

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! ☺



SATURDAY 09/11:
18h30 - Portuguese

SUNDAY 10/11:
10h00 - English
11h30 - Portuguese



This morning there is a book sale straight after this 10am Mass! Mrs Jane 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. The novel, called "Frozen Stiff" is a **light-hearted, slightly romantic detective story**, which is on sale today for 10 Euros. Absolutely every cent will go directly to helping those in need through "People Helping People". Last week, 8 books were sold which raised €80. Thank you very much!

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*); Cátia and Helena Marques (*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. ☺

JOYFUL GIFT

3rd of November 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

31st 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. We are blessed to have Father Bernardino Andrade celebrating Mass here at the Chapel. **The special intention of this morning's mass is for Maria Alzira Dias Sebastiao. May she rest in peace.**



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS (Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. www.bible-groups.info)
(*Wisdom 11:22-12:2. Ps 144(145). 2 Thess 1:11-2:2. Luke 19:1-10*)

The **Book of Wisdom** has been describing ways in which Wisdom guided the patriarchs and took special care of Israel during their Exodus wanderings in the desert. God's mercy extends to all creation, even men's sins. The logic is impeccable: "you love all that exists", "for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it." Offenders are encouraged to trust in God by gentle reminders of their sins. The psalm praises God's sovereign majesty and loving providence. For the next three weeks we have readings from Paul's second letter to the **Thessalonians**. After his opening greeting, Paul thanks God for the strength of the Thessalonians' faith, which he boasts about to other churches, and promises that those persecuting them will be punished. The Thessalonians are always in Paul's prayers, and should not be misled by false information about the second coming. Much has to happen before the end time. In the Gospel, **Luke** graphically describes the rich tax collector, Zacchaeus. Curious to see Jesus, Zacchaeus immediately follows Jesus and promises to give half his wealth to the poor. A contrast to the rich official who could not detach himself from his material possessions to follow Jesus. Though excluded from the Jewish community by his occupation, Zacchaeus receives salvation as a true son of Abraham.

** 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*

PSALM RESPONSE: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Voice / Organ – Fátima Cátia Marques.
Cello – Helena Paula Marques

Entry Hymn: "Father, we adore you" - n. 136
Penitential Act: "Lord, have mercy" - n. 659
Gospel Acclamation: "Aleluia"
Offertory Hymn: "Take our bread" - n. 528
Sanctus: "Holy" - n. 704
Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God" - n. 737
Communion Hymn: Portuguese Hymn
Thanksgiving: Instrumental
Final Hymn: "Let there be love" - n. 317





**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
- A revolution in the field of relationships.**

Michael Hartnack is a former senior police officer from the North East of England. He served as a Chief Superintendent in Northumbria and Cleveland Police Forces. When he retired in 2013 he took up a leading role with the Ministry of Justice in London, working with victims and offenders in a pioneering project known as Restorative Justice.

In England and Wales, the Victims Code provides an entitlement for all victims to access Restorative Justice. So now Michael works for the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner providing a Restorative Justice service to victims of crime and also works closely with offenders in prisons. Today he talks to us about his work in the context of Zacchaeus and this week's gospel reading.

'For the son of man has come to seek out and save what was lost.' Luke Ch. 19

This week's gospel provides a good opportunity to bring the teachings of Jesus regarding reconciliation and perhaps, even forgiveness, into a modern day context – a context as ancient perhaps as civilisation itself, but in the modern world, referred to as **Restorative Justice (RJ)**. Zacchaeus provides us with a fine example of the potential for Restorative Justice, let me explain: Zacchaeus sought the forgiveness of Jesus for the wrongs he had caused to others as chief tax collector and offered to repay those he had wronged. How did he intend to repay those victims?

"If I have cheated anybody I will pay them back four times the amount."

Criminal Justice systems the world over, seek to compensate victims by putting them back into the position they would have been in had the wrong not been committed, but Zacchaeus offered to pay far more. In Restorative Justice terms however, this wouldn't be an entirely appropriate offer.

Only a face-to-face meeting, communicating with one's victim, explaining the reasons why the offender behaved as he or she did and apologising with sincerity to his or her victim, is the true way in which to put things right and far more challenging than merely paying a monetary sum by way of compensation. Essentially, Zacchaeus, didn't offer to provide an explanation to his victims. I wonder what his response might have been had one or more of his victims, sought the opportunity for a restorative discussion with him? For the vast majority of crimes, a civilised society must have the capacity to reintegrate its wrongdoers back into society, otherwise, like Zacchaeus, such people would always be on the periphery of society, never accepted, never given the opportunity to make a contribution.

This is not necessarily about forgiveness, it is more about repairing properly the harm that has been caused - repairing and rebuilding relationships, sometimes with individuals, often with groups of people or communities. It's called **Restorative Justice**.

Criminal Justice systems tend to focus on the offender, the harm he or she has caused, the sentence they will receive. Rarely do modern jurisdictions focus on the needs of the victim. Restorative Justice enables offenders to make amends to victims for the harm they have caused, by entering into dialogue with their victim, should the victim wish to participate. RJ empowers victims and reduces the risk of reoffending. Victim satisfaction rates for those participating in RJ are extremely high compared to victim satisfaction rates of the criminal justice system, which are very low indeed. Independent research into RJ has shown that for every £1 spent on RJ, £9 will be saved on other public services including the Health Service and wider criminal justice system. Quote from a victim of hate crime: **"While hatred and a desire for vengeance might be understandable, these are negative, destructive emotions, they perpetuate the cycle of division and intolerance. My motive is love, not hate."** Quote from an offender following his RJ experience: **"I'm slowly becoming the person I should have been a long time ago."**

One wonders, as we ponder on today's gospel, if Zacchaeus, as well as repenting to Jesus, was given the opportunity to meet with his victims,

explain his behaviour, and show remorse for his actions to the victims themselves, could truly have changed attitudes, actions and lives for the better.



~ Michael Hartnack

A LOVING TRIBUTE – The life of Maria Alzira Dias Sebastião

I was asked to say Mass for a lady who passed away on the 26th of September. This morning's Mass intention is for her. I would like to share with you the letter I received from her daughter, as it says a lot about the life of so many emigrants who left the island and went through so many dramas in search of a better life...

Love and Peace, *Fr. Bernardino Andrade*

Dear Father Bernardino

As discussed at Mass yesterday, I am sending you a photograph of my mother for the newsletter. I would also like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about my mother's life.

Maria Alzira Dias Sebastiao was born on December 25, 1932 in Ponta do Pargo, Madeira, to Julia and Francisco Dias.

When she turned two, her father left for South Africa in search of a better life for his family. In 1944, during the Second World War, Alzira was 11 years-old when she and her mother Julia boarded a ship to join him. The ship was a half cargo, half passenger vessel. At night the lights had to be turned off as there were enemy submarines around.

Her father Francisco went on to donate the ground on which the Catholic Church in Malelane, South Africa, is built and the house that the priests reside in. The family became entrenched in building the catholic faith and the community of Malelane. Francisco never forgot the island on which he was born and donated the church bell to the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Boa Morte in Cabo, Ponta do Pargo, Madeira.

Her mother Julia gave birth to twins, Celeste and Francisco, better known as Frank. Alzira became like a second mother to the twins. When she turned 18, she caught the eye and heart of Manuel Gomes Sebastião and they married and had 4 children, the youngest Mary, sadly died soon after birth. When her father died in a tragic accident. Alzira was there to comfort her mother and her siblings.

For many years the family built a home and a life on a farm outside Malelane. Alzira was always kind and welcoming to anyone that came to their house, including many refugees from Mozambique after the military coup that took place in Portugal on April 25, 1974 and which plunged Mozambique into civil war for decades. She dedicated much of her time to helping those in need and lived by the teachings of the word of God in her daily life.

Manuel and Alzira retired and moved back to Madeira in 1993 but were dealt a devastating blow when their daughter Rosemarie was diagnosed with cancer. Alzira and Manuel flew back to South Africa to be with Rosemarie and although Alzira had already 2 suffered strokes, she persevered and nursed her daughter until the end. Alzira struggled with the loss of yet another child but her faith in God and her love for her family kept her going.

She later had to endure losing her brother Frank and then her dear husband Manuel. After all this, she was confined to bed due to her poor health. Despite her failing health, she remained the anchor of her family. Alzira leaves a legacy through her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be remembered for her deep love and faith in God and her tremendous kindness and capacity for forgiveness.

Father Bernardino, thank you for visiting my mother, she was so happy.

*With much gratitude,
Philomena*



The Catholic Church in Malelane, South Africa



The Chapel of *Nossa Senhora da Boa Morte*, in Cabo, Ponta do Pargo, Madeira.



Maria Alzira Dias Sebastiao.
25/12/1932 – 26/09/2019