

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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.**

*"In times of pain, the Lord puts people by our side who reflect His goodness." (Pope Francis).*

*"We need the "miracle of tenderness" that accompanies those who are going through trials." (Pope Francis).*



### >> 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

25th May 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

**6th Sunday of Easter – Year C**

**Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França**

Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

**Website and Blog:**

[p://rcmassmadeira.org/](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)



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### THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

We are blessed to have Father Joseph Arun celebrating Mass for us this morning. Deacon Craig Aburn, who is on holiday in Madeira (from the UK) will be assisting Father Joseph at Mass. Today we celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 6th Sunday of Easter

(Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Psalm 66(67); Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23; John 14:23-29)

In **Acts**, after the success of the first mission of Paul and Barnabas in setting up Gentile churches, Jewish Christian visitors from Jerusalem came to Antioch saying Gentiles must be circumcised to be saved. So Barnabas and Paul went up to Jerusalem for what is called the First Council of the church. The issue appears simple, but underneath were two other issues: whether Christianity could remain within Judaism; and whether Paul's new Gentile Christian communities could remain in communion with the rest of the church. The Holy Spirit leads the discussion to a decision. The **Psalm** calls on all peoples to praise the Lord because he governs wisely and makes the earth give food.

From **Revelation** we have part of John's vision of the new Jerusalem, the church, founded on the apostles. Here Christ dwells among men, so no Temple needed.

In **John's gospel**, Jesus' Last Supper discourse shows his joy that he will soon return to his Father. He promises to send "another" Advocate who will make Jesus present in his church for the rest of time. The name "advocate" captures the several roles the Holy Spirit plays in the church and for us. He both consoles and advises or counsels us, while also representing us to God in the heavenly court.

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

**PSALM RESPONSE:** Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larysa and Anastacia

**Entry:** "Bind us together, Lord..." - 65

**Offertory:** "Father, I place into your hands..." - 134

**Communion:** "Let there be love..." - 317

**Final:** "Go, the mass is ended..." - 175



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**As we journey towards Pentecost**, I've found myself thinking back to childhood holidays spent in the countryside of Madeira - places like Estreito da Calheta and Porto Moniz, where we had family. They were peaceful spots, full of quiet charm and strong family ties. But what always struck me - especially as a child - was just how dark the nights could be.

Some of those villages had no street lighting at all. If you stepped outside after sunset, you'd find yourself in complete darkness. It could be a bit overwhelming, even disorienting. But then, when it came time to return to

Funchal, I always remember the moment we saw the lights of the city ahead - bright, beautiful, and comforting. It was like the darkness had been defeated. We were heading home.

That memory feels especially powerful when I hear today's readings. In Revelation, we're given a glimpse of the New Jerusalem, where "there is no need of sun or moon" because God Himself is the light. It's a vision of perfect peace, a place where we are fully at home with the Lord. Jesus, in the Gospel, promises us the Holy Spirit - the one who reminds us of everything He taught and fills us with a peace the world cannot give. That same Spirit leads us even now, through whatever dark or uncertain roads we might be walking. The light of Christ doesn't just wait for us at the end - it walks with us, gently, faithfully, day by day.

The psalm today invites all peoples to praise God - **and here at Penha de França, we have a parish community full of that joyful diversity. We come from different places and speak different languages, but we are united by one light, one Spirit, one faith.**

As Pentecost draws near, let's pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. May the Church, and our own lives, be places where God's light shines clearly - welcoming, guiding, and reassuring others that no matter how dark it gets, we're never walking alone. And the light of home - the light of Christ - is always ahead of us.

Best wishes and prayers,

- *Rev.º Tito Pereira*

### BISHOP NUNO OF FUNCHAL MEETS POPE LEO XIV – 23/05/2025



On Friday morning Pope Leo XIV received the members of the *Commission of Bishops of the European Union* (COMECE), in audience at the Vatican. This was the first official meeting between the new pontiff and this European organisation of the Catholic Church.

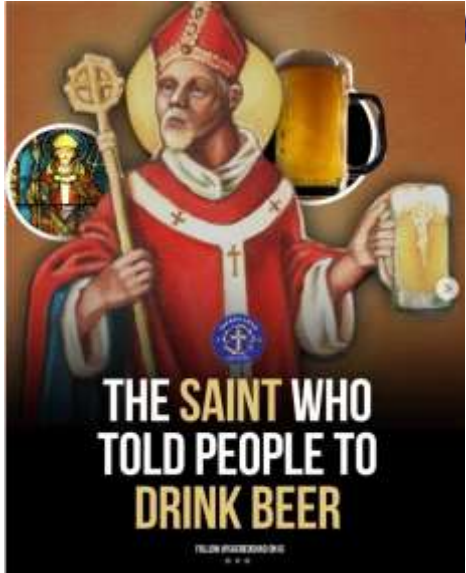
Among the participants was Bishop Nuno Brás, the bishop of Funchal and

vice-president of COMECE.

The audience took place at 9am in the Consistory Hall, and was also marked by the first official participation of Monsignor Bernardito Auza as Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union.

Source: Jornal da Madeira (Diocese of Funchal)





**sacredchad** 2 d

During the 11th century, a deadly plague struck the region of Soissons in France. The local water supply was contaminated — but people kept drinking it and falling ill.

Bishop Arnold of Soissons, a former monk and brewer, urged the people: "Don't drink the water — drink beer."

He knew that the brewing process, which involved boiling, killed harmful bacteria. Following his advice, many lives were saved.

Today, he's remembered as the patron saint of brewers, honored for both his faith and practical wisdom.

In times of crisis, he protected his flock — with prayer, leadership, and beer.

—MAY IS THE MONTH OF THE—

*Blessed Virgin Mary*

THE MONTH OF MAY HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO THE BLESSED MOTHER SINCE AT LEAST THE 18TH CENTURY

HONORING MARY IN THE MONTH OF MAY HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY MANY POPES

THE MONTH ENDS WITH THE FEAST OF THE VISITATION ON MAY 31ST

"DURING THIS BEAUTIFUL MONTH OF OUR LADY, LET US CROWN HER WITH FRAGRANT FLOWERS... AND ASK JESUS TO BE TRULY A CAUSE OF JOY TO HER AS HE WAS," —ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA



WAYS TO HONOR THE BLESSED MOTHER THIS MONTH:

MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO PRAY A ROSARY AND OFFER IT FOR SOMEONE'S INTENTIONS

DECORATE YOUR PRAYER SPACE TO HONOR THE BLESSED MOTHER

PLACE FLOWERS NEXT TO YOUR MARY STATUE

PRAY THE LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (LITANY OF LORETO)

REFLECT ON THE MAGNIFICAT = MARY'S HYMN OF PRAISE

VISIT A CHURCH OR PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE THAT IS DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

PARTICIPATE IN A MAY CROWNING

HOVENA