

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



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

>> 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.



Tea and Coffee After Mass

Please join us in
the Social Hall
across the garden
for a cup of coffee
and a chat.

>> THANK YOU !!

A baby pushchair was donated
last week by a parishioner for one
of our needy families.

Thank you!



>> 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: sineadmoyhian7@icloud.com

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

JOYFUL GIFT

12th of May 2024

Ascension - Year B

10h00 – Mass in English

11h30 – Mass in Portuguese



Vol. 3, nr. 414

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

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! In some countries and some places of the world including England, Wales and Scotland, **Ascension Day** is celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday. This year it was on Thursday, May 9th. But in other countries like Portugal, Ireland and USA it is transferred to the following Sunday, on the 7th Sunday of Easter. **This is why today we will be celebrating The Ascension of the Lord** here at the Chapel (and also in all other churches around the Island of Madeira). Father Joseph Arun will be celebrating Mass for us today. **The special intention of this morning's Mass is for the soul of Mr Karol Debajo** on the 5th anniversary of his death, in expression of gratitude for all he did for Tomasz Skiba and Ewa Mierzwicka; and for their special intentions.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Ascension - Year B

(Acts 1: 1-11; Psalm 46(47); Ephesians 4: 1-13; Mark 16: 15-20)

Luke begins **Acts** by repeating Jesus' ascension, both to emphasise its importance and to link the coming work of the apostles with Jesus' earthly ministry. Before Pentecost the disciples still do not understand, asking if the time has come for the kingdom of Israel to be restored. But only God knows. Jesus must return to the Father so that the Holy Spirit can come and give them power to be his witnesses "to the ends of the earth". The two men from the empty tomb appear again, promising Jesus will return. But we are not to know when. The **Psalm** calls on all nations to acknowledge the God of Israel as the only true God. He is King and reigns over all the earth. Paul's letter to the **Ephesians** gives a broad, developed understanding of Jesus. Christians should seek unity in the one Lord, making good use of the various gifts given us by Christ. In the second ending of **Mark's gospel**, Jesus appeared after his resurrection to Mary Magdalen, and then to two disciples walking in the country. All three told the Apostles – who did not believe them. Jesus then rebuked the apostles, before commissioning them as his witnesses. He was then taken up into heaven.

PSALM RESPONSE: God goes up with shouts of joy, the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

by: Fátima Cátia Marques

[1] Entry Hymn: "Alleluia, sing to Jesus..." – n.º 29

[2] Penitential Act: "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 663

[3] Gospel Acclamation: "Easter Alleluia..." – n.º 683

[4] Offertory Hymn: "How lovely on the mountains-Our God reigns" – n.º 235

[5] Sanctus: "Scarborough fair Sanctus..." – n.º 707

[6] Agnus Dei: "Dona nobis pacem..." - n.º 126

[7] Communion Hymn: "Make way, make way..." – n.º 360

[8] Thanksgiving: Instrumental

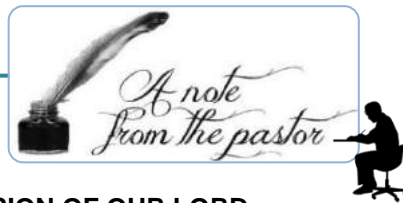
[9] Final Hymn: "Laudate Dominum..." - n.º 305



THOUGHTS FROM FR. JOSEPH

- Brought to you by Fr. Joseph Arun

Email: jvenattu@gmail.com



EMBRACING THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

The Ascension of Our Lord is not just a distant event from centuries past; it is a timeless truth that continues to resonate deeply with our lives today. Beyond its historical significance, the Ascension offers profound insights and guidance for navigating the complexities

of our modern existence. Let us delve into how this sacred occasion relates to our daily lives and the spiritual journey we embark upon.

Firstly, the Ascension reminds us of the transient nature of earthly existence. Just as Jesus ascended into heaven, we are called to recognize the impermanence of worldly pursuits and attachments. In a world often consumed by materialism and transient pleasures, the Ascension invites us to **reorient our priorities towards the eternal values of faith, love, and service.** Moreover, the Ascension challenges us to transcend the limitations of our earthly perspective. As Christ ascended beyond the confines of this world, we are called to lift our gaze beyond the mundane and embrace a higher spiritual consciousness. This entails cultivating a deeper connection with the divine and aligning our lives with God's will, even amidst the distractions and temptations of the world. Furthermore, the Ascension serves as a **source of hope and assurance in times of uncertainty and adversity.** Just as Jesus promised to prepare a place for His disciples in heaven, we are reminded of the ultimate hope that awaits us beyond the trials and tribulations of life. Additionally, the Ascension underscores the significance of mission and purpose in our lives. Just as Jesus commissioned His disciples to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth, **we are entrusted with a sacred mission to be ambassadors of Christ's love and compassion in the world.**

This mission encompasses not only proclaiming the Good News but also embodying its transformative power in our interactions with others. The Ascension of Our Lord is not a distant relic of the past but a living reality that reverberates throughout our lives. It challenges us to transcend the temporal and embrace the eternal, **to find hope amidst adversity,** and to embrace our mission with purpose and passion. As we reflect on the profound implications of the Ascension, may we be inspired to live lives that bear witness to the **transformative power of Christ's love, here and now.**

With love and Prayers,
Fr. Joseph Arun, OCD



The Transformative Power Of
GOD'S WORD



Last Sunday was Mother's Day in Madeira.

Some of the mothers who attended Mass were honoured in a special way – with flowers! We could not give a flower to every mother at Mass, so we chose the youngest mother, the oldest mother (86), and the mother with the most children (5). And for the first time at the Chapel, the grandmother with the most grandchildren (14!) They each received a flower and a special blessing from Father Joseph!



Ascension of the Lord

ASCENSION: the act of rising to a higher level

The Ascension of the Lord takes place forty days after the resurrection of Jesus (Easter).

Technically, this day falls on a Thursday, but the celebration is transferred to the following Sunday.

On this day, Jesus was taken up to Heaven in his resurrected body in the presence of his apostles.



BIBLICAL REFERENCES

1 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.
Luke 24:51

2 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
Mark 16:19

3 As the apostles were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."
Acts 1:9-11

Jesus departs, he ascends to Heaven. He returns to the Father. But this does not mean a separation, for he remains forever with us, in a new way. **By his ascension, the Risen Lord draws the gaze of the Apostles - and our gaze - to the heights of Heaven to show us that the end of our journey is the Father...** Yet, Jesus remains present and active in the affairs of human history through the power and the gifts of his Spirit; he is beside each of us: **even if we do not see him with our eyes, He is there!** He accompanies us, he guides us, he takes us by the hand and he lifts us up when we fall down... **The Lord is with us!**

Pope Francis, June 1, 2014

Archdiocese of Toronto
www.archtoronto.org
archtoronto

The ascension is also professed in the Nicene Creed and in the Apostles' Creed:
"He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father..."

MADEIRA'S AUTO PARADE – Today!



If you were lucky enough to be in Madeira last week Sunday, you probably saw the Flower Festival Parade down in Funchal by the seaside.

This afternoon we have another special parade in Funchal.

It is the **Classic Car Auto Parade!**

It starts at 4.30pm in the main road down by the seaside. After the parade the cars will remain on display until 6.30pm.

MAY 13, 1917 OUR LADY APPEARED TO 3 SHEPHERD CHILDREN IN FATIMA, PORTUGAL

