

## 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: sineadmoynihian7@icloud.com

Food items are also appreciated and can be left in the basket at the Chapel door on Sunday mornings. When sending any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) with the date, 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)  
or requested from: [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

## JOYFUL GIFT

24th of October 2021

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,  
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>  
[www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..)  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
[penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

### CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. We are blessed to have Fr. Bernardino presiding our Sunday Mass in English every week.

#### A little bit of history about our Chapel:

The Chapel, founded almost 400 years ago by Antonio Dantas, was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal in 1622. The Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. In 1721 the chapel was restored and enlarged. When the Diocese of Funchal took possession of the chapel it was used as the Bishop's Summer Residence for many years. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they founded the Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. In 2015 the Franciscans moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos, and the Chapel reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal. A few years ago, the nave roof of the Chapel was repaired and the ceiling restored through the generosity of the late Sir Ronald McIntosh as well as other frequent visitors to our English Mass.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Psalm 125(126); Hebrews 5: 1-6; Mark 10: 46-52*)

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

**Jeremiah** has promised that Israel will return from their exile in Babylon. This new exodus will be on a smooth path with ample water, not like the first wanderings in the desert. God has redeemed his people, and will make a new unbreakable covenant with Israel, writing his law on people's hearts, instead of on breakable stone. Jesus made this new covenant at the Last Supper.

**The Psalm** exults in the imagined joy of this restoration, so intense as to seem like dream. The extended extract from **Hebrews** read over the last 2 weeks, concludes by showing how Christ's humanity enables him to understand our weaknesses. As the high priest forever, appointed by God at his baptism, Christ is therefore supremely fitted to mediate between us and God. But Hebrews goes on to say that Christ had to learn the depths of the human condition through his suffering. Today we hear the last of Jesus' teachings during his journey up to Jerusalem. Though blind, Bartimeus calls Jesus "Son of David". He can see who Jesus is more clearly than the disciples following Jesus. He then calls Jesus "Master", the only person in the first three gospels to do so before the resurrection. Able to see, Bartimeus now follows as a disciple.

### PSALM RESPONSE: What Marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

\* The Scripture notes are sent to us every week by **Chris Oliver from the UK**. If you'd also like to have these sent to you by email or included in your parish newsletter, please contact Chris at: [chris@chris-oliver.net](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)

Welcome

Vol. 3, number 282



(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



LOVE IS BLIND!... OR IS IT?

He lives in Madeira Island. His life was being destroyed daily by the use and traffic of drugs. His family, especially his mother, lived in a permanent nightmare. She tried everything to make that «adorable son» to be clean and recover from, what she described, as a daily tragedy. She begged, she cried, she tried to negotiate, she even tried to bribe him, but nothing worked. Besides, being a drug dealer, she knew that sooner or later her «adorable son» was going to end up in a court room and finally in jail. And then, maybe after years of confinement, after getting out of prison she knew that what always happens to ex-prisoners was going to happen to him. After leaving prison, they find all the doors closed... except one. The only door that ex-prisoners find open for them is the door of the prison. All these scenes were passing through her mind and piercing her heart like a horror movie.



Finally, one day she made a «crazy» decision. It was one of those decisions that only lovers can make. It reminded me of a statement from a priest who gave us a priest's retreat many years ago in California. I am afraid I forgot almost everything of what he said but I never forgot one of his statements: «**Lovers always look insane for the non-lovers**». This mother's decision really looked insane. One day she approached her son and said: «My son, you know how much I love you. Maybe I have been selfish insisting with you to change. I want to tell you that my love for you has no conditions. Yes. I want to tell you that you don't have to stop taking drugs. You don't have to stop distributing drugs. My love is unconditional. You don't have to change. I have made a decision. From now on I will be with you wherever you are and help you to distribute drugs. Just tell me where and when. But I also know that the world of drugs is a very dangerous world. If they kill you, I want to die with you. If you are arrested and go to jail, I want to go to prison with you. Even if I have to be in a different jail, I want you to know that I am close to you, eating the same food, and sleeping in the same kind of bed, suffering the same kind of insults and abuses, and wearing the same kind and colour of uniform. No, my son... you don't have to change. I love you the way you are. You don't have to change».

Her son was horrified. His mother looked calm; she was sure that she had made the right decision. She was beautiful and always had a beautiful smile. That's the way their conversation ended, but she was not able to stop two stubborn tears running down her face.



Before they went to bed she approached him and asked: «When do you want to start? Where do you have that material? Where to go? How to do it? Always remember that God loves you and so do I with an unconditional love». The following day, very early in the morning, he gave his mother a bag, gave her some instructions, and told her where to go and to whom she was supposed to deliver that illegal and dangerous material. And she did. But it didn't take too long for him to run to his mother, hug her, ask her forgiveness and promise to start a new life. And he did.

**Is love blind? I don't think so. Hatred is blind. What blinds us is not love. What blinds us are our grudges, our indifferences, our hatred, our jealousy, our judgments, our gossip and so on.** On the contrary, Love opens our eyes and makes us see beauty, hope and many wonderful things in people that can only be seen by lovers. Can be seen by God only.

Today's Gospel (30<sup>th</sup> Sunday-B) talks about a blind man who asked Jesus for a miracle. «Lord make me see again». In this world of pessimism and darkness I will add to my daily prayer: «Lord make me see again». And I am sure that in that person who is called a criminal, a poor or a homeless man, Jesus is going to help me to see a saint. I am sure I will start seeing Jesus Himself even in the lowest drug addict because I will start believing that love makes me see with the eyes of God.



TODAY'S MASS READERS:

Welcome: Lurdes  
1st Reading: Tony  
2nd Reading: Jane C  
Bidding Prayers: Debbie



If any visitor/ tourist/ holiday maker would like to read, please contact Thelma on WhatsApp: 965074322, or email: eim3397@gmail.com

MASS AT "CANTINHO DO BOM PASTOR" – October 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:30pm



All are welcome.

Next Sunday there will be a traditional Mass at *Cantinho do Bom Pastor* (Little Corner of the Good Shepherd), in a place called Bica da Cana. This special place is about a 45-minute drive from Funchal. The mass will be at 2:30 PM. Fr. Bernardino

BOOK SALE LAST WEEK SUNDAY - A success!



Jane Caldwell, who is an author living in England, visits our Chapel with her husband, Peter, every year. Last Sunday she brought along some copies of her latest book to sell after Mass, and donated all the proceeds of the sale (€132,00) towards the poor. There are not many books left over, so if you'd like to get a copy for yourself, Jane will be up at Moynihans Irish Pub after Mass. Go get yourself a signed copy! 😊



CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE – Thank you

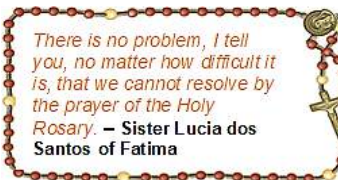


Thank you to everyone who has donated toiletry items towards our Christmas Hamper Drive!

🙏 These are the items that have been received so far. We still have two more weeks in October, so if you haven't donated and would like to make someone's Christmas a little brighter, you are still in time.

Toiletry items can be left in the basket at the entrance to the Chapel every Sunday morning. They will be used to make up hampers for the less fortunate.

DID YOU KNOW? - The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary



October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary, and also holds the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. October is also the anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto (which Pope Pius V credited the victory of the battle, to the praying of the Rosary).