

## 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:

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### >> 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

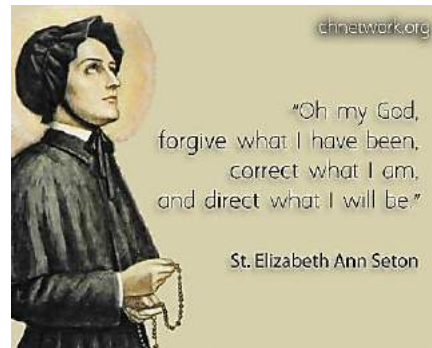


Every Sunday morning at the door of the Chapel there will be a **basket to collect food for the poor**. You are welcome to bring any little thing to help alleviate their suffering. (Rice, pasta, milk, canned tuna, biscuits etc.) Thank you to all who have donated! ☺



### Tea and Coffee After Mass

Please join us in  
the Social Hall  
across the garden  
for a cup of coffee  
and a chat.



**23/02/2020**

**10h00** Mass in English

**11h30** Mass in Portuguese

**01/03/2020**

**10h00** Mass in English

**11h30** Mass in Portuguese

**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, Rui, Cátia and Helena (*Hymns*); Tracy (newsletter layout & stories of interest). **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](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com), or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org) which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺

## JOYFUL GIFT

**23rd February 2020 – 10h00 Sunday Mass**

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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/)



### **CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:**

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This 10am Mass is the only Catholic Mass which is celebrated entirely in English on the whole island of Madeira. **We are blessed to have Fr. Bernardino Andrade celebrating mass here every Sunday!**

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS** (Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info))  
(*Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48*)

**Leviticus**, meaning "he called", is about holiness, the utter separateness of God. We are each called to become whole, like a jigsaw with all the parts fitting together perfectly. Hence "You shall be holy, because I, the Lord, am holy". The book expands the basic commandments, insisting on concern for our neighbour, the sacredness of sex, the marriage laws, and forbidding aberrant sexual behaviour. Thus the Israelites are to keep themselves in a state of wholeness, as a sign of their intimate union with the Holy Lord. **The psalm** is a hymn of grateful praise to God, whose mercy is great because he knows man's frailty. Paul is critical of the **Corinthians**, telling them they were not mature enough to be given the solid food of spiritual instruction, because they were still jealously quarrelling among themselves about who to follow. They must follow only Christ, obeying God's rules, even though this will be seen as foolishness by the wisdom of this world. In **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus continues drawing out the meaning of the Commandments in the sermon on the mount. Last week the shorter form omitted the difficult teachings forbidding divorce and calling our brother a fool. Today we are urged to love our enemies. Always Jesus pushes us further, urging us towards perfection, in union with our heavenly Father.

### **PSALM RESPONSE:** The Lord is compassion and love!

\* 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, or sent to you, please contact Chris at: [chris@chris-oliver.net](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)

### **HYMN NUMBERS:**

Larysa (on the keyboard & violin)  
and Rui César Gomes (on the accordion)



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "... When I in awesome wonder" – No. 419
- [2] **Offertory:** "Let us break bread together" – No. 318
- [3] **Communion:** "Lay your hands gently upon us" – No. 307
- [4] **Thanksgiving:** "Rivers of Babylon" (see song words on pg.3)
- [5] **Final Hymn:**

"Lord, the light of your love is shining" – No. 344



«DON'T GIVE BLANKETS TO THE HOMELESS»

It was Sunday evening on one of February's cold nights. At the request of a colleague I had finished my 8:00 PM Mass, in Portuguese, in one of the chapels of Funchal. After Mass all had been invited to move to the social room where coffee, tea and cake were served. A small group decided to comment on my homily. In general, my homilies, even if based on the readings of the Word of

God, are not always about popular and attractive subjects. My «lighthouse» for my homilies are, most of the time, related with what I consider the Mission Statement of Jesus that is «The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor... to set free the oppressed...» (Lk 4: 18-19).

This isn't always attractive. There is a «pious» lady who has the keys of one church where I, very often, say Mass who, when in my homily, I talk about the poor, she stands up and leaves the church. Then as a «good Catholic», when I end my homily, she returns to the pews.

At a certain point of the conversation about my homily, I heard a lady saying: «Never give blankets to the homeless. Because if you give them blankets they get used to that and then they don't want to leave the streets. To be homeless is their choice». I was speechless. I almost cried.



This conversation was done among a group of Christians who had just attended Mass, had heard the readings of the Word and had received Holy Communion, the Bread of Life. It was in this moment that I remembered the words of Louis Evely in his book: «That Man is You», which says that: «The most difficult people to convert in the world are Christians to Christ».

In the first reading of that particular Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> on the Ordinary Time, Cycle A) the Prophet Isaiah (Is. 58:7-10) says: «Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over... Cry and the Lord will answer...».

I wanted to travel all over the world and tell people that no human being «chooses» the indignity of being homeless.

A Mass that ends with statements like that, I see it more like a religious entertainment than as a spiritual and Christian experience.

Please give blankets and food to the homeless. No one chooses the indignity of being homeless.

Love & Peace,  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



This morning, for the Thanksgiving Hymn, Larysa and Rui will be playing the song "Rivers of Babylon". This song is related with Psalm 137, which expresses the yearning of the Jewish people during their Babylonian exile. Below are the words to the song for you to join in and sing along!

By the rivers of Babylon,  
There we sat down,  
Yeah\_\_ we wept,  
when we remember`d Zion.

But the wicked carried us away captivity  
Require from us a song,  
How can we sing  
the Lord's own song in a strange land?

By the rivers of Babylon,  
There we sat down,  
Yeah\_\_ we wept,  
when we remember`d Zion.



THE CARNIVAL SEASON – A Madeiran Tradition before Lent

In Madeira, we are in the middle of the Carnival season right now, which is celebrated just before the beginning of Lent. There has been a constant festive atmosphere on the island, with cheerfulness prevailing in the streets.

Some traditional gastronomic delicacies which are meant to be eaten on Shrove Tuesday are "Sonhos" (a fried dough, literally translated as "dreams" because they are fluffy and are eaten with black sugar-cane honey) and "Malassadas" (literally translated as "under-cooked") are egg-sized balls of yeast dough that are more compact and are also deep-fried in oil and coated with granulated sugar.

The main attraction of the Carnival season on the island is last night's colourful and vibrant Carnival Float Parade which took place in the centre of Funchal, with participants dressed in eye-catching costumes.

On Shrove Tuesday, 25th of February, at 16h00, there will be another parade, this time a Slapstick Parade (known locally as "O Cortejo Trapalhão"). The parade is open to all, both locals and foreign citizens, either independently or as a group. Many participant's creativity knows no boundaries and spans from social and political satire, to traditional themes, or simple character disguise.



"Sonhos" with honey



"Malassadas" with sugar