



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.**

"To love others as oneself is to place the love that attracts me to myself and to others at the center. To love is to create something greater than myself. An "us". To love is not to follow God. It is to have Him behind us... content with me, content with the other, happy with us."

- (José Luís Nunes Martins, in his book "Os infinitos do amor... [The infinities of love]").



"You hold each other's heart" John Lewis.

>> 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: TOTAPPL

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: sineadmoynih7@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

**15th June 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass
Holy Trinity Sunday – 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/
- penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Penha de Franca. Today is Holy Trinity Sunday. Our small Chapel has quite a bit of history... it was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, over 400 years ago, and built on a "penha" or peak, by the sea. It was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. We are blessed to have Father Joseph Arun celebrating Mass for us this morning.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Holy Trinity Sunday

(*Proverbs 8: 22-31; Psalm 8:4-9; Romans 5: 1-5; John 16: 12-15*)

Written after the return from the exile in Babylon, the Wisdom books contain the practical knowledge of both the Israelites and the peoples around them, accumulated over two thousand years. Wisdom is the art of living a life at peace with God and with other people. It was developed by reflecting on the great questions: life, death, suffering, love, evil, relationships. It was seen to be a universal guide for living, and so given by God. So, Wisdom came to be seen as a person - the caring, feminine side of God, existing from all eternity. In today's reading from **Proverbs** Wisdom speaks of sharing God's delight in His work at the beginning of creation. **The Psalm** expresses our amazement at the dignity the infinite God has given to mankind's finite nature in his wonderful creation. In his letter to the **Romans** Paul insists that being justified, or made "at peace" with God, means that our previous alienation from God is overcome. God's love "poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit" has brought us into an intimate relationship with God, but we confidently hope in a more glorious intimacy in the future. No wonder Jesus says in **John's Gospel** "I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now". The Spirit gives us understanding. - **Brought to you by:** Chris Oliver.

PSALM RESPONSE: How great is your name, O Lord our God, through all the earth!

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC: By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Father, we adore you..." – n.º 136
- [2] **Penitential Act:** "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 659
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia ..." – n.º 679
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "Take our Bread..." – n.º 528
- [5] **Sanctus:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." – n.º 704
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** "Jesus, Lamb of God..." – n.º 733
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** "Our God loves us..." – n.º 454
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** Portuguese Hymn
- [9] **Final Hymn:** "Go, the Mass is ended..." – n.º 175



FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART

On the 12th of June 1965, Father Bernardino (RIP) was ordained a priest. This year would have been his 60th anniversary as a priest. Today we reprint a story that Father Bernardino wrote for our Chapel's newsletter on Trinity Sunday 2017.



LIFE AFTER DELIVERY

In a mother's womb were two babies, one asked the other: «Do you believe in life after delivery?». The other replied «Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later. » ...

« Nonsense », said the first, « There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be? ». The second said «I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouth. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now». The first replied - «That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded. ». The second insisted - «Well I think there is something, and maybe it's different from life here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore. ». The first replied: « Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come

back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes nowhere. ». «Well, I don't know, » said the second, «but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us. ». The first replied «Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now? ». The second said: «She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist. ». «Well I don't see her, so it is only logical that she doesn't exist», said the first, to which the second replied: «Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above. ».

Sometimes we are like the two babies in the story, and we ask: "Is there life after death?"... "Does God exist?"

I have heard that even though birds are surrounded by air, they don't see the air. Fish are surrounded by water, but the last thing they see is the water. We are so immersed in God. We are completely soaked in God like a sponge with water. We are completely surrounded by God like babies by their mother's wombs, like birds by air and fish by water but we are so distracted by the «life» and the «needs» created by us that we take the risk of even saying and feeling that God doesn't exist unless like the second baby says «**Sometimes, when you are in silence and focus and listen we can hear HIS loving voice, calling down from above.**».

Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade (written for our newsletter on 11/06/2017)



Today Is Trinity Sunday – What does this mean?

Trinity Sunday, is celebrated a week after Pentecost Sunday, and celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Holy Trinity, the three persons of God: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The human mind can never fully understand the mystery of the Trinity, but we can sum it up in the following formula: **God is three Persons in one Nature.** There is only one God, and the three Persons of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - are all equally God, and They cannot be divided.

REFLECTIONS – By Deacon Tito Pereira

- (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



TRINITY SUNDAY



Today, on Trinity Sunday, we pause to reflect on the mystery at the very heart of our faith: God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While the doctrine of the Trinity can seem difficult to understand, its meaning is deeply personal and beautifully simple - *God is love*. Not love as a vague idea or passing feeling, but a living, eternal relationship.

The Father gives Himself in love to the Son; the Son receives and returns that love; and the Holy Spirit is the bond of love shared between them. It is a love that is not closed in on itself, but one that reaches outward - drawing us in.



Last weekend, we caught a glimpse of that divine pattern here at Penha de França during our **Arraial**. It was a true celebration of community: a day filled with music, food, dancing, laughter, and connection.



Arraial last Sunday at the Chapel

But more than just enjoyment, it was a day marked by generosity – where people shared what they had and came together to support the poor and those in need. That spirit of welcome, joy, and self-giving mirrored something of the Trinity's love: generous, joyful, and inclusive.



As we reflect today, let us ask ourselves: do our lives reflect the love of the Trinity? A love that reaches beyond comfort zones, that forgives, that shares, and that gathers others in?

May our chapel community always be a place where that love is known, lived, and shared.

- Revd. Tito Pereira



CORPUS CHRISTI - Celebrated in the Catholic Church this week

This coming Thursday the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ...also known as “*Corpus Christi*”, which translates from the Latin to “*Body of Christ*”. **It celebrates the tradition and belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.**

In Portugal, this feast is liturgically celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. It is a holy day and also a national holiday. Here in Madeira, at the end of Holy Mass on the Thursday, **there is often a procession** through the streets surrounding the church where the Holy Mass takes place. Flower carpets (*arrangements of flowers laid out on the street to resemble colourful carpets*) are found along the

streets where the procession takes place.

You can experience this tradition for yourself this coming Thursday (June 19th). There will be no Mass celebrated at the Chapel on Thursday, but there is a Mass at 6pm in the square in front of the Colégio Church, followed by the traditional procession to the Sé Cathedral in Funchal.



Igreja do Colégio



THE MADEIRA ATLANTIC FESTIVAL – Fireworks every week in June!

Source: www.visitmadeira.pt/en-gb/what-to-do/events/search/atlantic-festival

The Madeira Atlantic Festival (*Festival do Atlântico*) sets the beginning of the summer season in Madeira. **On 3 consecutive Saturdays during the month of June, at 10:30 pm there is a glorious fireworks show** that lights up Funchal's night sky at the pier of



Funchal's harbour. These wonderful and exciting performances, lasting about 20 minutes each, combine fireworks and music in a unique experience for tourists and residents. **This year, pyrotechnic companies from 3 countries are competing against each other in this international fireworks contest: the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Switzerland.** The goal is for one of them to win the “Atlantic Trophy”,

awarded by a jury, as well as the “Madeira Tão Tua” Trophy, awarded by the public. Votes can be placed in boxes located at the following places: Plaza Madeira Shopping mall, at the Tourist Information Office in Avenida Arriaga and also at the Funchal pier, the night of the show.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you!

Do not be afraid to dream of great things!

– Pope Francis