

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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.**

"How beautiful it would be if the poor occupied the same place in our hearts as they do in God's!" - (Pope Francis)



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

EUROPE: Alexandre Silva, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.
Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com / penhafranca.php@gmail.com



>> 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 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: sineadmoynihian7@icloud.com

When making any donation, please send an email to penhafranca.php@gmail.com with the date, and name on the transfer so that Alexandre Silva is 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! **Today we have green St. Patrick's cake!**



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. ☺



Receive this newsletter by email every week. Email us at: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com to be added to the newsletter distribution list, or download them from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org

JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, nr. 458

16th March 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass
2nd Sunday of Lent - Year C

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira
Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>
f www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel
i www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
e penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

St. Patrick



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning. Today is the 2nd Sunday of Lent. The special intention of this morning's Mass is for the soul of **Jaime Gonçalves (RIP)**. Our Chapel is visited by many people who come to Madeira on holiday, and over the years we have become a diverse community as people have moved here from all over the world. Our Late priest, Father Bernardino, started a tradition of celebrating a St. Patrick's Day Mass at the Chapel with our Irish community every year. It was something he enjoyed. May he rest in peace. ✚



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 2nd Sunday of Lent

(Genesis 15:5-12,17-18; Psalm 26(27); Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9: 28-36)

While Abram was wandering round Canaan before 1500 BC, his kinsman, Lot was captured in Sodom. Abram and his allies freed him. To celebrate this victory, bread and wine were brought out and Abram was blessed by Melchizedek, Priest-King of Salem, traditionally identified with Jerusalem. Then the Lord promised Abram a land of his own, an heir, and numberless descendants. A firebrand signifying the Lord's presence, pass between the halves of the animals, a common way at that time of confirming a covenant. The Psalm asserts complete confidence that God will not abandon but will rescue us, while asking for guidance and protection. Paul wrote to the Philippians about 60 AD. A devout Jew and Pharisee, Paul has nevertheless concluded that righteousness does not come from the Law but through faith in God, as shown by Abraham. As citizens of heaven we owe allegiance to Christ, not Caesar. Since God will transfigure our bodies, we must not be ruled by bodily appetites but gradually transform ourselves into images of Christ. Luke describes Jesus' appearance being changed. Moses and Elijah, representing the Law and the Prophets, are talking with him about his "exodus", his coming passion and death. The disciples are confused, but then God tells them they must now listen to Jesus, the representatives of old Israel have departed.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is my light and my help.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larysa Makarova

Entry: "Bind us together, Lord..." - 65

Offertory: "Father, I place into your hands..." - 134

Communion: "Let there be love..." - 317

Final: "Go, the mass is ended..." - 175





Many of us have made the journey up Madeira's mountains in the early hours to watch the sunrise or gaze at the Milky Way on a clear night. There is something breathtaking about standing above the clouds, watching the first light break through the darkness, or seeing the vast stretch of stars across the sky. **In those moments, we feel small, yet deeply connected to something greater than ourselves.**



Peter, James, and John climb a mountain with Jesus, but the sight they witness is beyond anything they could have imagined. There, on Mount Tabor, Jesus is transfigured before them - His face shines like the sun, His clothing becomes dazzling white. For a brief moment, **they see Him as He truly is, filled with divine glory.** This revelation is not just for their amazement; it is meant to **strengthen** them. Soon, they will descend from this mountain and begin the difficult journey to Jerusalem, where Jesus will face the Cross. The memory of this light will help them endure the coming darkness.

The first reading offers us another striking image of light in the midst of darkness. Abraham (Abram) has placed his trust in God, but as he waits for the fulfilment of God's promise, a deep and terrifying darkness falls upon him. Then something extraordinary happens - a flaming torch passes through the sacrifice he has prepared. This is God Himself, sealing His covenant with Abraham. What is remarkable is that Abraham does not walk through the sacrifice; God alone takes responsibility for the promise. **This moment foreshadows the Cross, where Christ alone takes upon Himself the burden of our salvation.** Just as the firebrand moves through the sacrifice, Jesus will pass through suffering and death to bring us the light of resurrection.



The disciples on Mount Tabor struggle to understand what they are seeing, just as Abraham must have struggled in the darkness. But then God speaks: **"This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to Him."** The Transfiguration is a moment of revelation, not just for the disciples, but for us as well. It reminds us that Christ is not only the one who suffers for us - He is also the light that leads us forward, the fire that cannot be extinguished.

During Lent, we are invited to walk in that light. At times, like Abraham, we may not see God's plan clearly. Like the disciples, we may be tempted to cling to moments of comfort and avoid the journey ahead. But **faith calls us to trust** - to keep walking, knowing that the light of Christ will never fail us. The psalm declares, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" The same God who revealed His glory to the disciples, who guided Abraham through the darkness, now walks with us in our own journey of faith.



The next time you stand on one of the peaks of Madeira, watching the sunrise or the stars, let it remind you of this truth: the **God who created the heavens has placed His light within you.** Follow Him, trust in Him, and allow His light to guide your path.

*With prayers and love,
Dcn Tito.*



- Brought to you by Alexandre Silva



Dear members of the Penha de França Community (and visitors to our Chapel),



I am Alexandre, and I have been working with the charity "People Helping People" since it was first started. We are VERY thankful for the donations coming from your community, so we thought we could share with you some of the stories of the families you are helping to take care of. Mrs. C is one of a kind. Of course, everyone is one of a kind, but some people seem to be more unique than others.

She is a lively 42-year-old woman, with a positive, cheerful spirit, very spiritual and compassionate. She is also a hard-working wife and mother of 7 kids with a very tight budget. There is so much positivity in her, that you would never know that she has Lupus and fibromyalgia leaving her with constant pain. So much hope that you would never realize one of her daughters has a chronic disease and has been on a waiting list for a kidney transplant since she was 4 years old, 13 years ago.

She has so much joy, you certainly wouldn't tell that she was diagnosed over a year ago with an inoperable brain tumor. This tumor was deemed inoperable by all national specialists, and she was unable to have other treatments like chemotherapy or radiotherapy because of her pre-existing conditions. But with the help of her family, she discovered that in Barcelona they are trying a laser procedure specifically aimed at these types of tumors.

Mrs. C has been on leave from her work since the diagnosis, but even though her husband and eldest son work, with the expenses of such a populated home, it was impossible to gather the amount needed to have the surgery, plus expenses.

They always lived in a tight budget where savings are impossible. So her oldest son asked for a loan from his boss, to make the operation possible. Although she has a good insurance, Mrs. C still had to pay 7.500€ for the surgery, travel and accommodation to one of the most expensive cities in Europe...

She was operated in December, but during the surgery she suffered a heart attack, so they had to stop everything, and resuscitate her without finishing the procedure. She was actually dead for some time. So although they managed to clean up some of the tumor, it is now regrowing in her head, giving her convulsions, and losing her sight on her right eye whenever she gets a bit anxious.

And of course, without help, her condition will only deteriorate. So time is of the essence. PHP has never helped this family before, and we hope that in the future we won't need to. But they need help now.

Last time since she ended up in intensive care for longer because of the heart attack, she actually ended up paying more than she expected both in hospital costs and accommodation for the family member that accompanied her. So we have agreed that as soon as we are nearing 5.500€ raised, she will schedule the surgery immediately. Mrs. C has been in contact with the surgeon, and he says that it could be scheduled very fast. But I do believe that it would be safer to raise a bit more. And her oldest son is paying for the last surgery directly from his wage by his employer for the next few years, so if we can raise more money than needed for this, it would be used to ease the loan that he took.

I think it's worth it. I really want to make this happen. Can we help?

If you wish to donate to help this family, please include any mention to "surgery" or "Mrs. C" or anything related to the bank transfer notes to PHP. We will be watching out for that and setting it aside for them. Your donations at the end of Mass make it possible for us to help families like this one.

Thank you for taking the time to read this through to the end, and for caring.
16/03/2025 – Alexandre Silva (alex.lupus@gmail.com)



SAINT OF THE MONTH – Saint Patrick. Feast day - 17th of March

Saint Patrick is one of the world's most well-known Saints, and the patron saint of Ireland. His feast day is a cultural and religious celebration. It's a day for celebrating Irish culture and to remember Saint Patrick, who preached throughout Ireland and worked many miracles during the fifth century. Saint Patrick's Day is held on the 17th of March every year as traditionally it is the day he died in the year AD 461.



Saint Patrick was born in a village in Roman Britain in the fifth century. He was reportedly kidnapped by Irish pirates as a teenager and enslaved in Ireland, where he took care of sheep and learned the Irish language. After escaping and training as a priest, he returned to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity. He used a three-leaf shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to Irish pagans.

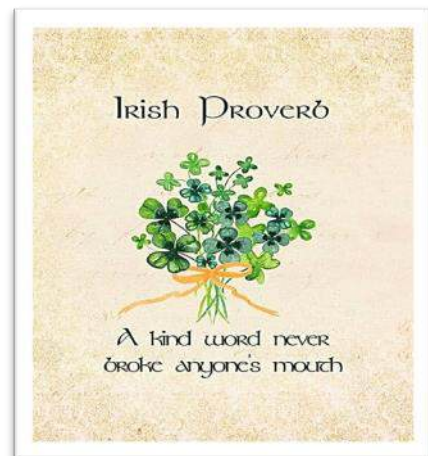


THE SHAMROCK - the national symbol of Ireland, & the Holy Trinity



A shamrock is a young sprig of clover, and has been used as a symbol of Ireland since the 18th century. Traditionally, there is a legend of Saint Patrick using a shamrock to teach the mystery of the Holy Trinity:

"Just like the leaves on each shamrock I see, there are three parts to the Holy Trinity. First is God the Father, then Jesus, His only Son. With the Holy Spirit, together, they are Three in One."



"PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE"

- Charity Quiz Night -

Coming-up on
***Saturday 29th March* 2025**



Where: *Moynihan's Irish Bar*
Time: starting 18h30.

Pub dinner & drink served between 19h00 -19h30

Price: Quizz entry, meal & drink only €20
(50% of the proceed as a donation to the charity).

Menu choice(s):-

Beef burger & chips
Chicken burger & chips
Fish & chips
Beef & Guinness pie with mash

Drink(s):-

Choice of glass house wine (red or white),
Beer or
Ice tea / soft drink

Please confirm your attendance and choice of meal by latest Friday 28th March.

RSVP:

Jane - 913 713 916
or
Zac - 968 488 890



EASTER HAMPER COLLECTION

Continuing with Father Bernardino's mission of love and support for those in need, we are collecting items to make up **Easter hampers** for those families which are supported with our *People Helping People* charity.

We are collecting hygiene products (eg. lotions, toothpaste, shampoo, bodywash, etc.) and dried and tinned goods (tins of fruit, sardines, tuna, beans, dried nuts and fruit, rice and pasta, etc.) and Easter Eggs for the children.

Please bring along your offerings to the 10am English Mass on Sundays and place in the basket at the entrance

of the church. Thank you 😊

For further details, contact Debbie
at: deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk

