

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

>> THE BASKET

Every Sunday morning at the door of the Chapel you will see a **basket to collect food for the poor**. You are welcome to bring any little thing to help alleviate their suffering. (Rice, pasta, milk, canned tuna, biscuits etc.) Thank you ! ☺



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

7th of April 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter – (Divine Mercy Sunday) - 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/>

f www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

ig www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

✉ penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Today is the 2nd Sunday of Easter, or Divine Mercy Sunday. **If it's your first time here, welcome!** This Chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas over 400 years ago, in the year 1622. This 10am Mass is the only one on the island which 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 - 2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday

(Acts 4: 32-35; Psalm: 117(118); 1 John 5: 1-6; John 20: 19-31)

During the six weeks of Easter the first readings are from the **Book of Acts**, in which Luke describes Jesus continuing his ministry through the Church after his earthly life ended. Not intimidated by his arrest, Peter continued to attract many Jews to follow Jesus. Today we hear how this growing community held their assets in common. The next verses give two examples: Barnabas who gave the proceeds from selling a field; and Ananias and his wife, who held back some of the proceeds and were struck dead by Peter in his Apostolic role as a Judge of Israel. The dramatic Passover **Psalm** from Easter Sunday is repeated today more fully, thanking God for repeatedly coming to our rescue and saving us. The second readings in Eastertide are from the first letter of **John**, whose gospel said little about Jesus' humanity and his moral teachings. Some members of John's community needed to be reminded that our faith is in a man, Jesus, who is Son of God, God's Christ. Loving God means keeping his commandments. The gospel reading is the beautiful first ending of John's gospel, after Thomas, in the highest expression of faith in any of the gospels, acclaims Jesus as "My Lord and my God".

PSALM RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

by: **Fátima Cátia Marques**



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Bind us together..." – n.º 65
- [2] **Penitential Act:** "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 663
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..." – n.º 679
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "How lovely on the mountains..." – n.º 235
- [5] **Sanctus:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." - n.º 704
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** "Lamb of God..." - n.º 737
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** "Amazing Grace..." – n.º 32
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental
- [9] **Final Hymn:** "Go, the Mass is ended..." - n.º 175

MERCY – A LIGHT AGAINST DARKNESS

(<https://frtonyshomilies.com/2024/03/31/easter-ii-divine-mercy-sunday-april-7-2024/>)



In the 1940's – Edith Zierer and Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II)

THE POPE SAVED ME FROM DEATH

Edith Zierer, a Holocaust survivor now living in Israel, recalls how Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II, carried her to safety after she fled a Nazi concentration camp when she was 13 years old.

Polish-born Zierer was 13 when she ran away from the Nazi camp at Czestochowa in Poland after the Soviet army liberated it in January 1945, five months before World War II ended in Europe.

She was heading towards her hometown in Poland to find her parents, who, she would later learn, had died in the Holocaust.

Exhausted, she reached a train station and sat there for two days without food or water while people ignored her. "Suddenly, there he was," Zierer said, referring to Wojtyla, the seminarian, in his priestly robe. "He brought me some tea and two pieces of bread with cheese and then carried me to a train carriage. He sat with me and put his cloak on me because it was freezing. We came to Krakow and then I ran away because people started to ask why a priest was walking with a Jewish girl."

After spending, a few years in orphanages in Poland and France, Zierer emigrated from Europe to British-mandated Palestine, where she later married and bore a son and daughter in what became Israel. She now has five grandchildren.

She wrote to Wojtyla after he became Pope in 1979, saying she was the little girl he had saved at the train station in Poland decades ago.

After a correspondence ensued, the Pontiff invited her to the Vatican in 1998. She last met him in 2000, when he visited Israel on a millennium pilgrimage and met several survivors at the Vad Vashem Holocaust Museum.

"I did not cry at the Vatican but at Yad Vashem, I just burst into tears," she said.

She said she and the Pope kept up their correspondence, writing mostly during Christmas and before birthdays. "I received a letter from him last year and I knew it was the last," she said. "He included a picture from his private collection and his handwriting was very shaky. I wrote to thank him for the memory that never left."

Edith Zierer, 84, mourned the death of her former saviour, and remembered the warm look in the seminarian Karol Wojtyla's eyes in the railway station years ago and God's mercy expressed in his actions.

"He was a kindred spirit in the greatest sense - a man who could save a girl in such a state, freezing, starving, and full of lice, and carry her to safety," she told Reuters. "I would not have survived had it not been for him." (<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0.7340.L-3067156.00.html>).

— Pope John Paul made mercy the core of his priesthood. He saw mercy as a light against darkness. And has the world known darker times than when the Nazis and Communists oppressed millions of people?

— On April 27, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday, John Paul II and Pope John XXIII, were officially recognized as Saints by Pope Francis. It is no accident that Pope St. John Paul II who was instrumental in spreading the observance of Divine Mercy Sunday was canonized on that Feast.



Pope John Paul and Edith Zierer meet in Jerusalem in 2000

ST. FAUSTINA AND THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY



St. Faustina of Poland is the well-known apostle of Divine Mercy. She was born in 1905, and belonged to the Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy; she was a Polish Roman Catholic nun and mystic. Throughout her life, Faustina reported having visions of Jesus and conversations with him, of which she wrote in her diary. On the night of Sunday, 22 February 1931, Jesus appeared to her as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays emanating from his heart. In her diary she wrote that Jesus told her: « Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You" [in

Polish: "Jezu, ufam Tobie"]. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.». - Jesus also told her that he wanted the Divine Mercy image to be «solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.». -

Not knowing how to paint, Faustina approached some other nuns at the convent for help, but received no assistance. Only three years later, after her assignment to Vilnius (Lithuania's capital city), the first artistic rendering of the image was performed under her direction. The painting now hangs in Vilnius, Lithuania.



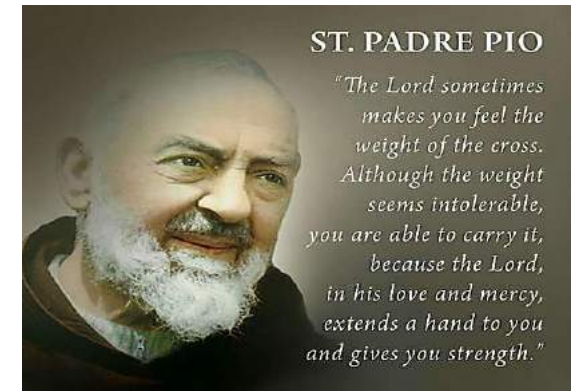
Symbolic meaning: The coloured rays streaming out from the heart of Jesus have symbolic meaning... red for the Blood of Jesus, which is the life of souls, and white for the Baptismal water which justifies souls. The brightest point in the picture is the heart. The light on the forehead signifies the presence of the Father. - The whole image is symbolic of the mercy, forgiveness and love of God.



The original Divine Mercy image

HIS Mercies
— ARE NEW —
every MORNING

@hannahgeasey



ST. PADRE PIO

"The Lord sometimes makes you feel the weight of the cross. Although the weight seems intolerable, you are able to carry it, because the Lord, in his love and mercy, extends a hand to you and gives you strength."

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE – Our New Logo!

Hello friends!

Fr. Bernardino always used this picture as a logo for “*People Helping People*”. He accompanied the image with this passage: “*Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet*” (John 13:14). It is a passage about Jesus washing and caring for the feet of his disciples. Imagine that. Our Saviour, God on Earth, the Son of the Creator, washing his disciples’ mortal feet.



And it continues: “*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is less than his master, nor is a messenger lesser than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*” (John 13:15-17).

It is a beautiful story that reflects on the practicality of his teachings, instead of mere passive worship. And it goes as far as showing us that a true leader is not the one that barks orders to everyone and decides everything, it is the one that takes care of every single one.

It fits perfectly as a representation of all of His message: *Care for your Brother, as I care for you*. And this is fundamentally Fr. Bernardino’s philosophy in one action. Father Bernardino knew that He came to show us how to acknowledge, understand and respect each other, with humility, service and care.

And it is inspired by this teaching, that we are happy to present to you a new logo for the *People Helping People Charity*:



This has been coming for a long time.

We simply updated the image in a way we can use as a symbol for our Charity, and made sure to make it bilingual, for the nature of this Charity has always been deeply connected to the English-speaking community of the Penha de França Chapel.

We hope you like it!

P.S. – We will be offering a PHP (*People Helping People*) T-Shirt with our new logo to anyone that will be walking in our Orange Walkathon today! For the lazier ones, we will be selling them at the *Parque de Santa Catarina* during the event.

I hope to see you there at 11:30AM!

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



Join us at the *Parque de Santa Catarina* (which is not far from the Chapel) for the Orange Walkathon today at 11:30am 😊