shared with you a message that was received from Rev. Tom Burns (Bishop Emeritus of the diocese of Menevia, UK) on the passing of our beloved priest, Father Bernardino. Today we would like to share with you an email received from Chris Oliver, who for many years was very active in our Chapel with the Liturgy, and other programs, before returning home to the UK, where he has continued to send us the Sunday morning Scripture Readings for publishing in our newsletter.



Father Bernardino especially enjoyed reading Chris' introductions to the readings every Sunday. He once emailed Chris about the readings, saying:



"Dear Chris! Every time I read your powerful introductions to the readings I ask myself "Why doesn't this man think about publishing one or more books with this wonderful material"? I really believe that it would be a success. Please think about this and put my name in the list of your future clients. I believe that many people like me would buy the books to give as presents to friends and relatives. They are very good and I like to see that Tracy always puts them on the front page as being the

best and the most important material of the News Letter. Have a nice evening.

Love & Peace, Fr. Bernardino"

What Father Bernardino didn't know at the time was that Chris had compiled an e-book that gives the context for each Sunday's scripture readings in the Roman Catholic Lectionary, and made them available on his website: http://chris-oliver.net/bible/biog.php

After hearing of Father Bernardino's passing last month, Chris sent a tribute to Father Bernardino and his ministry, which we share with you today:



He was a great man, and will be sorely missed by the Catholic English-speaking community in Madeira, including non-catholics.

He once told me how apprehensive he felt when he was asked by the Bishop to take on this role. He anticipated that would be impossible to weld into a community the residents and such a disparate group of visitors from many countries, not just English-speaking countries. Yet in fact, by his unique blend of informality and an understanding of real people and their concerns, he did

build a world-wide community of Penha da França visitors and residents. A community in which communion between its members continues to flourish even when they are not in Madeira. (Witness this communication!)

He was also frequently willing to adapt the Church's liturgy to meet the needs of this mixed community, showing he was often far ahead of the official Catholic Church mentality! I do hope the Bishop recognises the valuable contribution Fr Bernardino made not only to the spiritual benefit of Catholic English-speaking visitors and residents, but also to relations with the English Church community, and indeed to the tourist industry of Madeira. I hope his successor will appreciate and be able to maintain the Penha da França community as the real community it has

become. He had a hard life in many ways: the youngest of 12 children, refused ordination in Madeira, working as a catechist and priest in Mozambique and in a poor district of Oakland, California, before retiring to his roles in Madeira at the hospital and Penha da França.

I'm certain he is now being welcomed to his heavenly reward - though I very much doubt he will do much resting!



Chris at Mass on Sunday morning (31-01-2016)

Chris (chris@chris-oliver.net)

SOME IDEAS FOR LENT - what you can do this season...

- · Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- · Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- · Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- · Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- · Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen





MASS TODAY IN "BICA DA CANA" - in honour of Fr. Bernardino



A special Mass will be celebrated at 3pm this afternoon in the «Cantinho do Bom Pastor» a shrine located in Bica da Cana, in Paul da Serra, which held a special place in Father Bernardino's heart. The shrine has a small statue of the Good Shepherd placed there by Father Bernardino, and blessed and inaugurated by the Bishop of Funchal on September 12, 2020. Father António Paulo, parish priest of Assomada and Achada, will



preside over the ceremony where a plaque will be unveiled in honour of Father Bernardino. The Mass will be celebrated in Portuguese. All are welcome to attend.



EASTER HAMPER APPEAL

Continuing with Father Bernardino's mission of love and support for those in need, we are collecting items to make up Easter hampers for those families we support with our People Helping People charity. Please bring along items of personal hygiene, non-perishable

food items (tins and dried food) and sweets and chocolate 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

