



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.

"Difficult times are ahead. Prepare yourself. Learn to live with little and without selfishness. If you can do this, you will serve as an example to those who cross your path. Do good, without worrying about who will receive the applause.
Give the world the best of yourself. If possible, give a little more!
(in the book: Céu «Heaven» - by José Luís Nunes Martins)



3rd of May 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday

5th Sunday of Easter – Year A

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



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Today, we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Easter. Our priest this morning is Father Joseph Arun, who is originally from India. We have also been blessed with the presence of Deacon Peter Brown, who has been visiting Madeira on holiday from the UK. He has joined us for Mass and assisted Fr. Joseph at Mass for these last two Sundays.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 5th Sunday of Easter - Year A ○
(Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 32(33); 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12)

The Hellenists were Christian Greek-speaking Jews. A common way of resolving community arguments is schism: you go your way, we'll go ours. Significantly the early Christians managed to maintain fellowship by allowing each group to manage its own affairs. As Stephen's speech later shows, the Hellenists bitterly opposed the Jewish Temple authorities, who drove them out of Jerusalem, starting the spread of Christianity. The Apostles were not expelled, and continued their work, with many Jews including priests being converted.

The Psalm praises the Lord's omnipotent power and kindness. Relying on His promises we can be confident he will rescue us.

Peter's letter continues encouraging persecuted Christians by reminding them that we are "a royal priesthood, ... a people set apart to sing God's praises". Every preface concludes with the words: "every land, every people exults in your praise". At Mass we – exercising our common priesthood that comes from our baptism – offer all we have done during the week, our presence together in community, and our material gifts, as a sacrifice to confirm our allegiance to Christ, just as God's sacrifice of his Son showed his love for us.

In John's Gospel, after washing the disciples' feet and foretelling his death, Jesus emphasises his intimate relationship with the Father, saying "to have seen me is to have seen the Father".

- By: Chris Oliver - www.bible-groups.info

PSALM RESPONSE: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC: By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- [1] Entry Hymn: Traditional Madeiran song sung by Carla Rodrigues & Matilde
- [2] Gospel Acclamation: "Celtic Aleluia..." – n.º 679
- [3] Offertory Hymn: "How lovely on the mountains – Our God reigns..." – n.º 235
- [4] Communion Hymn: "As I kneel before you – Ave Maria gratia plena..." – n.º 39
- [5] Thanksgiving: "All glory, laud and honour – Sing hosanna..." – n.º 14
- [6] Final Hymn... Traditional Madeiran song sung by Carla Rodrigues & Matilde



>> 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: TOTAPTL
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

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.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH HOLY WATER



As you go inside the Chapel just under the archways on either side of the door, you will find a small font on the wall with Holy water inside which you can use to bless yourself with, before and after Mass. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Tea and Coffee After Mass

at Moynihans Irish Pub... up the road from the Chapel (while our tearoom is closed for fixing of the roof)



Please sign our Visitor's book or leave a message

We'd love to know which country you are visiting us from!



REFLECTION FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

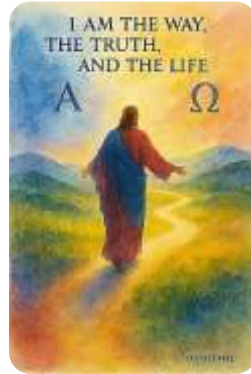
By Deacon Tito Pereira

- (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



The words of Jesus Christ: *"I am the way, the truth and the life,"* are not just words to admire. They are an invitation to walk with him, day by day, in the middle of ordinary life.

For many of us, faith can easily slip into the background. Life is busy. There is work to do, family to care for, and plenty to think about. It is easy to tell ourselves that we will give more time to God when things settle down. Yet faith is not only something private or occasional. It is something that quietly shapes how we live, and others often notice it more than we realise.



People go to church to pray, to sit in silence, or just to pause for a moment. But very often, it is also through one another that God becomes present. A warm greeting, a familiar face, a sense of welcome which is very much part of the culture here at Penha de França. These small things matter.

Children and young people, especially, take all of this in. They watch how we pray, how we speak, and how we react when things do not go to plan. They notice if faith is something real for us or just something we talk about. Simple habits such as saying a prayer, making time for Mass, or showing patience and forgiveness at home can stay with them for years. These quiet moments often speak louder than anything else.

Here in Madeira, we might think of the *Caminhos Reais*. These old Royal Roads are not always the most famous, but they offer something deeper. They take you through real communities, where you meet people who share their knowledge and their stories. It is those encounters that make the journey special.

Our parish life is very similar. It is not only about what happens at the altar, important as that is. It is also about the everyday moments. A kind word, a bit of encouragement, simply being present to one another, the welcome and Manny trying to encourage everyone and organise things so that they run smoothly. These are often how people begin to sense God at work.



So perhaps it is worth asking ourselves, gently and honestly, do our lives help others to notice God? We are not called to be perfect. We are simply called to be real and faithful. Very often, it is through that quiet, steady witness that others come to experience something of God's love.

- Deacon Tito



VISITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – Traditional Devotion in Madeira

There is a Catholic tradition in Madeira that takes place every year within the parishes of Funchal. It is a very old tradition of devotion to the Holy Spirit and is called **"Visitas do Espirito Santo"** (loosely translated as *Visits of the Holy Spirit*). Every Sunday during the Paschal Time and until Pentecost Sunday a group of people usually composed of three men from the church and two girls called **"saloias"** (country girls) will visit the houses of the parish community along the streets in the different suburbs of Funchal. These visits take place during specific times which are decided upon by the Diocese, and the community is informed in advance so that they can prepare for these special visits. The aim of these *"Holy Spirit"* visits is to bring each family "the joy of the Risen Christ" and also to collect funds that have several purposes such as helping the poor, or restoration work in the church, amongst other things.

A few years ago, Father Bernardino invited a group with "saloias" to sing at our Chapel, and this morning we are blessed to have a young lady, Matilde, and our Carla on the accordion singing a traditional entrance and final hymn for us!



Traditional saloia girls at our Mass a few years ago, with Father Bernardino on the altar



Carla with her accordion

The words to the songs this morning are:

Dai-me licença que eu entro (Allow me to come in)
Destas portas para dentro (Through these doors)
O Divino Espírito Santo (The Holy Spirit)
Vai entrar neste momento (Is about to enter at this moment)
O Divino Espírito Santo (Oh Divine Holy Spirit)
Que sois cheio de alegria (Who is full of joy)
Vai visitar as famílias (Go and visit the families)
Desta nossa freguesia (Of our parish).



MONTH OF MAY–

Did you know?

In the Catholic Church, the whole month of May is dedicated to Our Lady!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Today in Portugal we celebrate Mother's Day!

