

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

People Helping People (PHP) is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França to help those in need. Our 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).

>> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

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>> BANK INFO:

BANK: Banco Santander Totta

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0008 0130 1547020

NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17

IBAN: PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

SWIFT: TOTAP TPL

Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal



Please sign our Visitor's book

- ☞ 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 your home town!



**Tea and Coffee
After Mass**
Please join us
in the Social Hall
across the garden.

You'll find the book and
map in the Social Hall...
(across the garden)

Remember to leave
your yellow *Hymn Book*
and *Order of the Mass*
sheets on the table at
the Chapel entrance
after mass ☺



Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch! This newsletter is brought to you every week by a team of volunteers: Father Bernardino (who writes our Weekly Column: *From my Heart to your Heart*); Chris (Scripture Readings); Prof. Cátia and Prof. Helena (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*stories of interest, newsletter layout*). We also have contributions / stories sent in by visitors and local members in the community. **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. To subscribe to this newsletter please send an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org

JOYFUL GIFT

24th of September 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,

Rua Penha de França nr. 3, Funchal, Madeira

Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This 10am Mass is the only **Catholic Mass in English** on the entire island, however all denominations are welcome to attend! We are blessed by the presence of two dedicated priests here at the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França: *Father Bernardino*, who celebrates the Mass in English every Sunday morning at 10h00, and *Father Vitor*, who celebrates Mass in Portuguese at 11h30.



Statue of Our Lady of Penha de França in the Chapel

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Isa 55:6-9 ; Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18 r.18 ; Phil 1:20-24, 27 ; Matt 20:1-16a)

Earlier in this chapter **Isaiah** invited us to the joyful banquet the Lord has prepared for us – "the supper of the Lamb". Today's reading urges us to "seek the Lord while he may be found": hidden and unimaginably different from us, yet he is near and wanting to give us his forgiveness.

Psalm 145, a hymn of praise to God's mercy, recalls when the Israelites worshipped the golden calf: the Lord is "slow to anger and abounding in mercy".

For the next four weeks the second reading is from Paul's letter to the **Philippians**, probably written about 57 AD from Ephesus. Paul writes to thank the Philippians for the money they had sent him while he was in prison, and to encourage them to support each other in their pagan surroundings. Paul is very clear about his future life with Christ immediately after death. Sharing in Christ's suffering means also sharing in the joy of the union with Christ which such suffering brings. Paul is torn between wishing to be gone and so be with Christ, or staying alive suffering in the Lord's work.

In **Matthew's** gospel even those rejected by others are swept up into the Lord's vineyard. Justice to those hired first is balanced by mercy to the latecomers.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is close to all who call him.

TODAY'S HYMNS:



Prof. Cátia Marques & Prof. Helena Marques

[1] Entry Hymn: *Father, we adore you* – No.136

[2] Penitential Act: *Lord, have mercy* – No. 659

[3] Gospel Acclamation: *Aleluia*

[4] Offertory Hymn: *Instrumental*

[5] Sanctus: *Holy* – No. 704

[6] Agnus Dei: *Lamb of God* – No. 737

[7] Communion: *Portuguese Hymn*

[8] Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*

[9] Final Hymn: *Go, the Mass is ended* – No. 175



FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART

- *Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade (bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)*

1 - JUMP MY SON... JUMP!...

The building was engulfed in fire. Coming from one of the windows everybody could hear the cries of a panicked eight-year-old child. From the streets the firemen, after preparing a safety net to catch him, kept shouting: «Jump... we are here to save you... please jump... You will be safe». The cries of the child kept growing in volume and in panic. After trying a few times without any success, the firemen had the good sense of asking the child's father to help them to convince the child to jump. The father was horrified but anyway he tried: «Jump my son jump... you will be OK... a safe net is here to catch you. You will be OK ». The boy didn't move. He just cried. Answering to his father he said: « But Daddy, I can not see anything. The only thing I see is smoke and it is very hot. I can not see you ». At this moment the father had the inspiration to tell his son: « It doesn't matter if you can't see me. The important thing is that I can see you... I can see you, my son. Jump my son... jump! ».

Listening to these words the boy lost his fear and jumped into the darkness. A few seconds later he was completely safe in the arms of his father who now cried of joy.

We all pass through some horrifying fires and violent storms in our lives. But on the other side of the storm we have a Father, a loving God, who tells us: «Jump! Do not be afraid, I am here to catch you. Jump my son... jump !»

2 - « PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE » IS A JUMP IN THE DARKNESS

After the terrible floods that destroyed part of Madeira Island in 2010 we got more in touch with the reality of the poverty that affects so many families. Some people live in poverty and some in misery. In the words of Pope Francis: « Misery is poverty without any hope ».

Because our main point of reference are not rules but the suffering of the people, without any plans and no budgets, we embarked on something that we had never done before. We started taking people who live and sleep in the streets and giving them a decent place to sleep and to live like human beings. When they look for a job, at least they can say that they have a mailing address. The majority of the money that supports this cause comes from the generosity of the tourists that attend the English Mass at Penha de França.

3 – MOYNIHAN'S FUNDRAISER DINNER

Sometimes we feel like the frightened boy. Sometimes the only thing we see is suffering people and an empty bank account. But then something happens where we listen to God saying: «Jump, my son, jump. That battle is not yours. That battle is mine. Jump». That's what I felt last September 16th at Moynihan's Restaurant. A Fundraiser dinner took place and it was a huge success. The restaurant took a small amount to help with the expenses and donated all the rest to the poor. *People Helping People* got the amount of 710,00 Euros. Amazing!

We want to thank all the people involved, especially Sinead and Tadhg Moynihan, Avril, Alan and Anne O'Brien, Dr. Vittorio Ventura, Manolo Borrero and the list would be longer if I had written their names. But there is no doubt that the employees who worked so hard to provide such a wonderful meal with so much extra work and extra kindness deserve a big applause and especially our prayers.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Fr. Bernardino and Fr. Vitor - at a Retreat in Terreiro da Luta

Source: Jornal da Madeira

(www.jornaldamadeira.com/2017/09/09/retiro-do-clero-dias-de-encontro-com-o-senhor-para-voltar-as-comunidades-mais-fortalecidos/)

During the week of September 4th – 8th, a retreat of the Clergy was held at the Santuário da Paz (Shrine of Peace) in Terreiro da Luta (located in the parish of Monte). Every year in September there is a retreat held there for priests in Madeira.

This year the retreat was led by Fr. Mário Sousa, a priest from the Algarve Diocese, and New Testament professor at the Superior Institute of Theology of Évora.

Ten priests from the Diocese of Funchal attended the 5-day retreat. Father Bernardino and Father Vítor, our dedicated priests here at Penha de França, were among those 10 priests attending the retreat.

The closing Mass for the retreat was presided over by the Vicar General, Canon José Fiel de Sousa, representing the Bishop of Funchal.

At the conclusion of the final lunch together, Fr. Mário (the priest who led this year's retreat) left a message for the Clergy: *"I want to thank you all for welcoming me and I ask the Lord to help us all to be worthy disciples; to nourish and strengthen us with His gifts so that we may be, within this group of disciples that we all are, pastors and fathers, so that others can also stand behind Him and make Him the only shepherd of their lives. Thank you for everything"* he concluded.

The final lunch together at the retreat



The closing Mass for the retreat, presided over by the Vicar-General



The 10 priests who participated in the Retreat at Terreiro da Luta, standing with the Vicar-General of the Diocese of Funchal, Canon José Fiel de Sousa and Fr. Mário Sousa from the Algarve.

Fr. Bernardino



Fr. Bernardino and Fr. Vítor

