

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 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 or requested from: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

JOYFUL GIFT

5th of December 2021

Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

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..
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent. This English Mass is a tradition that dates back to 1966, when Fr Rafael Andrade, having just returned from his first visit to England, complied with the Bishop's request to start an English celebration. Father Rafael presided over this mass for over 30 years, when he had to stop in 1999 due to overlapping duties. For eight years there was no Catholic mass in English in Madeira, until it began again on the first Sunday of Lent in 2007. Father Bernardino Andrade is now our appointed Sunday priest. He was born and brought up in Madeira but has worked as a Priest in both Moçambique and, for many years, in California.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Baruch 5: 1-9; Ps 125(126); Phil 1: 3-6. 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6*)

www.bible-groups.info

The Book of **Baruch**, was probably written during the second century BC and attributed to Jeremiah's secretary. It deals with problems of Jews permanently exiled in the diaspora. Today's reading offers consolation for refugees, seeing hope for Jerusalem as the mother of all exiles. Realistically it insists that we must come to terms with life where we are. In all ages, families living in exile must find salvation from the living word of God. **The Psalm** is usually seen as Israel's rejoicing after their return from exile. But it may be more consistently read as an intense visualisation of the future restoration of Israel by the Lord. Paul wrote the Letter to the **Philippians** from prison between 55 and 63 AD, addressing it to the "saints, bishops and ministers" of the community. He prays lovingly that their love and knowledge of Christ may increase, so that they dare to proclaim the gospel fearlessly. For these 3 weeks of Advent we hear from **Luke's gospel** about preparations for the coming Messiah. Today John the Baptist is positioned in history, proclaiming a baptism of repentance and, like Baruch, quoting from Isaiah. Just as with Elizabeth's greeting on the last Sunday of Advent, Luke firmly links the coming birth to the Old Testament, which it fulfills.

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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah..." - n. 302
Offertory - "Take our bread, we ask you..." - n. 528
Communion - "We come to share our story..." - n. 607
Final - "Come, Lord Jesus, come..." - n. 104



(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Until I became an adult I never knew what a birthday party was. My neighbours and my friends at school didn't know either. That's the reason why we never realized that we were poor. We were «normal».

But when I became an adult and I started being invited to birthday parties and also celebrating my own birthdays... even if it was only to share with my friends a simple but delicious «pannetone» cake, like what happened last Sunday, I started loving and enjoying birthdays.



It was November 29, 2017. I was visiting California. It was my 80th Birthday.

My friend Dave found out that it was my birthday and decided to organize a very very special birthday party. It was without any doubt the most moving and beautiful birthday of my life. I still feel tears in my eyes when I think about that party.

It was already night. A very cold and dark night in the suburbs of San Francisco, not far away from my former Parish. Dave took me to a fast-food Mexican restaurant and told me to order as many bags of «tacos» as I wanted. I did it. Then he paid for them and took me to the margins of the Delta River where we could find a «colony» of homeless people.... men and women who were still scattered around.



Then, no tables, no silverware. Just a fresh bag of food for each one of them. Not one of them seemed to have eaten recently. They looked really hungry. Then Dave told them the reason why we were there. He told them that I was a priest and that I was celebrating my birthday and that we had decided to invite them to be my special guests.

This was one of the highest moments of the party. They started singing the classic «Happy Birthday». Among them there was a beautiful black woman in her twenties or thirties who sang the same hymn but with a harmony as I had never heard before. The voice was so beautiful and she was so sure of what she was doing that I wouldn't be surprised if someone told me that she was an actress or a professional singer on the stages of San Francisco or New York. Then we left. But I was sad and thinking «what a waste». Then I thought that all of them, for sure, had their own talents. But all of their talents were wasted... maybe because nobody loved them enough to offer them a little bag of «tacos» and lots of love to take them from the margins of the Delta River and find professionals to give them a hand, and let them believe in themselves and their talents.

On that dark and cold night at the margins of the Delta River I decided to ask my Bishop to allow me to say a weekly Sunday Mass under the slogan «Come as you are». «If you haven't taken a shower for one year, please come. If you are wearing clothes that have not been washed for months, please come. If you spent the night selling your body to survive, please come. You don't have to change. God loves you the way you are». Of course, I would invite them to be the organizers, the readers, the players and the singers and do all the necessary ministries to celebrate a Mass.

I really did it.... I asked my former Bishop to give me that permission. I never got an answer.

But I will insist. And I know that the loving choir of Penha de França will help them to start, and for that first Mass Manny will be very happy to bake one of those cakes that only Manny knows how bake.

Some small steps are being taken. **Last Sunday our brother, Nuno, received a special blessing** and a birthday gift on his birthday from our community. He was very happy and we were very happy. Just love them and do whatever you want. «Lovers always look insane for the non-lovers». This is when we discover that the Messiah is coming.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

05/12/2021

It is not uncommon for some generous people to ask us what kind of gifts are more appropriate to buy for the poor? We very kindly try to answer almost the same way: «We don't know. The poor are the only ones who know. We should ask them».

Long time ago, the members of People Helping People identified the 10 basic needs of the poor.

In a random order, they are: House rent, Medication, Food, Bus fares, Doctor's consultations, Water, Electricity, Gas, Telephone, Miscellaneous. This applies for every season of the year.

If the poor need one of these things and we choose other things because they are cute and «more appropriate» for Christmas, there is no doubt that it pleases more the donor than the poor.



PHP DONATIONS UPDATE - SEPTEMBER

Anthony S.... Anthony John D.... Christine S.... Chrissie & Tom M....
Graham & Ann B..... John & Marie W... Jose Henriques M.A....
Manuel Adolfo B.M... Ron & Julie G.... Nick L.... Sheila C....
Thelma V. Walter Gerhard B...

- OCTOBER

Anthony S.... Anthony John D.... Graham B.... John & Marie W... Jose Henriques M.A....
Manuel Adolfo B.M... Patrick L.... Robert F.... Sharon B.... Sheila C.... Stefanie L....
Walter Gerhard B...

Thank you for your generosity. Your names are placed on the Altar every Sunday morning during Mass. May God continue to bless you all !

LITURGICAL COLORS

GREEN	GOLD OR WHITE	RED	PURPLE	PINK
IS USED FOR...	IS USED FOR...	IS USED FOR...	IS USED FOR...	IS USED FOR...
Ordinary time	Feasts of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and non-martyred saints	Pentecost, Feasts of the Apostles and martyrs	Advent and Lent. It is also used in the masses of deceased.	Third Sunday of Advent and Fourth Sunday of Laetare
SYMBOLIZES	SYMBOLIZES	SYMBOLIZES	SYMBOLIZES	SYMBOLIZES
Hope	glory, innocence, purity of the soul	The fire of charity and the blood of Christ	Humility and penance	Joy and love

TODAY'S MASS READERS:

Welcome: Margarita
1st Reading: Freddie
2nd Reading: Thelma
Bidding Prayers: Debbie

Next Sunday:
Welcome: Jason
1st Reading: Skip
2nd Reading: Jane
Bidding Prayers: Thelma

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

