



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.**

"Making a miracle happen is possible for any of us. To feed the hungry, to welcome with a look those who are invisible to others, to smile when they cry, to hold the hand of those who suffer... to welcome into the depths of our silences those who need our love the most." - (José Luís Nunes Martins, in his book "Os infinitos do amor... [The infinities of love]").



>> **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 Quitéria 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

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. ☺



Want to have this newsletter sent to you by email every week? Ask to be added to the newsletter distribution list by sending emailing penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or alternatively, you can download them from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org

JOYFUL GIFT

1st June 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

Ascension – Year C



Ascension

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



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! In some countries and some places of the world including England, Wales and Scotland, Ascension Day was celebrated on Thursday, May 29th... (40 days after Easter Sunday). But in other countries like Portugal, Ireland, USA (and also here in Madeira), it is transferred to the following Sunday - on the 7th Sunday of Easter. This is why today we are celebrating **The Ascension of the Lord** here at the Chapel (and also in all other churches around the Island of Madeira). We are blessed to have Father Joseph Arun celebrating Mass for us today.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 7th Sunday of Easter - Ascension of the Lord

(Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 46(47); Hebrews 9:24-28, 10: 19-23; Luke 24:46-53)

Twice today we hear about Christ's ascension into heaven. **Luke's Gospel** ends with the ascension shortly after Jesus had walked with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus. **Acts** starts with Jesus' ascension after appearances over 40 days. This "double ascension" links the two parts of Luke's single work. **The Psalm** calls on all peoples to accept God as the true God and as universal king. Hebrews emphasises that, as "the supreme high priest", Jesus "appears before God on our behalf", after shedding his own blood in a sacrifice that need never be repeated. Luke's Gospel opened in the Temple in Jerusalem with the angel appearing to Zechariah, and ended with the disciples joyfully praising God in the Temple, still in Jerusalem. Acts starts in Jerusalem but finishes in Rome. Jesus' earthly ministry was "to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel". His ministry started and finished in Israel. But gradually the Apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, came to realise that they were to preach "repentance for the forgiveness of sins" "to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem". Acts shows how Jesus Christ continues his presence through the Church, spreading the gospel worldwide. Judaism could not contain Christianity, which had to break away from the Temple, with its daily sacrifices.

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

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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC: By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord..." – n.º 27
- [2] **Penitential Act:** "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 659
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Easter Alleluia..." – n.º 683
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "Spirit of God..." – n.º 514
- [5] **Sanctus:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." – n.º 704
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** "Ubi Caritas"
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** Portuguese Hymn
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** "Veni, lumen cordium" – n.º 593
- [9] **Final Hymn..** "The Spirit lives to set us free" – n.º 561



REFLECTION: WHY DID JESUS GO BACK TO HEAVEN? – By Deacon Tito Pereira

Email: (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



Back in the 1960/70s, many Madeirans left by ship to seek new lives abroad. This was a difficult time in Portugal. It was during this time that my parents decided to move to England. In those days, travel by ship was the cheapest option.

Their decision to leave upset my grandparents deeply. They couldn't understand why we had to go, and they were heartbroken at the thought that they might never see us again. Back then, communication wasn't easy, and

most people who emigrated rarely returned. It was a difficult time for many families.



I remember asking the same question that my grandparents must have carried silently: *Why did I have to leave?* Children often ask the right questions — the ones adults consider but are too afraid to voice for fear of sounding ignorant.



Years later, when I was teaching, a child once asked me about the Ascension: *“Why did Jesus go back to heaven? Why didn't he stay so we could see him?”* Her question immediately brought to mind my own departure from Madeira and the pain of being separated from my grandparents.

But I also recognised that my going away brought many blessings. I received a good education, became a teacher, met my wonderful wife, and together we had three beautiful boys. I have always felt that this was the path meant for me.

In response to the child's question, I didn't want to offer a simple answer - so we began a discussion. I can't remember every detail, but I do remember the conclusion the class came to. They reasoned that if Jesus had stayed on earth, people might have thought he favoured one particular country or people. If he had lived in one place, others might have felt excluded. In the end, they agreed that by returning to the Father, Jesus came to belong to everyone. One child put it beautifully: *“If he had stayed on earth, he wouldn't be as close as he is now.”* The wisdom of children is always worth pondering. In their simplicity, they often speak deep truths.

In time, I found that I grew closer to my grandparents despite the distance. Our reunions were marked by a deeper appreciation of one another's presence. In some ways, we became more present to each other than we had ever been before. Their love for me seemed to intensify during this time, even in my absence - so much so that my cousins back in Madeira would often wonder if I was the favourite grandchild.



This reminds me of the Sacraments - the ways Jesus returns to us through His Spirit, through the Word, through the Church, and especially through the Sacraments themselves. These are not lesser substitutes for his physical presence; rather, they make him more truly and universally present than if he had remained in one place, in bodily form, on earth.

Best wishes and prayers,
- *Rev'd. Tito Pereira*



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

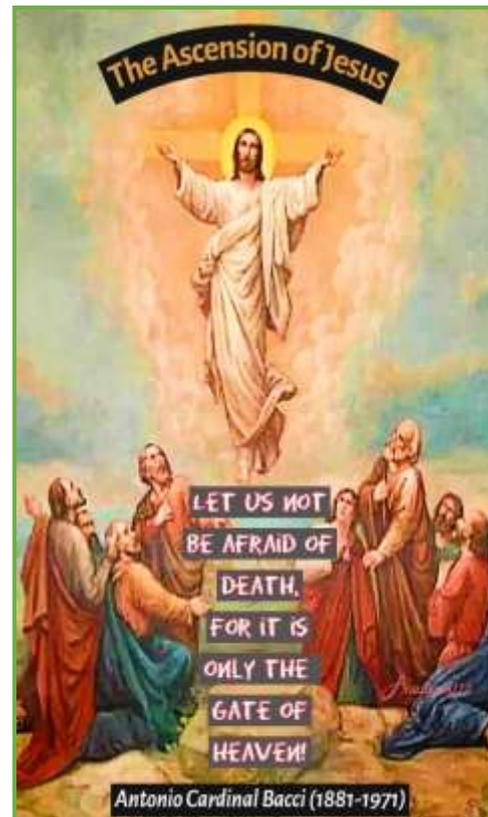
Nicki and I were delighted to be with you last Sunday for an extra visit besides our annual August fortnight. We celebrated our 30th anniversary on 20th May, and where better than Madeira to continue the celebrations and to receive the legendary English Mass special blessing from Fr. Joseph at the end of Mass.



Thanks for the warm welcome, as always - see you all again in August.

God bless.
Deacon Craig Aburn

(Diocese of Portsmouth, UK)



Pope Leo XIV - A perfect catch. Earlier this week, a crocheted Pope Doll was thrown towards the Pope as a gift by someone in the crowd... and he caught it! 😊



ARRAIAL



2nd ARRAIAL "PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE"

Live music, activities for children, food, drinks, bailinho (traditional dance), raffle, etc.

Rua Penha de França
June 8th from 12h to 22h

