

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.



>> 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: sineadmoynihn7@icloud.com

When making 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.



Tea and Coffee

After Mass

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

Please sign our Visitor's book in the Social Hall.... leave us your comments, or suggestions, let us know where you're from! ☺ We also have a map where you can place a pin on your home town! ☺



Our Social Hall has a Free Little Library: a cabinet full of books. You're welcome to take a book, leave one in exchange, or contribute with a small donation for the book you take.



JOYFUL GIFT

19th of May 2024

Pentecost Sunday - Year B

10h00 – Mass in English

11h30 – Mass in Portuguese



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Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. **Today we celebrate Pentecost Sunday.** An English service is celebrated here in the Chapel every Sunday morning at 10:00am. Masses in Portuguese are celebrated on Saturdays at 6:30pm and on Sundays at 11:30am.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Pentecost - Year B

(Acts 2: 1-11; Psalm 103(104); Galatians 5: 16-25; John 15: 26-27, 16: 12-15)

Pentecost, 50 days after Passover, was one of the three Jewish pilgrimage feasts. Nomadic Hebrews sacrificed lambs in the spring to ensure adequate water for their flocks through the dry season. Settled into agriculture, they celebrated the barley harvest a few days later. These two linked feasts became associated with the Passover in Egypt: the plague "passed over" houses with doorposts marked with the blood of a lamb. The Dead Sea Scrolls associated Pentecost with God giving the Covenant on Sinai, and they enrolled new community members at this feast. Pentecost therefore fits neatly with the formal birth of the Christian Church and the commitment and strengthening of the Christian community for its task. This magnificent **Psalm** praises God for his creative wisdom and power. God takes joy in his creation. Being filled with the Holy Spirit not only enabled the disciples to speak in foreign languages: it gave them the courage to travel throughout the countries listed in the first reading, fearlessly proclaiming "the marvels of God". The Holy Spirit gives each person the skills they need. In **John's Gospel**, near the end of his long discourse at the Last Supper, Jesus promises the Advocate will come to strengthen and guide the Apostles in their work, clarifying Christ's teaching through the Church.

PSALM RESPONSE: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

Entry - "We behold the splendour of God..." - n. 604

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

Alleluia - "I will sing, I will sing a song unto the Lord...." - n. 251

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

Amen - "Honour and glory, amen!..." - Great Amen (South African) - n. 727

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

Communion - "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound..." - n. 32

Thanksgiving - "As I kneel before you, as I bow my head in prayer..." - n. 39

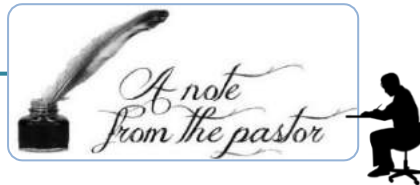
Final - "Bind us together, Lord..." - n. 65



THOUGHTS FROM FR. JOSEPH

- Brought to you by Fr. Joseph Arun

Email: jvenattu@gmail.com



THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, a day that marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, transforming them from fearful followers into bold proclaimers of the Gospel. This event, often referred to as the birthday of the Church, is a powerful reminder

of the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

To illustrate this transformation, I'd like to share with you a true-life story that reflects the power of the Holy Spirit in a modern context.

Nick Vujcic was born in 1982 in Melbourne, Australia, without arms and legs due to a rare disorder called tetra-amelia syndrome. Growing up, Nick faced immense physical and emotional challenges. He struggled with depression and loneliness, often questioning his purpose in life. His condition led him to experience bullying and exclusion, which only deepened his sense of despair.

At the age of 10, Nick tried to take his own life, feeling that his circumstances were hopeless. However, his faith and the support of his loving family helped him persevere. At 15, inspired by a story in the Bible where Jesus healed a blind man, Nick decided to trust in God's plan for his life. This decision marked the beginning of a profound transformation.

Nick felt a calling to inspire others and to share the message of hope through his own experiences. He began speaking publicly about his faith and



Nick Vujcic as a young child

the power of God's love, emphasizing that life is not defined by limitations but by possibilities. **Despite his physical condition, Nick learned to do many things people thought impossible:** he swims, surfs, writes, and even plays golf.

Nick's story is a testament to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, much like the experience of the apostles at Pentecost. Before Pentecost, the apostles were frightened and uncertain about their future. They had witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus and feared for their own lives. But when the Holy Spirit descended upon them, they were filled with courage and conviction.

In Acts 2:4, we read, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." The apostles went from hiding behind closed doors to boldly preaching the Gospel to people of all nations. **The Holy Spirit empowered them** to transcend their fears and limitations, just as it empowered Nick Vujcic to transcend his physical challenges. As we celebrate Pentecost today, **we are reminded that the Holy Spirit is still at work in our lives.** Each one of us, like the apostles and like Nick, has received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This divine presence within us calls us to a life of transformation, empowering us to overcome our fears and to fulfill our unique purpose in God's plan.



We may not face the same physical challenges as Nick or the immediate dangers faced by the apostles, but we all encounter obstacles and moments of doubt.

The Holy Spirit is our advocate, our comforter, and our guide, leading us to live lives of faith, hope, and love.


With love and Prayers,
Fr. Joseph Arun, OCD

WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Pentecost (from the Greek word "Pentecoste" meaning "50th day") is the one of the most prominent feast days in the Christian calendar. It is often referred to as the **"birthday of the Church."**

It marks the day, nearly 2,000 years ago, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, who had been living in fear for fifty days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

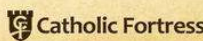
Emboldened by the Holy Spirit, the apostles set forth to tell all people in Jerusalem of the Resurrection. As they spoke in tongues given to them by the Holy Spirit, all nationalities present could understand them in their own mother tongue.

 facebook.com/catholicknowtheanswerofficialpage

Did you know?

God came down on Mt Sinai in fire and cloud (Ex 24: 15-17). This happened **50 days** after the **Paschal Lambs** in Egypt were slain. After the worship of the golden calf, **3,000 Israelites** were put to death by **Moses, the leader** of the people and the **12 tribes.**

Fifty days after the true **Lamb of God,** (Christ) was sacrificed, the **Holy Spirit came down to the disciples in tongues of fire and a mighty wind** (Acts 2:1-4). **Peter led the 12 apostles, and 3,000 converts** were baptised that day. (Acts 2:41).

 Catholic Fortress

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Do you need help with general housekeeping, or caring for an elderly family member? House/pet sitting in the Funchal or Caniço area?

Call or WhatsApp "Margarida" for rates: **Margarida:** 939037441 or email: margaridafernandes@live.com.pt References available. (English and Portuguese spoken)