



"In God's heart, those most in need hold a special place."

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.**

The Mission Statement of People Helping People is... through social solidarity, to mobilize many people to help many people in a combat against poverty, hunger, illness, exclusion, indifference, intolerance, and social injustice, with a special preference for the last, the least and the lost, having as a model the person of Jesus, the «Good Shepherd» (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15). Our wish is that it may always be an open door when all the other doors close, building in this way, different feelings and acts of Mercy (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6 and Matthew chapter 25).

>> **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!



Receive this newsletter by email. Ask to be added to the newsletter distribution list by sending an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or alternatively, you can download them from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org/newsletter-downloads/

10TH of May 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday

6th 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 sixth Sunday of Easter. We are blessed to have **Father Joseph Arun** celebrate Mass for us here at the chapel every Sunday. Father Joseph's sermons are very inspiring, and he often shares stories about his homeland in India with us. During the week, he celebrates Mass at the Carmelite Church in Funchal (Igreja do Carmo).

○ **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 6th Sunday of Easter - Year A**
(Acts 8:5-8,14-17; Psalm 65(66); 1 Peter 3:15-18 or 4:13-16; John 14:15-21 or 17:1-11)

After Stephen had been killed, Saul led "a great persecution" against the Church in Jerusalem. The Hellenists were therefore driven out of Jerusalem and Philip takes the gospel to Samaria. Peter and John came to investigate these first non-Jew converts. The apostles confirmed these new members by laying hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

The **Psalm** praises God's power as revealed throughout history but especially during the Exodus. **Peter** continues his advice to Christians suffering abuse and ridicule from their non-Christian neighbours. Do not be afraid! Stick to your principles, being ready to explain your reasons politely. And rejoice that your sufferings enable you to share in Christ's sufferings so that you may share in his glory.

In **John's Gospel** description of the Last Supper, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to continue his work after he returns to his Father. The supper ends with Jesus' great prayer to his Father for the Church he is leaving behind. All three persons of the Trinity are mentioned in the gospels, but the Church only gradually developed its understanding of the Trinity over many centuries. We believe that the Spirit **proceeds** from the Father **and** the Son (*filioque*). The Orthodox Church says that the Spirit **comes from** the Father **through** the Son.

- By: Chris Oliver (RIP) - www.bible-groups.info

PSALM RESPONSE: Cry out with joy to God all the earth.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

Entry: "All Heaven declares..." - 17
Offertory: "All that I am, all that I do..." – 21
Communion: "Alleluia, sing to Jesus..." - 29
Final: "Bind us together, Lord..." - 65



By: Larysa Makarova

REFLECTION FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

By Deacon Tito Pereira

- (dcn.tito@gmail.com)

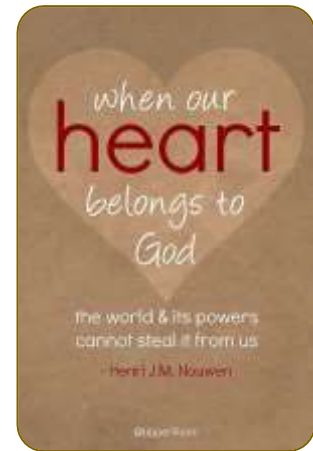


During the time of the Flower Festival, we are surrounded by signs of beauty and life. Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si'* that “the entire material universe speaks of God’s love”, and in Madeira, the Flower Festival expresses this in a particularly beautiful way. The colours, fragrance and care poured into these celebrations remind us that God’s love is not distant or abstract. It is something living, something meant to be seen, shared and received with joy.



The days after the resurrection were filled with confusion and uncertainty for the disciples. The first witnesses to the risen Lord were not the apostles but the women who came from the tomb with the message that Jesus was alive. At first, the disciples struggled to believe it. Even before the risen Christ appeared among them, they had already begun to learn something important about faith. They would come to know the Lord through witness, through trust and through the work of God among them.

In many ways, this is how every generation encounters Christ. We often imagine that faith must have been easier for the apostles because they eventually saw the risen Jesus. Yet before those appearances came fear, doubt and waiting. Jesus was preparing them to live not by sight alone but through the gift of faith and the power of the Holy Spirit.



In today’s Gospel, Jesus promises that he will not leave his disciples orphaned. Though hidden from ordinary sight, he remains close. In fact, he is closer to us than we are to ourselves because he dwells within us. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit would breathe new life into the Church and make the presence of Christ alive in every believer.

People still ask, “Where is God?” Yet God is where he has always been, among his people, loving them without ceasing. In Jesus Christ, God has chosen the human heart as his dwelling place. Just as flowers quietly unfold their beauty and bring joy to those who see them, so too the life of faith slowly reveals the presence of Christ within us, often gently, quietly and in ways we do not immediately notice.

- Deacon Tito

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” - John 14:15-17



LAST WEEK SUNDAY AT MASS – A special visit

On Sunday last week, those who attended Mass at the chapel experienced a lovely Madeiran tradition that takes place in parishes around the island at Easter: a very old tradition of devotion to the Holy Spirit known as ‘*Visitas do Espírito Santo*’. Matilde, a young “*saloia*” girl (pictured on the front page of the newsletter), came dressed in traditional attire and sang traditional songs accompanied by Carla on the accordion.



MOTHER’S DAY BLESSINGS LAST SUNDAY

Last Sunday was Mother’s Day in Portugal! Some mothers at mass received flowers (they were the youngest mothers, the mother with the most children, and the oldest mother (who was 90 years old!)... pictured here with Father Joseph.....

