

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

Vol. 3, nr. 413

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: la.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: la.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



>> THANK YOU

A HUGE thank you to Skip House who has kindly donated the computer that was needed by an elderly gentleman.

Thank you!



JOYFUL GIFT

5th of May 2024

6th Sunday of Easter - Year B

10h00 – Mass in English

11h30 – Mass in Portuguese

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



Welcome



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Today the catholic church celebrates the 6th Sunday of Easter. It is also Mother's Day in Madeira. Our priest this morning is Father Joseph Arun, who is from Kerala, India. We are also joined by Deacon Tito Pereira from the UK.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 6th Sunday of Easter – Year B

(Acts 10: 25-26,34-35,44,48 ; Psalm 97(98):1-4 ; 1 John 4: 7-10 ; John 15: 9-17)

The readings from Easter to Pentecost from Luke's **Book of Acts** show Jesus continuing his ministry through the Church. The Pentecost reading will describe the visual effects of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. After Saul had left for Tarsus, Peter brought Tabitha back to life, and a vision showed him that nothing made by God is unclean. Immediately he is invited into the "unclean" house of Cornelius. While Peter hesitates, the Holy Spirit comes down on Cornelius and his household. The visual effects of this bring Peter to realise that the gospel must go to "the (Gentile) nations". The **Psalm** urges all creation to praise the Lord for His victorious salvation. The Easter season readings from **John's first letter** conclude with this passionate demand that we "love one another". God's love for us was revealed when He sent his Son "to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away". Jesus' long last supper teaching is drawing towards its climax on Pentecost Sunday, his promise to send the Advocate. Today's reading continues from last weeks' description of Jesus as the vine: we are to show that we abide in Jesus by keeping the commandments, just as Jesus has kept the Father's commandments. Jesus' commandment is that we should love one another.

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

These Scripture reading notes are brought to you every Sunday by: **Chris Oliver**.... www.bible-groups.info

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

Entry - "The love I have for you, my Lord..." - n. 555

Gloria - "Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo..." - n. 669

Alleluia - "Alleluia, alleluia...." - n. 679

Offertory - "Gifts of bread and wine, gifts we've offered..." - n. 159

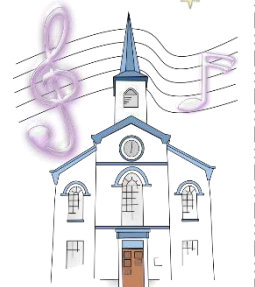
Amen - "Great Amen (Deutsche Messe)..." - n. 726

Peace - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495

Communion - "Glory and praise to our God..." - n. 166

Thanksgiving - "Give thanks with a grateful heart..." - n. 164

Final - "Immaculate Mary! Our hearts are on fire..." - n. 256



When sending any donation, please send an email to 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

THOUGHTS FROM FR. JOSEPH

- Brought to you by Fr. Joseph Arun

Email: jvenattu@gmail.com



SHELTERING WINGS

Motherhood is a divine gift, a sacred calling bestowed upon women to nurture, protect, and guide their children with boundless love and unwavering strength.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus demonstrated the depth of maternal love when he entrusted the care of his beloved disciple to Mary, his mother, even in the face of his imminent suffering and death. His act reveals the universal truth that mothers possess a unique capacity to comfort, support, and inspire us, even in our darkest hours.

In a small village nestled amidst rolling hills, there lived a young widow named Sarah. Sarah had lost her husband in a tragic accident, leaving her alone to care for their three young children – two daughters, Rachel and Leah, and a son, David. Despite the hardships she faced, Sarah dedicated herself wholeheartedly to her children, working tirelessly to provide for their needs and nurturing them with love and affection. She would rise before dawn to tend to the chores, toil in the fields under the scorching sun, and return home weary but undaunted, her children's laughter the sweetest reward for her labours.

One winter, a fierce blizzard descended upon the village, blanketing the landscape in snow and ice. Food became scarce, and the bitter cold threatened to claim the lives of those who dared to venture outside. With provisions dwindling and no end in sight to the storm, Sarah faced an impossible choice – to brave the elements in search of sustenance or to remain sheltered at home and risk starvation. In her desperation, Sarah made a selfless decision. She bundled her children in layers of clothing, wrapped them tightly in blankets, and set out into the wintry night, determined to find help for her family. Through howling winds and treacherous terrain, she trudged onward, her love for her children serving as a beacon of hope amidst the darkness.



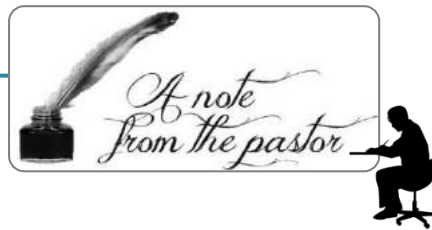
After hours of relentless struggle, Sarah stumbled upon a humble cottage nestled in a clearing. Knocking on the door, she was greeted by a kindly old woman who welcomed her inside with warmth and compassion. Seeing the dire state of Sarah and her children, the woman offered them food, shelter, and comfort, refusing any payment in return.

For days, Sarah and her children remained under the old woman's care, safe from the fury of the storm. And as the blizzard finally subsided and the sun emerged once more, Sarah knew in her heart that they owed their survival to the kindness of a stranger – a stranger whose love mirrored her own, boundless and unconditional.

My dear friends, the story of Sarah reminds us of the extraordinary sacrifices that mothers make for their children, often in the face of adversity and hardship. It is a testament to the power of maternal love – a love that transcends barriers, defies logic, and endures through all trials.

As we honour the mothers in our lives today, let us remember the countless acts of love and sacrifice that they have bestowed upon us. Let us cherish their presence, their guidance, and their unwavering support. And let us strive to emulate their example of selflessness and compassion in our own lives, spreading love and kindness wherever we go.

With love and Prayers,
Fr. Joseph Arun, OCD



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! – It's today in Madeira!



Today we celebrate Mother's Day in Madeira!

Most other countries around the world will only celebrate Mother's Day next week (on the 2nd Sunday in May), but here **we always celebrate Mother's Day on the 1st Sunday in May.** In the UK and Ireland, Mother's Day was already celebrated on March 10th this year. Norway is the first country to celebrate Mother's Day every year. It is always on the 2nd Sunday in February (this year falling on February the 11th!)

These countries will all be celebrating Mother's Day today:

Portugal, Spain, Romania, Hungary, Lithuania, Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, and the island of São Tomé and Príncipe.



DO YOU KNOW WHY - the month of May is dedicated to Our Lady?



Did you know that here in Madeira and in Portugal, the month of May is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus?

This is because the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children (*Lúcia, Francisco, and Jacinta*) in the town of *Fatima*, in Portugal, on the 13th of May 1917.

Our Lady told the children that she was Mary, the mother of Jesus, and that she had been sent by God with a message for every man, woman and child in our century. A church was built at the spot

where Our Lady of Fatima appeared to the children, and which has become a place of pilgrimage to thousands of visitors from all over the world.



MADEIRA'S FLOWER FESTIVAL

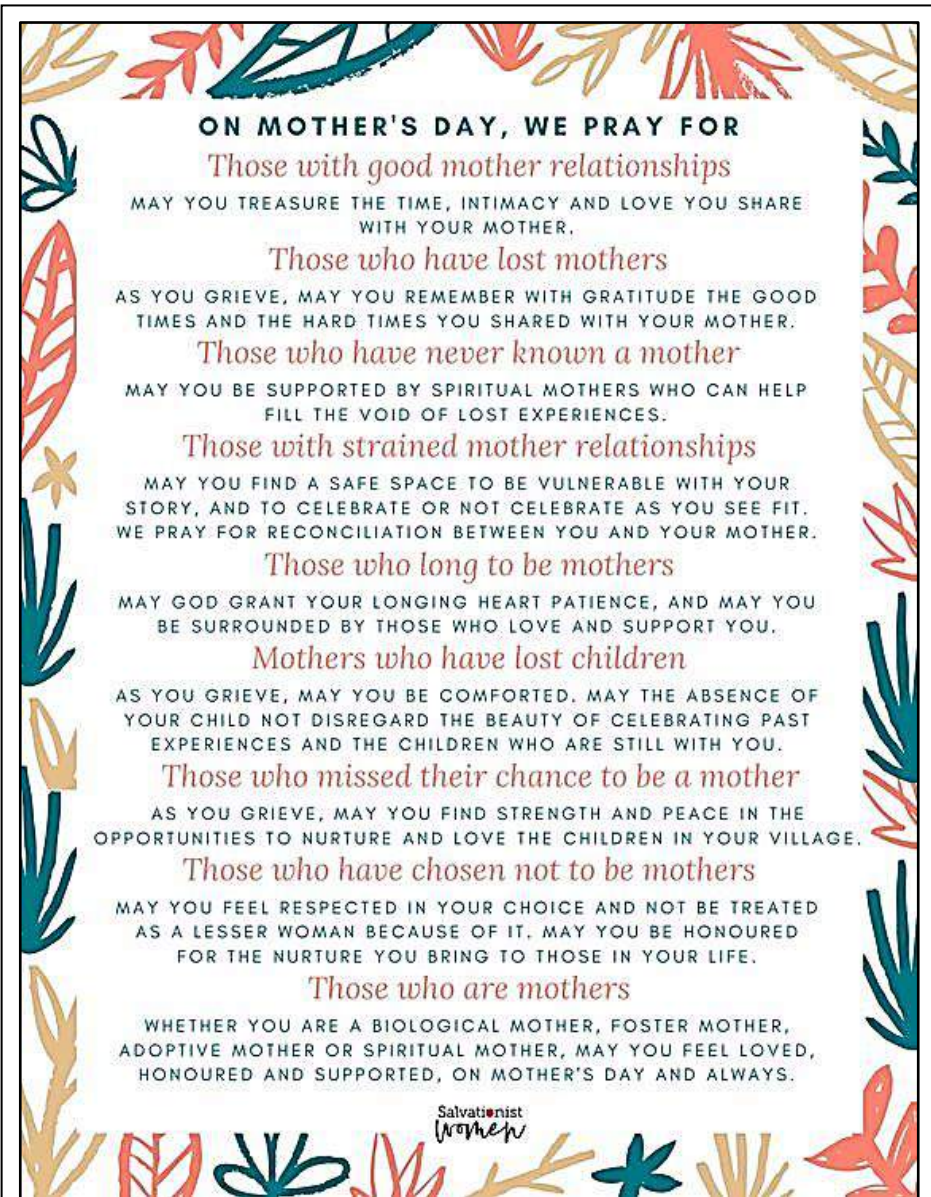
It's that time of year again when the Madeiran flower festival takes place! This afternoon is the highlight of the Flower Festival with the **parade in downtown Funchal!**

Go and experience this beautiful event for yourself at 4.30pm on the main road down by the sea front.



"When I was crossing into Gaza, I was asked at the check post whether I was carrying any weapons. I replied: 'Oh yes, my prayer books.'"

- Mother Teresa



Needing help with general housekeeping, or caring for an elderly family member?
House/pet sitting in the Funchal or Caniço area?
Call / Whatsapp Margarida: 939 037 441 for rates.
References available.