

## 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:

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: sineadmoynih7@icloud.com

### >> ITEMS NEEDED BY FAMILIES

Elderly gentleman, with limited means, is in urgent need of a **second-hand personal computer.**

Please contact Debbie if you can help in any way: 964 384 806  
deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk



Thank you!



When sending any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.php@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.php@gmail.com) with the date, and name on the transfer so that Alexandre Silva is able to confirm that the transfer has been 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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

28th of April 2024

5th Sunday of Easter - Year B

10h00 – Mass in English

11h30 – Mass in Portuguese

Welcome



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](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

[penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

### CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! This morning, we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Easter. Our priest is Father Joseph Arun, who is originally from Kerala, India. Father Joseph has been serving as a priest in Madeira since 2019 in the Carmo church (Igreja do Carmo) in Funchal.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 5th Sunday of Easter – Year B

(Acts 9: 26-31 ; Psalm 21(22) ; 1 John 3: 18-24 ; John 15: 1-8)

Much has happened in **Acts** since last Sunday's reading: Peter and some apostles have been imprisoned and beaten before being set free again. Seven Greeks were appointed to look after the Hellenists – apparently Greek-speaking Christians. Stephen was arrested and his speech to the Jewish leaders suggests that the Hellenists were persecuted by the Jews because they did not join in the Temple worship. They were driven out to Judea and Samaria – and so the Gospel began to spread. Today we hear how Paul returns from his conversion near Damascus. He is accepted by the Hebrew Christians, but not by the Hellenists, so has to be hustled out of town. The ending of this Messianic **Psalm**, uttered by Our Lord on the Cross, rejoices in the triumph of God's justice: God's promises to Israel are fulfilled in Jesus. In his first Letter, **John** insists that we must show our faith by our actions: keeping God's commandments. We can be sure we are doing right if we obey our conscience guided by God's Spirit dwelling in us. In **John's gospel**, Jesus gives his disciples detailed teaching at the last supper, just before his arrest. We must be bound closely to Christ: He is the vine, we are the branches, gaining sustenance and support from him.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

These Scripture reading notes are brought to you every Sunday by: **Chris Oliver**.... [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

by: Fátima Cátia Marques



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Let there be love..." – n.º 317
- [2] **Penitential Act:** "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 659
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Aleluia..."
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "Take our Bread..." – n.º 528
- [5] **Sanctus:** "Holy..." - n.º 698
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** "Lamb of God..." - n.º 733
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** "As I kneel before you – Ave Maria gratia plena..." – n.º 39
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental
- [9] **Final Hymn:** "Go, the Mass is ended..." - n.º 175

## THOUGHTS FROM FR. JOSEPH

- Brought to you by Fr. Joseph Arun



### THE ART OF BEARING GOOD FRUITS IN LIFE

My dear friends, today I wish to share with you a reflection inspired by the timeless wisdom found in nature.

Consider the majestic tree, firmly rooted in the earth, reaching towards the heavens, and bearing fruit that nourishes and sustains life. In its simplicity lies profound lessons for us all.

**Jesus often used parables and teachings to convey spiritual truths**, including the metaphor of trees bearing fruit to represent the nature of human lives.

*"Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them."* (Matthew 7:17-20)

Jesus's message encourages all to cultivate hearts that bear the fruits of love, kindness, and righteousness, so that our lives may reflect the abundant grace and goodness of God.

**Allow me to share a brief story.** In a bustling city, amidst concrete jungles and hurried lives, there lived a man named Michael. Michael was a successful businessman, but despite his material wealth, he felt a void within him - a longing for something deeper, something more meaningful.

One day, exhausted from the demands of his busy life, Michael sought solace in a nearby park. As he sat beneath a towering oak tree, he couldn't help but marvel at its serene presence. It stood tall and strong, its branches swaying gently in the breeze, offering shade to weary travelers and shelter to birds and small creatures. In that moment, Michael had an epiphany. **He realized that,**

**much like the tree, he too could strive to be a source of goodness and nourishment in the world.** He could cultivate virtues within himself - kindness, compassion, patience - that would bear fruits of love, understanding, and peace.

From that day forward, Michael embarked on a journey of self-discovery and transformation. He nurtured the seeds of goodness within him, watering them with acts of kindness and selflessness. He embraced life's storms and challenges, knowing they were essential for his growth, just as the tree withstands wind and rain.

As time passed, Michael began to bear fruits of his own - acts of generosity, words of wisdom, and deeds of kindness that touched the lives of those around him. He became a beacon of light in a world often overshadowed by darkness, inspiring others to follow in his footsteps.

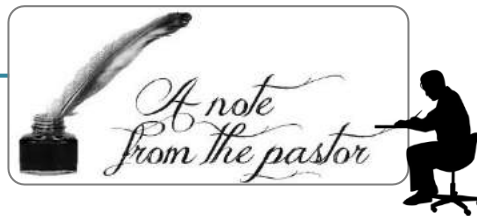


**My dear friends, let us heed the wisdom of the tree and strive to emulate its example.** Let us deepen our roots in values that uphold the dignity of every human being, and let us stretch our branches towards the sky, offering shelter and sustenance to all who cross our path. In doing so, **may we become trees that bear fruits of love, compassion, and peace**, enriching the world with our presence.

May we all be like trees, grounded in our principles, reaching for the heavens, and giving of ourselves abundantly, so that our lives may bear the sweetest fruits for the benefit of all.

With love and prayers

*Fr. Joseph Arun, OCD*



## THE MARY JANE WILSON MUSEUM

- By: Debbie Jesus



**Wondering what to do on a rainy day in Madeira? The Mary Jane Wilson museum reopened in October last year**, after undergoing extensive refurbishment. It is a tranquil spot in the busy Funchal centre located on *Rua do Carmo, 69-61, Sé, Funchal*, and is a tribute to the life and work of Sister Mary Jane

Wilson (3 October 1840 – 18 October 1916), who arrived in Madeira in 1881. She spent the rest of her life in Madeira, except for a brief period in 1910, when she was forced into exile and briefly imprisoned when Portugal became a Republic and religious institutions were abolished.

From the beginning of her time in Madeira she was instrumental in **improving the welfare of the Madeiran people**, establishing dispensaries (offering medication to the poor), orphanages and schools for the poor.

In 1884 she co-founded with Amélia Amaro de Sá the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of our Ladies of Victories. In 1889 she accepted the direction of the Hospital of Santa Cruz and was instrumental in radically improving the conditions thereof. In 1895 she was nominated the director of the hospital, carrying out this position until her exile in 1910.



In 1907 she nursed patients throughout a smallpox epidemic, and was awarded the honour of *Tower and Sword (Torre e Espada)*.

**This remarkable woman was also a gifted artist** and the museum includes paintings and examples of her handiwork.

You can find details of the location and opening times of the museum on the link below:

<https://visit.funchal.pt/item/nucleo-museologico-mary-jane-wilson/?lang=en>



## THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

