

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

17th of March 2024

5th Sunday of Lent - 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



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Alan O'Brien and Fr. Bernardino on St. Patrick's day in 2021



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Today is the 5th Sunday of Lent, and also St. Patrick's Day. Every year here at the Chapel of Penha de França we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our Irish community and visitors. Father Bernardino always made sure to wear his green "Saint Patrick" shirt on this day, as you can see in the photo above, taken in the sacristy after mass one Sunday morning in March 2021.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - 5th Sunday of Lent - Year B

(*Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Psalm 50(51); Hebrews 5: 7-9; John 12: 20-33*)

Jeremiah warned Israel against their idolatry and failure to respond to God's love, breaking God's covenant. At the time of the exile to Babylon Jeremiah proclaimed this great oracle of the "New Covenant", promising that God's Law will be written on men's hearts, giving them for ever the power - or "grace" - to respond with love to God's love. This most famous penitential **Psalm** echoes David's humble admission of his sin with Bathsheba: every sin is an offence against God. The Letter to the **Hebrews** emphasises that Jesus is truly human: He shared our humanity and our weaknesses and afflictions. So, he sympathises patiently with us in our sinfulness and is well able, as a high priest, to intercede with God for us, and to offer sacrifice on our behalf. He prayed with such love and respect that God heard his prayer. In the gospel of **John** some pagan Greeks ask their fellow Greek, Philip, to help them meet Jesus. The gospel message is now reaching out to Gentiles and this is taken by Jesus as the signal that his work is nearing its inevitable climax. Jesus' life has shown the way to salvation, but the human Jesus is very troubled by anticipation of his coming suffering, also described by the other Gospels in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Brought to you by **Chris Oliver** - (www.bible-groups.info): chris@chris-oliver.net

PSALM RESPONSE: A pure heart create for me, O God.

TODAY'S HYMNS:

[1] **Entry Hymn:** "Were you there..." – 618

[2] **Offertory Hymn:** "We come to share our story..." – 607

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

[4] **Communion:** "When I survey the wondrous cross..." – 624

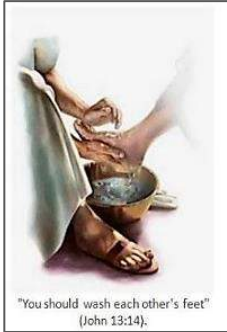
[5] **Thanksgiving:** "Mary most holy..." – 364

[5] **Final Hymn:** "Hail, Glorious Saint Patrick..." - 202



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP) – An update

- Brought to you by Alexandre Silva



Hello friends!

As you may have heard, we now have a committee, who are committed (pun intended) to help our charity, *People Helping People*, get on the right tracks.

The committee members understood immediately the needs of the Charity, and have started working hard, finding ways to fulfill them.

In order to kick off their tenure within PHP (People Helping People), they had the wonderful idea that this April would be a special month dedicated specifically to Fr. Bernardino. There will also be activities before and after that, but the ones in April are all meant to remember Father Bernardino, our dear friend and teacher. Fr Bernardino was always very proud of all of you whenever there was a fund raising activity. **"People Helping People" is a group of PEOPLE who are able, HELPING a group of PEOPLE who are in need.** This is precisely what Fr. Bernardino meant when he started this mission.



So on the last two Sundays of **March (24th and 31st)** we would like to sell some traditional Easter sweets outside the Penha de França Chapel, made by the families you help and some of our volunteers.

On April the 3rd, we will have a "Good Shepherd Meet and Greet" in the late afternoon (more details to follow).

On Sunday the 7th, there will be a sponsored walk, at 11:30, after the mass. It will be called the "Orange Walkathon" as a reminder of the only gift Fr. Bernardino had at Christmas as a young boy.

You can participate either running/walking with us, or by sponsoring someone who will!

Me and my son will also be running, so if you would like to sponsor us, please meet us after the mass!

I should warn you, my son had the most laps last time with 60 laps, and he is even faster now. I did 30 laps, but I'm getting slower, so if you sponsor us both, I'll act as a counterbalance!

There will be more details about these events in the upcoming weeks, so please keep up with the newsletter and you will know all about it.

A special Charity has special Members. I can already tell you that I am very impressed with the heart, commitment and performance of this new Committee in bringing this community around these issues.

It was Father Bernardino's dream to see all of us working together to help our suffering Brothers and Sisters. It was something he taught so passionately, that he made us dream **with** him.

Thank you for your help in making this dream come true.

- Alexandre Silva (alex.lupus@gmail.com)



SAINT OF THE MONTH – Saint Patrick. 17th of March



Saint Patrick is one of the world's most well-known Saints. He was born in Roman Britain. Having been captured by pirates he was taken as a young slave to Ireland to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of druids and pagans. Later he escaped and returned to Britain where a vision prompted him to train for the **priesthood**. He was ordained a bishop, in which capacity he went back to Ireland to preach the Gospel. Saint Patrick arrived at Slane on 25th March 433, where he converted the local druidic chieftain to Christianity. **He preached throughout Ireland and worked many miracles.** After years of living in poverty and enduring much suffering, he died. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, where his grave is marked by a granite stone.

Saint Patrick is one of the world's most well-known Saints, and the patron saint of Ireland. His feast day is a cultural and religious celebration. It's a day for celebrating Irish culture and to remember Saint Patrick, who preached throughout Ireland and worked many miracles during the fifth century. Saint Patrick's Day is held on the 17th March every year as traditionally it is the day he died in the year AD 461.

The Shamrock – the national symbol of Ireland, & the Holy Trinity

A shamrock is a young sprig of clover, and has been used as a symbol of Ireland since the 18th century. Traditionally, there is a legend of Saint Patrick using a shamrock to teach the mystery of the Holy Trinity... as in these words you see on the picture on the right: *"Just like the leaves on each shamrock I see, there are three parts to the Holy Trinity. First is God the Father, then Jesus, His only Son. With the Holy Spirit, together, they are Three in One."*

Some pictures of Saint Patrick depict him driving the snakes out of Ireland with a cross in one hand and a sprig of shamrocks in the other.



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.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far!

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

