

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



*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).

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

### >> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

**EUROPE:** Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

**USA:** Larry and Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 707-333-5501

Email: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

### >> 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.



### >> PAYPAL:

genteajudandogente2016@gmail.com

### >> DONATIONS FROM THE USA:

**Instructions for sending funds to People Helping People in Madeira, Portugal, from USA:**

**Write a check made out to:** Fr Bernardino Andrade PHP in the bottom of the check in Memo area add: **PHP**

#### Mail the check to:

Mr. L.A. Contreras  
60 Meeks Lane  
Oakley, Ca 94561



The funds will then be transferred to the People Helping People account in Madeira, at no cost.

Any questions or concerns please contact Larry Contreras at 707-333-5501 or email him at: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net

### >> 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: sineadmoynihnan7@icloud.com

When sending any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) with the date, amount, and name on the transfer so that Fr. Bernardino is able to confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received. Thank you.

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

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15th of November 2020

33<sup>rd</sup> 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..](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

**E-mail:** [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

### CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

**Good morning.** This Sunday is the IV WORLD DAY OF THE POOR established by Pope Francis. He sent a message to the world with the title "Extend your hand to the poor" Sir. 7, 32. Inside today's newsletter you can read a short excerpt from it.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Prov. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps. 127(128):1-5 r.1; 1 Thess 5:1-6; Matt 25:14-30*

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver.)

**The Book of Proverbs** united ancient values and ideals with Israel's understanding of God. Written at the time of the exile, about 500 BC, it was intended for serious study in the effort to gain wisdom. Today's reading is more than a song praising both the housekeeping and commercial activities of a good wife - it is Wisdom in action. And it recognises that a wife should share in the benefits of her work. And the **Psalms** celebrates the blessings of family life, wishing such a family prosperity and long life. The reading from **Paul's letter to the Thessalonians** continues from last week's reading, reminding his hearers that the "Day of the Lord" will come when we least expect it. So we should learn wisdom and live every day in justice and integrity, as if it will be our last. **Matthew's** parable of the talents, like the gospel last week, also urges us to live wisely and justly while waiting for the day of judgement, which will certainly come. But we must do more than just use the resources we have been given for God's purposes: just as it needs effort to learn wisdom, so we must work at developing our faith, otherwise we may lose it.

### PSALM RESPONSE: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

\* 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) [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

**Keyboard:** *Larysa Makarova.*

**Voice:** *Josefina Farinha, Sharon Brearley*

**Entry** - "O the word of my Lord..." - n.434

**Penitential** - "Lord, have mercy" - n. 663

**Offertory** - "All I own and all I do I give to you..." - n. 141

**Sanctus** - "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." - n. 704

**Peace** - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495

**Agnus Dei** - "Lamb of God" - n. 737

**Communion** - "Sweet heart of Jesus, we implore..." - n.521

**Final** - "I'll sing a hymn to Mary..." - n. 255





**HOW OLD IS A NINE-YEARS-OLD GIRL?**

A few days ago I was having a cup of coffee in a coffee shop in Funchal. I had the need to consult my telephone and I found a dramatic email from Laura Rute (her real name). In her email I found the picture of her daughter Luana. I interrupted the work of the owner of the restaurant, who is my friend, and asked him: «Carlos, try to estimate how old this little girl is». The answer was fast:

«two years old». He was shocked when I told him: «This is Luana, and she is a nine-year-old girl».



9 year-old Luana (in the dark pink top) with her 18-month-old sister

**EMAIL FROM LAURA RUTE**

Today is the «World Day of the Poor». The theme is «STRETCH FORTH YOUR HAND TO THE POOR». Our Association «People Helping People» has received so much help from the English speaking community, that it is becoming embarrassing to mention «special appeals» any more. The English Mass, being said every Sunday at Penha de França, has been from the beginning, the regular source of income to the poor in Madeira. The group of poor families helped by our Association has always been struggling but was able to survive with a regular collection done at the end of the English Mass and also some generous donations. What was happening was that sometimes we had four, five and even six Cruise Ships anchored at the Port of Funchal. Many English speaking tourists attended the English Mass every Sunday and were very happy to contribute with their financial support to the poorest of the poor in Madeira. After the disaster of the pandemic, the Port of Funchal closed its doors to cruise ships and I confess that it is depressing to see our Port completely empty of boats. This terrible «storm» is affecting the economy all over the world but the poor are the most affected people. I always remember what I read in the beginning of the pandemic: «This corona virus is going to be a genocide among the poor».

Laura Rute sent me an email crying for help. Actually, she was born in Madeira Island but now she is living in Lisbon with her family made of a wonderful husband from Romania and her three precious children; Luana being the most special.

Luana has many disabilities. In spite of her age she is only 84 cms tall. According to Laura Rute, Luana was born with lots of problems and has been through five surgeries. She doesn't walk or talk or cry. She eats directly to her stomach through her belly button. Luana has an 18 month-old sister and a seven-year-old brother.

**This morning, November 13, very early in the morning, I received an SMS from Laura Rute.** She can't work because she has to take care of Luana. No institution would take care of this special girl. This is Laura's SMS that I received this morning.

«Good morning, Father Bernardino. Yesterday was a day full of bad news. Our situation is getting worse and worse. My husband lost his job because there is not enough work for all the employees. My neighbour was tested positive with Covid 19 and my son has been playing with him a day before yesterday. I am very worried. I have the house rent to pay, I have no food for my family, I already got two letters to pay the electricity. I am getting desperate and I don't know what to do. I don't see the light at the end of the tunnel. Please Father, help us. I don't know how we are going to survive». After going through this drama and since we have no money to help her, I asked Laura Rute if it was OK to put her name in our Newsletter just in case somebody would like to get in touch directly with her and help her, since she is fluent in English.



Luana's brother and sister



Luana

Of course she said yes and in this moment when we have so many families also desperately in need that's what I am going to do, just in case someone would like to get directly in touch with her. Our Association People Helping People has received some generous donations from our «Friends and Feet Washers» and we feel deeply grateful, but the needs are getting bigger and bigger.

Here are Laura's contact details:

Laura Rute Afonso,

**Mobile number:** 00351-924263005

**Email:** laura-afonso21@hotmail.com

**Bank:** Banco Millenium BCP,

**NIB** 0033.0000.45395515777.05 / **IBAN** PT50.0033.0000.45395515777.05

Love and Peace,  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

**THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD....**



**FOURTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR – Pope Francis' message**

**Today is the IV WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, established by Pope Francis.** Here are some excerpts from his message to the world, entitled "Extend your hand to the poor":

«The ability to stretch forth our hand shows that we possess an innate capacity to act in ways that give meaning to life. How many outstretched hands do we see every day! ....A hand held out is a sign; a sign that immediately speaks of closeness, solidarity and love. **In these months, when the whole world was prey to a virus that brought pain and death, despair and bewilderment, how many outstretched hands have we seen!** The outstretched hands of physicians who cared about each patient and tried to find the right cure. **The outstretched hands** of nurses who worked overtime, for hours on end, to look after the sick. **The outstretched hands** of administrators who procured the means to save as many lives as possible. **The outstretched hands** of pharmacists who at personal risk responded to people's pressing needs. **The outstretched hands** of priests whose hearts broke as they offered a blessing. **The outstretched hands** of volunteers who helped people living on the streets and those with a home yet nothing to eat. **The outstretched hands** of men and women who worked to provide essential services and security.» ... «This pandemic arrived suddenly and caught us unprepared, sparking a powerful sense of bewilderment and helplessness. Yet hands never stopped reaching out to the poor. This has made us all the more aware of the presence of the poor in our midst and their need for help.» ...

**Pope Francis' full message can be read on this link below (the Vatican's website):**

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200613\\_messaggio-iv-giornatamondiale-poveri-2020.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco_20200613_messaggio-iv-giornatamondiale-poveri-2020.html)