

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

JOYFUL GIFT

13th of February 2022

6th 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/>
www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

Welcome

Vol. 3, number 298



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH IN MADEIRA

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Father Bernardino Andrade is our appointed Sunday priest. This morning we are singing 2 hymns for Our Lady, to commemorate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, which takes place every year on the 11th of February.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Jer 17: 5-8; Psalm 1:1-4,6; 1 Cor 15:12,16-20; Luke 6: 17,20-26*)



Jeremiah lived through a stormy period about 600 BC, before and during the exile. He suffered much through sieges and imprisonments, his life and death showing many similarities with Jesus. The despair he felt at the sins of his people against God's covenant may have led him to doubt. But doubt can lead to re-examination of beliefs: Jeremiah never lost hope that God is merciful, and his new covenant would save his people. We may wrestle with sin engraved on the heart, treasures will be taken away, but we must trust in the Lord to lead us through our troubles. Paul had reminded the **Corinthians** of the centrality of the resurrection to our faith. Now he explains: without Christ's resurrection from the dead, there is no resurrection of the body for us. Therefore no bodily life after our death – this life is all we have. He compares the resurrection of the dead to sowing a seed: the body which dies "is not the body which is to be", which will be energised by the Spirit. "What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable". In **Luke's gospel**, Jesus had chosen the twelve from his disciples, clearly indicating to Jews his new approach. Jesus proclaims God's justice is coming. Good news for those treated unfairly, not good for those behaving unjustly.

PSALM RESPONSE: Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

www.bible-groups.info

* 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 - "hail queen of heaven..." - n. 204

Alleluia - 679

Offertory - "take our bread..." - n. 528

Amen - n. 726

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

Communion - "love is his word..." - n.353

Thanksgiving - silence for reflection

Final - "immaculate mary..." - n. 256





OFFERING FORGIVENESS... RECEIVING HEALING

It was the biggest tragedy in my family.

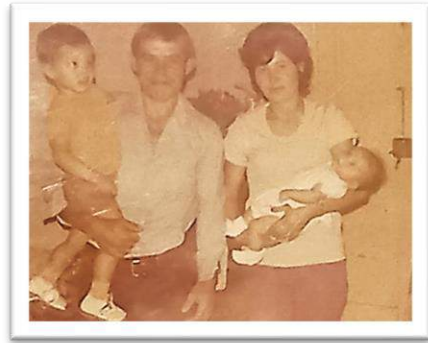
I was in California when a family member called me and gave me the tragic news. «Antônio was killed last night in a car accident». He was crossing a street and was run over by a car. It was about midnight. He was fifty-four years old with three children: Roberto, Rui and Nelita. Antônio was my nephew, my sister's oldest son.

As it is normal my first reaction was denial. It cannot be true. Then, later on, another telephone call asking me to go to Aruba and preside to the Funeral. I did. His mother, my oldest sister, who lived in Madeira, was suffering from Parkinson's disease. She still lived a few years after his death but she was never told that her oldest son had died. She was already debilitated and the family decided that it would be better for her not to be hit by such terrible news. His cousin Nelson, another of my nephews, worked as a professional photographer for a newspaper. When he heard about the accident, he drove very fast to take pictures. He was already known by the nickname of «Speedy Andrade». Of course, it was a terrible surprise to see his cousin already dead, bleeding in the middle of the street. He was the one who spread the unbelievable news among the family.

During the wake service there was lots of sadness

but there were also lots of mixed feelings among my family members and friends because of the man who had caused the accident. They were expecting him to attend the wake service and the funeral and to approach the family to offer some kind of comfort. But nobody had seen him. Some people were interpreting that absence as a sign of indifference. And we already know that the opposite of love is not hatred but indifference, and that hurts.

Everything went smoothly and proper but that «indifference» was still making people feel uncomfortable. That's when his cousin, Mercês, decided to look for the man, his phone number and his residence. She asked him, in a very nice way, if we could visit him. He said that we were welcome. He could see that we were not going to fight but to make peace.



Antônio and his wife, Conceição, with their 2 sons, Roberto (the oldest) and Rui (the middle child)

He and his family were immigrants from Columbia. We knew that he and his family were also in pain. We went to meet him. After some informal introduction it was my turn. I told him: «We didn't come over here to blame you. We know that it was an accident. But we are here to tell you that if the accident was caused by a careless mistake from Antônio, we would like to ask you for your forgiveness. But if it was a careless mistake from you, we want to offer you our forgiveness». Then his teenage daughter, Nelita, threw her arms around him and spent some time just crying and caressing his face and his neck. After a few moments of silence and tears and also a short time of prayer, a hot Columbian cup of coffee was served. And that moment of pain and tears was transformed into a beautiful celebration of reconciliation, faith and love.



Their children: Rui, Nelita and Roberto



Last Sunday, Jane Caldwell, an author living in England, brought along some copies of her latest book to sell after Mass.

The book sale was a HUGE success, with all her books being sold out within a few minutes!!

All proceeds went towards the *People Helping People* charity which was started at the Chapel after the floods in 2010 to help those in need.



A big Thank you to Jane and her husband, Peter, for their generosity and unwavering support over the last few years!

PS. On a side note...If you were lucky enough to get your own copy of the book and would like to get in touch with Jane to let her know much you are enjoying it, or to find out where you can get a copy, you can contact her at: janecaldwell902@gmail.com.



FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES – February 11th



February 11th is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, one of the most famous apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary that took place in southern France (where Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858).

Here in our Chapel, a little above and behind the altar, you will see a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes set in a "cave", with St. Bernadette kneeling at her feet. This statue was offered to Bishop D. Manuel Agostinho Barreto (Bishop of Funchal from 1877-1911) who lived permanently here at Penha de França during the 34 years of his pontificate. This bishop had the altar adapted to receive the image of Our Lady of Lourdes, the first of the island, which was offered in 1878 by the French citizen *M. Goubeaux* who lived in Madeira.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK – February 11th 2022

The World Day of the Sick was initiated by Pope John Paul II, 30 years ago, in 1992, to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness, and for their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's a year before, in 1991, and it is considered that his own illness was impetus for his designation of the day.

Every year the pope sets a theme for the World Day of the Sick. The theme for this year is: " 'Be merciful, as your Father is merciful'".



You can read Pope Francis' full message for World Day of the Sick here:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20211210_30-giornata-malato.html