

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

27th of March 2022

4th Sunday of Lent, 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



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THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH IN MADEIRA

Good morning! Welcome! **Today is Laetare Sunday (the Fourth Sunday of Lent).** In all Catholic masses today you will see priests wearing their rose-coloured vestments. Father Bernardino Andrade is our appointed Sunday priest. He was born in Madeira but lived and preached for many years in America, and also in Mozambique.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Joshua 5: 9, 10-12; Psalm 26(27); 2 Cor 5: 17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32*)

In the book of **Joshua**, Israel's conquest of Canaan, the promised land, starts with the miraculous crossing of the Jordan. The river waters were held back until all the people had crossed on dry ground. Then, before celebrating the Passover, all the men who had been born during the Exodus were circumcised to mark them now as Israelites, so removing the "shame of Egypt". The place where they crossed was named Gilgal, a pun on the word meaning "remove". **The Psalm** offers grateful praise to God for rescuing us from danger, and encourages fear of the Lord, keeping our tongues from evil. Paul insists to the **Corinthians** that as new creations in Christ they must forget their old ways of seeing the world. We have been given work to do, that of showing visibly in our lives that God has reconciled us to himself, just as Christ did by dying on the Cross. Although **Luke's** unique parable in today's gospel is usually called "The Prodigal Son", the behaviour of the other two people in the story is important. The father rushes out to meet his returning son – a marvellous image of God the Father. But are we sometimes tempted to imitate the other son's reactions to his father's reconciliation with "this son of yours"?

PSALM RESPONSE: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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 - "O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder..." - n. 419

Offertory - "Broken for me, broken for you..." - n. 74

Amen - n. 727

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

Communion - "God of mercy and compassion..." - n.189

Thanksgiving - Silence for reflection

Final - "God forgave my sin in Jesus' name..." - n. 181



THE GREATEST SHORT STORY IN THE WORLD

1. THE PRODIGAL SON

The fourth Sunday of Lent, when priests say Mass vested in rose, is also known by the name of «Laetare Sunday» or «Rejoice Sunday». It is based on the Entrance Antiphon (Is. 66, 10). «Rejoice Jerusalem and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast».

Anticipating Easter joy, today's readings invite us to rejoice, by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God. Today's Gospel celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his «home coming» where he discovers his father's overflowing love. It is also the story of the rejoicing of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honour, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community and his God.



2. EIGHT HUNDRED PACOS HUNGRY FOR THEIR FATHER'S LOVE

A teen-aged boy, Paco, and his very wealthy father had a falling out, and the young man ran away from home. The father was crushed. After a few days, he realized that the boy was serious, so the father set out to find him. He searched high and low for five months to no avail.

Finally, in a last, desperate attempt to find his son, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper. The ad read, "Dear Paco, Meet me at the Hotel Montana at noon on Tuesday. All is forgiven. I love you. Signed, Your Father."

On Tuesday, in the office of Hotel Montana, over 800 Pacos showed up, looking for love and forgiveness from their fathers. – What a magnet that ad was! Over 800 Pacos!! We all hunger for pardon. We are all "Pacos" yearning to run and find a father who will declare, "All is forgiven."

3. WHY "PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE"

Last week, Amanda (not her real name) called in desperation. She is very sick and very poor. She needed food and more than food she needed money to buy medication.

Crying, she kept repeating: «I don't want that to happen again. I don't want to go to a mental institution again. But I have to go if don't take the medication, and I don't have the money. Please help me»

This is what happened when she went to a mental institution the last time... (She is the one who told me her story): She was in a supermarket in Funchal. She went to a bathroom, undressed herself completely, and was found walking in the busiest street of Funchal, naked and with only an open umbrella. People called the emergency services and the ambulance took her to the emergency room of the hospital. She ended up in a mental institution of course.

Last week she needed food and medication. There was no money in the "People Helping People" account to help her. But she didn't even want to listen to that. She kept repeating: «I don't want that to happen again. I don't want to go to a mental institution again». I was the one who had to borrow the money to buy her food and her medication.

Love and Peace,
 Fr. Bernardino Andrade
 27-03-2022



Two weeks ago during Mass, Fr. Bernardino spoke about an idea he had of keeping a blanket in his car (in case a homeless person ever approached him in this cold weather, needing to get warm). A generous person who heard Father's request, brought a blanket to the Chapel last Sunday, which Fr. Bernardino now keeps in his car!



Thank you!

THE CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA – To the Immaculate Heart of Mary

On Friday, March 25th, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He asked Bishops from all around the world to join him in this act, within their own Dioceses. Many Bishops heeded the Pope's request. The Bishop of Funchal, D. Nuno Brás also took part in this historical event during a special Mass, praying at the same moment in Funchal, as the Pope was praying in Rome.



Pope Francis in Rome



Bishop Nuno in Funchal

I ABSOLVE YOU... - Confessions During Lent – after Mass

During Lent, Father Bernardino will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Confessions. As the Chapel is very small and there is no area that is private enough for this, the owners of Moynihan's Irish Bar have graciously allowed Father to use the upper section of their restaurant to hear confessions after Mass. (Moynihan's Irish Bar is at the top of the road, only a short walk up from the Chapel... you can't miss it!). For these next 3 Sundays before Easter, after celebrating the 10am Mass here at the Chapel, Father Bernardino will make his way up the road from the Chapel to Moynihans' so that he will be available to hear confessions.

FATHER'S DAY AT THE CHAPEL



In Portugal, Father's Day is celebrated on March 19th, because we also celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the earthly father of our Lord Jesus. To celebrate this special day, Father Bernardino gave flowers to some of the fathers attending Mass last Sunday. He gave a flower to the youngest father (47), the oldest father (there were three fathers who were 77 years old) and the father with the most children (4!) ♥

