

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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

People Helping People is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França 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).

>> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

EUROPE: Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.
Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

USA: Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 1-925-813-2888
Email: larryjanc@aol.com

>> BANK INFO:

ACCOUNT NAME: Associacao Gente Ajudando Gente/PHP

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



Every Sunday morning at the door of the Chapel there will be a **basket to collect food for the poor**. You are welcome to bring any little thing to help alleviate their suffering. (Rice, pasta, milk, canned tuna, biscuits etc.) Thank you to all who have donated so far! ☺



FRIDAY 01/11:
10h00 English
SATURDAY 02/11:
18h30 Portuguese
SUNDAY 03/11:
10h00 English
11h30 Portuguese

If you have
time to worry,
you have time
to pray.



**Tea and Coffee
After Mass!!
in the Social
Room across the
garden - please
join us!**



JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, number 189

27th October 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

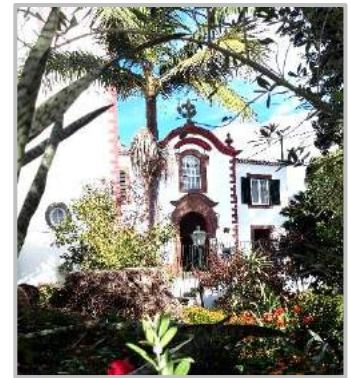
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

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

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/



THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This morning we are blessed to have Fr. Bernardino Andrade celebrating Mass here at the Chapel. Join us after Mass in the Social Hall across the garden for a cup of tea or coffee, and cake. The social hall has a map of the world where you can place a pin on your home town. You can also have a look through the books in our book cabinet in the social hall, or leave a message in our visitor's book. We'd love to know where you are visiting us from! ☺

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS (Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. www.bible-groups.info)
(*Sir/Eccle'us 35:12-14,16-19. Ps 33(34). 2 Tim 4:6-8,16-18. Lk 18:9-14*)

Sirach was a Jerusalem sage writing about 180 BC. His wise maxims are much used by the Church. God does not approve "the gifts of the godless, nor for their many sacrifices does he forgive their sins". God is just, "he hears the cry of the oppressed". God's justice will be seen, he will wreak "vengeance upon the proud". **The psalm** urges us to praise the Lord, especially for his rescue of us. We should therefore keep his commandments. Paul tells **Timothy** to expect a time to come "when people will not tolerate sound doctrine" "and will stop listening to the truth". In every age, Christians have experienced this happening. Paul is facing death alone. But God has not deserted him, enabling him to speak out at his trial, sending the gospel message to yet more Gentiles, even at this late hour. In **Luke's gospel**, Jesus continues his teachings on prayer. After last week's parable about the persistent widow comes this strong condemnation of insincere prayer. We should not imagine that the Pharisee was bad: he is a good man, conscientiously observing his religion. Yet Jesus says the tax collector went home justified "rather than" the Pharisee. Not "more than"! Why? Because the tax collector was humble enough to admit his need of God and of his mercy.

PSALM RESPONSE: This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

* These Scripture notes are sent to us every week by Chris Oliver from the UK. If you'd also like to have these included in your parish newsletter, you are welcome to ask your Priest to contact Chris at: chris@chris-oliver.net



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC - Larysa Makarova (from the Ukraine)
& Rui César Gomes (from Madeira Island)

Entry Hymn: "God forgave my sin in Jesus' name..." - n. 181

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

Communion Hymn: "Sweet heart of Jesus..." - n. 521

Thanksgiving: Instrumental

Final Hymn: "O the word of my Lord..." - n. 434

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*); Larysa (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (newsletter layout). **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. We can email this newsletter to you every week. If you would like to receive it by email every Sunday, just email the word "Newsletter" to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com, or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺



I COULDN'T FORGIVE MY SISTER

My sister Matilde left home when she was fourteen years old. We were eleven brothers and sisters, and with my father and mother we were a family of 13. Living poorly in a poor neighbourhood we didn't even know that we were poor. All the neighbours had the same life-style: no running water, no electricity, no streets. I consider my family a happy family. We had something that unfortunately

has now been lost: All the neighbours helped each other. If one had no salt or sugar or a tool to do a certain job, a child would be sent to the neighbour's house and would borrow what was necessary. Even a loaf of bread or a match, or a piece of live coal that was needed to start the necessary fire to cook.

I had two aunts working in the city, in a house of a rich family. They thought that taking my sister to the city to work with them would be helping the family. It would be one less mouth in the house to be fed. This was an event in her life that Matilde never understood. But we loved her so much and we felt as if she had been promoted to a better life. She was always very well-dressed; she would wear shoes every day, and she was very well fed. Besides this, she was extremely beautiful. It seems that Madeira Island is small, but my sister would visit us only once a year... for Christmas. When she visited us it was a celebration in the family. We loved her very much and she loved her family. **Matilde grew up and got married with a boy who lived even farther away from us.** After three girls were born, all her family emigrated to Brazil where she dedicated her life to her family and to the poor, where she performed «little miracles» working with the priests of her parish and deeply involved in a national program of the Brazilian Bishops to work with very destitute children. The first time I visited Brazil it was in 1983. Close to her house there was what they call «Favelas» or shanty towns. When I visited those shanty towns with my sister and the parish priests, I didn't see «poverty». I only saw «misery». Pope Francis calls «misery» «poverty without hope». That's what I saw. The last time that I visited Brazil, that «shanty town» had been transformed into a little town with beautiful little houses, with running water, with electricity, with a church and a school. Matilde had a Bible group that used to meet every Wednesday. It was from that Bible group that this movement was born, and one day I was so proud to see Matilde leading a group of women to the city hall with big posters where three things were written to present to the authorities: «WATER» - «ELECTRICITY» - «SAFETY WITHOUT VIOLENCE».



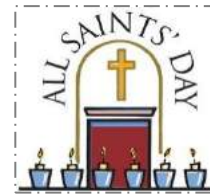
It was Easter Sunday. I had a fax machine and she already had a fax machine too. Matilde sent me a fax wishing me *Happy Easter* and asked me to «forgive» her. I sent her a message back thanking her for her Easter greetings but at the end I added: «**Matilde, I can love you, I can help you and support you but there is one thing that I cannot do. I cannot forgive you.**» Matilde got very confused with my fax, and started talking with her children «why can't your uncle forgive me? What did I do?». Finally she wrote back to me, sounding a little sad and asked me: «What did I do that you cannot forgive?» And my answer was: «*Matilde, if you want me to forgive you, you have to offend me first. And what happens is that you've never offended me.*» Forgiveness would be easier to understand if we realized that unless someone offends us, we cannot know what it is to forgive them. It doesn't make any sense when we say that «I cannot forgive him / her because he offended me». Love is for everyone. Forgiveness is only for those who offend us."



Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



ALL SAINTS DAY – Mass this Friday – 1st November at 10:00am



This coming Friday is All Saints Day. It is a Holy Day of obligation like on a Sunday, and is celebrated annually in the Catholic Church on the 1st of November.

We will be celebrating *All Saints Day* here at the Chapel with Mass in English at 10:00 AM – Friday morning. All are welcome!

BOOK SALE THIS MORNING – Get your copy of “Frozen Stiff”



This morning at the Chapel there will be a book sale straight after our regular 10am Sunday Mass in English. Mrs Jane Caldwell and her husband, Peter, have been regular visitors to our island for the past 16 or so years. **Mrs Caldwell, from England, is an author,** and after learning about the poverty on the island, decided to write a novel to help the “People Helping People” project which was started here at the Chapel (more info about this project on the last

page of the newsletter). The novel is called “Frozen Stiff” and is a **light-hearted, slightly romantic detective story; a typical holiday read.** It will be on sale today after Mass for 10 Euros; absolutely every cent will go directly to helping those in need through “People Helping People”.

Alternatively, it is also available as a Kindle e-book on Amazon.com for £3,50.

Happy Reading! 😊



LIGHT A CANDLE – For your loved ones

As no open flames are allowed in the Chapel, we have an electronic Candle machine up front where you can light a candle for your loved ones. The candle machine was bought last year, through generous donations made by several people from the English and Portuguese Mass communities here at the Chapel. 🕯️🙏

