



People Helping People is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França by the late Father Bernardino Andrade 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.**

"Almsgiving is giving what I don't need. A gift is giving what the other person needs. To love is to extend our hands to others. Pure. Empty of things, but full of love." (José Luís Nunes Martins in his book: Pilar).

"Almsgiving doesn't change anything, those who ask remain poor and those who give don't cease to be rich, it only praises the humility of recognising fragility and reaching out to meet it." (José Luís Nunes Martins in his book: Pilar).

>> 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: sineadmoynehan7@icloud.com

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS: Alexandre Silva, Funchal. Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com

When making any donation, please send an email to penhafranca.php@gmail.com with the date, and name on the transfer so that we are able to confirm that the transfer has been received. Thank you.

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 where you are visiting us from! ☺



After Mass

Join us across the garden for a cup of coffee, cake, and a chat!



Our Social Hall has a Free Little Library: a **cabinet full of books**. You're welcome to take a book, borrow a book, leave one in exchange, or even bring in some books that you have lying around that you no longer want. ☺



JOYFUL GIFT

18th May 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

5th Sunday of Easter – Year C

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/

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THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Today we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Easter. We are grateful to Father Joseph Arun, who continues to celebrate Mass for our community every Sunday morning. *The special intentions of this morning's Mass* will be for the souls of **Maria Zizina de Freitas Marques** who passed away 7 years ago today, on the 18/05/2018, and **Helena Jaloszynska** who passed away peacefully in her sleep on 28/04/2025 aged 98 years. **May they Rest in Peace** ☩ ☩

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 5th Sunday of Easter

(Acts 14:21-27; Psalm 144(145):8-13; Rev 21:1-5; John 13:31-35)

Last week in **Acts** the first mission of Paul and Barnabas started. They preached in synagogues, with mixed receptions. Many Jews became Christians. But many did not, stirring up hatred and violence against the Apostles, leaving Paul for dead. Barnabas and Paul then preached to the Gentiles, showing how they could recognise God's activity in nature. Today we hear how this first mission ends, with religious leaders appointed in each church, and a report of "what God had done". **The Psalm** praises the Lord's kindness and care for creation. In **Revelation** the promise of salvation described last week is now accomplished. The new Jerusalem comes down adorned as a bride for her marriage with the Lamb, the union of the Messiah with the community of the elect. God dwells with men on earth, after the "former heaven and the former earth" are replaced by a "new heaven and a new earth". God's ancient covenant is fulfilled. In **John's Gospel** we hear the first of Jesus' farewell discourses at the Last Supper. Jesus is sad to leave his followers. After washing the disciples' feet, Jesus draws out the meaning of this action. He predicts his coming death and gives a new commandment: love one another. The true mark of discipleship is that we "have love for one another".

- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC: By: Fátima Cátia Marques



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord..." – n.º 27
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Aleluia..."
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "How lovely on the mountains - Our God reigns..." – n.º 235
- [4] **Communion Hymn:** "Amazing Grace..." – n.º 32
- [5] **Thanksgiving** – Portuguese Hymn
- [6] **Final Hymn:** "Veni, lumen cordium..." – n.º 593

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“Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34)

When I first started to take my faith seriously, it wasn't a clever argument, an inspiring book, or even a powerful sermon that brought me back to the Church. **It was love.** It was the real, tangible, everyday love I encountered in the people I met at Mass, in the kindness of the parish community, in the way I was welcomed without question. I didn't just hear about God's love - I experienced it. And that experience brought me back home.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples what He calls a “new commandment”: *“Love one another as I have loved you.”* It's not about ticking boxes or loving out of obligation - it's an invitation to love in the same way Jesus loves us: generously, patiently, forgivingly, and faithfully.

Let's be honest - it's easy to focus on the things that aren't right in life. The disappointments. The things we lack. But that old saying *count your blessings* still has something to say to us. When we pause and take stock, we often find that God has been loving us in all sorts of ways - through friends, through moments of kindness, through quiet strength when life feels heavy.

Many visitors to **Penha de França Chapel** often comment that they feel something special here - a sense of welcome, warmth, and love that is almost hard to put into words. It's not by accident. That's Christ's love, alive and present in the life of this community.

This Easter season, why not make space each day to notice where God is loving you? And from that place, let His love overflow into the lives of those around you. Because, as Jesus reminds us, it's by our love - not by our achievements - that the world will know we belong to Him.

- Revd. Tito Pereira

A WALKING INSPIRATION



Last Sunday, the “Orange Walk”, a fund-raising walk in remembrance of Father Bernardino, around the Santa Catarina Park was cancelled due to the wet weather... **BUT** this didn't stop Sinead Moynihan! Despite her health issues she was still determined to go ahead, and did the walk anyway!

Sinead walked **3.5 kilometres**, and managed to raise over 400 euros for the charity! A big Thank You to all of Sinead's customers at the Moynihan's Irish Pub, her family and friends for sponsoring her with all their donations! 😊 ❤️



CANDLE LIGHT PROCESSION IN FUNCHAL – Last Monday 12/05

In Portugal, the month of May is dedicated to Our Lady. It has been a tradition for many years in Madeira that on the eve of May 13th (to commemorate the anniversary of the first apparition of the Virgin Mary in 1917 to 3 shepherd children, Lúcia, Jacinta, and Francisco, in Fátima, Portugal) there is a candlelight procession through the streets of Funchal in honour of Our Lady.



This year was no exception. A special Mass was held at the Cathedral, with hundreds of people joining in for the candle light procession. Here are some photos from that evening:



Photos: Diocese of Funchal

