

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).

"Whoever finds themselves in difficulty, even the enemy, deserves to be helped."  
- (Pope Leo XIV)



**>> 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/

24<sup>th</sup> of May 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday  
**Pentecost** – Year A



**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](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)  
**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
**Email:** [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



Capela da Penha de França  
Funchal, Madeira

**CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH**

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. Over the years, the chapel has undergone several renovations that have allowed the essence and beauty of the space to be maintained to this day. This is the only place on the island of Madeira where you can attend a Catholic Mass celebrated entirely in English. Mass starts at 10:30 am and is celebrated by Fr. Joseph Arun, a Carmelite priest. Today, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Pentecost - Year A**  
(Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 103(104); 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13; John 20:19-23)

Pentecost was less understood by Christians than the other two Jewish pilgrimage feasts of Passover and Tabernacles. Then the Dead Sea Scrolls showed that Pentecost was associated with God giving the Covenant on Sinai, and enrolling new community members. The coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles fits neatly with this Covenant feast. **The Psalm** calls us to praise God's creative wisdom. Filled with wonder at the details of God's glorious works, this psalm is well worth reading in full. **Acts** tells us that they "had all met", including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. Wind and fire remind us of Sinai. The list of peoples who hear is effectively the programme for the mission now starting. After rebuking the **Corinthians** for their factions and giving us the earliest description of the Eucharist, Paul shows how Christians together make up the one body of Christ on earth. It is the one Spirit who gives the gifts each of us needs for the particular task God has given us. In the first ending of **John's Gospel**, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalen after his resurrection, and then to the disciples together in a closed room "for fear of the Jews". Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on them, sending them on mission with power to forgive sins. - By: Chris Oliver - [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

**PSALM RESPONSE:** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

**TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:** By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- |1| **Entry Hymn:** "Colours of day..." – n.º 93
- |2| **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..." – n.º 679
- |3| **Offertory Hymn:** "Healer of the sick..." – n.º 217
- |4| **Communion Hymn:** "Spirit of God..." – n.º 514
- |5| **Thanksgiving:** "Veni lumen cordium..." – n.º 593
- |6| **Final Hymn:** "The Spirit lives to set us free..." – n.º 561



## REFLECTION FOR PENTECOST - By Deacon Tito Pereira

- (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



Pentecost is often described as the birthday of the Church, yet when we listen carefully to the account from Acts of the Apostles, we realise how familiar it all feels. The Church is still gathered together, still waiting upon the Lord, still dependent upon the gift of the Holy Spirit. In that upper room were Peter and the apostles, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and the other disciples. They were united in prayer and expectation.

Back in 2019, I visited the Upper Room, the Cenacle, in Jerusalem.

I am not entirely sure what I expected to find there. Perhaps part of me imagined seeing the table still set for the Last Supper. Instead, it was simply an empty room with groups of tourists passing through. At first, the emptiness struck me. I wondered what had become of the table around which Jesus gathered with his apostles.



**The Cenacle in Jerusalem**

Since then, I have come to appreciate that perhaps the Upper Room is empty for a reason. The Last Supper never truly ended. Every altar becomes that same table of sacrifice and communion. Every Mass draws us into the same mystery where Christ gives himself to his people.

What took place in that Upper Room continues in the life of the Church today.

One of the Palestinian Christians we met explained that Mass is only permitted there on the feast of Pentecost. In many ways, that seems fitting. Pentecost happened in the very place where the Eucharist was first given. The same disciples who received the Body and Blood of Christ there would soon receive the fire of the Holy Spirit. Strengthened by that gift, they could no longer remain behind locked doors. The Spirit drove them outward into the streets and eventually to the ends of the earth.

In Madeira, there is a beautiful devotion to the Holy Spirit from Easter to Pentecost. Groups from the parish go from house to house bringing prayer, song, and blessing to families. It is a reminder that the Holy Spirit cannot be confined to buildings. The Spirit always sends the Church outward.

In many ways, they are living out the dismissal we hear at every Mass: "Go forth, the Mass is ended." Those words are not simply the ending of the liturgy; they are a mission. Having encountered the Risen Lord in Word and Sacrament, we are sent out to announce the Gospel by the witness of our lives.



**Go  
the  
Mass  
is  
Ended**

May this Pentecost break open whatever keeps us locked away, whether fear, doubt, or complacency. May the Holy Spirit set our hearts on fire once again, so that we may go forth with courage and joy, boldly proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord.

~ Deacon Tito

# PENTECOST

Pentecost (from the Greek word 'Pentecoste' meaning 50<sup>th</sup> day) is one of the most prominent feast days in the Christian calendar. It is often referred to as the **'Birthday of the Church.'**

It marks the day, nearly 2,000 years ago, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, fifty days following the Resurrection of Christ.

[facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage](https://www.facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage)

## THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US..

<b>COMFORTS</b> Gives peace in trouble (John 14:16)	<b>STRENGTHENS</b> Gives power in weakness (Ephesians 3:16)
<b>GUIDES</b> Leads us into truth (John 16:13)	<b>CONVICTS</b> Shows us our sin (John 16:8)
<b>EMPOWERS</b> Fills us with boldness (Acts 1:8)	<b>SUSTAINS</b> Helps us endure (Isaiah 11:2)
<b>INTERCEDES</b> Prays when we can't (Romans 8:26)	<b>TEACHES</b> Reveals God's truth (John 14:26)