

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

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:

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



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.

Food items are also appreciated and can be left in the basket at the Chapel door on Sunday mornings.

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org

JOYFUL GIFT

10th of March 2024

4th Sunday of Lent - Year B

10h00 Sunday Mass

FOURTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT



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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/>

f www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

ig www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

✉ penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França this morning. Today is the 4th Sunday of Lent. This English service mass is held every Sunday at 10h00, followed by mass in Portuguese at 11h30. After mass this morning please join us for tea and coffee in the cottage at the bottom of the garden. All are welcome.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - 4th Sunday of Lent - Year B

(2 Chronicles 36: 14-23; Psalm 136 (137); Ephesians 2: 4-10; John 3: 14-21)

Today's reading from **Chronicles** recalls Israel's exile. The Temple, central to the Jewish religion, had been defiled, followed by Israel's seventy-year exile in Babylon. Then the Persian King Cyrus called for the people to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple on Mount Moriah, where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac. After their return in 540 BC Ezra re-discovered the Jewish Law and the people renewed their covenant with God. **The Psalm** then recalls how the Israelites refused to sing for their captors while in mourning for Mount Zion. Paul's letter to the **Ephesians** emphasises the unity of the world-wide Church, based firmly on God's saving love, shown in Jesus Christ. We have been saved by grace, a gift from God. The phrase "in Christ Jesus" occurs frequently, reminding us of the ending of every Eucharistic Prayer. Christ will bring all things to perfection "in him" – and that includes us! "We are God's work of art". In **John's gospel**, after telling Nicodemus that he must be "born again", Jesus tells him "God sent his Son into the world" so that "the world might be saved" through him. Jesus' coming provokes judgement, both now and in the future. If our deeds are true, we come into the light.

Brought to you by **Chris Oliver** - (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

PSALM RESPONSE: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

TODAY'S HYMNS:

[1] **Entry Hymn:** *Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts...* – 329

[2] **Offertory Hymn:** *"Take my life, and let it be..."* – 527

[3] **Peace:** *"Shalom, my friend, shalom..."* - 495

[4] **Communion:** *"And I will raise you up..."* - 237

[5] **Final Hymn:** *"Walk with me, O my Lord..."* - 600



THOUGHTS FROM FR. JOSEPH

- Brought to you by Fr. Joseph Arun



TRUSTING THE UNSEEN

During this Lenten season, it's important to reflect on the virtue of confidence in God's providence. This confidence is not just about trusting that God will provide for our material needs, but also about trusting in His plan for our lives and having faith that He will guide us through any challenges we may face. As we journey through this Lenten season, we are called to deepen our trust and confidence in the providence of God. In the midst of life's uncertainties and challenges, it is easy to become anxious and fearful about the future. But **the season of Lent reminds us that God is always present, guiding us and providing for us with His infinite love and wisdom.**

Let me share with you a story about a woman named Jennifer. Jennifer was a single mother struggling to make ends meet. She worked multiple jobs to support her two children, but despite her best efforts, it always seemed like there was never enough money to cover all their expenses. One day, Jennifer's car broke down, and she didn't have the funds to repair it. She felt overwhelmed and hopeless, wondering how she would manage to get to work and take her children to school without transportation. But instead of giving in to despair, Jennifer turned to her faith and prayed for guidance.



In the midst of her uncertainty, Jennifer received unexpected help from her community. Friends and neighbours rallied around her, offering rides to work and helping with childcare. Through their support, Jennifer realized that God was providing for her needs in ways she hadn't anticipated. As Jennifer continued to trust in God's providence, she began to see blessings in her life that she had overlooked before. **She found strength in her struggles, knowing that God was with her every step of the way.**

During this Lenten season, let us follow Jennifer's example and place our confidence in God's providence. Even in the face of challenges and uncertainty, may we trust that God has a plan for us and that He will provide for our needs according to His perfect timing.

Confidence in God's providence also requires us to surrender our own plans and desires to His will. This can be challenging, especially when His plans differ from our own. **But we must trust that God knows what is best for us, even when we cannot see the way forward.**

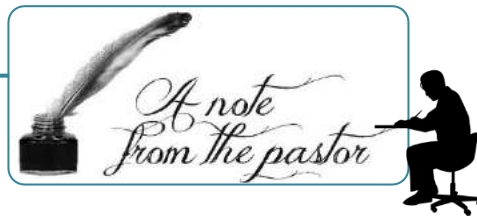
Consider the example of Mary, the mother of Jesus. When the angel Gabriel appeared to her and announced that she would conceive and bear the Son of God, Mary's initial reaction was one of confusion and uncertainty. Yet, she responded with faith and humility, saying, "*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word*" (Luke 1:38).



Mary's fiat, her "yes" to God's plan, is a powerful example of confidence in the providence of God. Despite the challenges and uncertainties that lay ahead, she trusted that God would fulfill His promise and bring about His plan of salvation through her.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us follow Mary's example and entrust ourselves wholeheartedly to the providence of God. Let us have confidence that He is always with us, guiding us and providing for us in every circumstance.

With Love and prayers
Fr. Joseph Arun, OCD



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



What are the Stations of the Cross, and what do they mean?

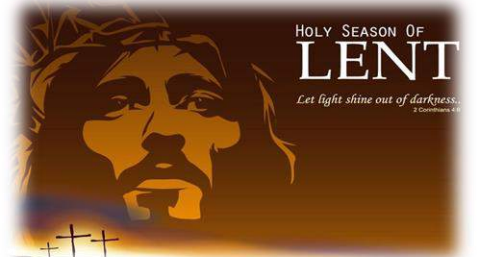
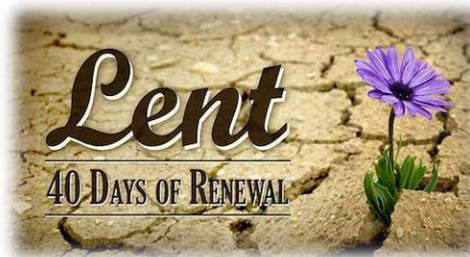
The Stations of the Cross are a series of 14 pictures portraying events in the Passion of Christ, from his condemnations by Pontius Pilate to his entombment. They are called *stations* as they are meant to be "stopping points" just like train stations and bus stations. At each station, we are called to stop and think about what Jesus went through as he died on the cross. Even though many families only pray them during Lent, they can be experienced anytime of year.

The images are usually mounted on the inside walls of a church or a chapel (as you will see here in our Chapel) but they may also be erected in such places as cemeteries, corridors of hospitals and religious houses, or on mountainsides.



A **Free Printable Stations of the Cross** guide is available to download from the website "Catechism Angel". It was created with children in mind, but is wonderful for adults to have a look through too. You can find the 2-page guide here:

<https://catechismangel.com/2020/09/03/free-printable-and-on-line-stations-of-the-cross-for-children/>



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, e-mail Debbie: deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk

