

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

3rd of April 2022

5th 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! 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

(*Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 125(126); Phil 3: 8-14; John 8: 1-11*)

Second Isaiah describes the new Exodus, the return from exile in Babylon. God shows who he is by his preparations and care for their return. These are so wonderful that his servant Israel, his chosen witnesses, will no longer need to remember their Exodus from Egypt. Exodus is a repeatable pattern. The Lord even forgives Israel's many sins, which led to their exile, and will continue to do so, because "I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine". **The Psalm** celebrates the Israelites' joy after their return from exile in Babylon. Writing from prison, Paul shares his hopes, fears and convictions with the **Philippians**. The great gift of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord makes his previous righteousness under the Law seem worthless. He is possessed by Christ but not yet arrived, keeping his eye on the final goal of living in God's new world.

The story of the woman caught in adultery is found in different places in various manuscripts: it fits better with Luke's gospel, but here in **John's gospel** it matches the changing mood. This chapter opens with a woman about to be stoned, then freed from death. But it ends with people seeking to stone Jesus. Jesus has shown them God's wisdom, different from men's.

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

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 - "Were you there when they crucified my Lord? ..." - n. 618

Offertory - "We come to share our story..." - n. 607

Amen - n. 727

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

Communion - "When I survey the wondrous cross..." - n.624

Thanksgiving - Silence for reflection

Final - "I, the Lord of sea and sky..." - n. 247



A DESERT IN A HOTEL - «DON'T BEHAVE LIKE A CHILD»

Lent is a time to walk through the desert. From slavery to freedom. From death to life. From sin to grace.

A desert can be experienced anywhere. Carlo Carretto wrote a fantastic book called «The desert in the City».

To help them to cross the desert, a group of priests of the Diocese of Funchal made their retreat in one of the hotels of the Island. This was one of the three turns (to take part in a retreat) that are offered to priests every year, in different places. This way it is easier for each priest to choose the most convenient time for him. A priest, a University Professor in Lisbon, was our retreat director. It was absolutely fascinating the theme that he chose for our days of prayer and reflection. The retreat and all the conferences were around the theme of how children are the model of the disciples. **The children are the Sacrament of the Kingdom of God:**

«People were bringing little children to Him in order that they may touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them: Let the little children come to me; do not stop them, for it is for such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you: whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. And He took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them» . (Mk. 10: 13 – 16).



There is no doubt that we live our religion very far away from the project of Jesus. **In our society, especially inside our churches, the children are seen as a disturbance and as a burden.** How many times we hear people saying: «Don't behave like a child». Jesus says the opposite: «Behave like a child». We Catholics are against abortion... but the majority of Catholics, including priests, don't like to see children in Church. If they make any little noise people look at their mothers as if they were criminals.

During our retreat, the priest director explained some of the main qualities of a child.

The first of them is *vulnerability*. A child is very fragile, very vulnerable. We must accept and embrace our vulnerability. St. Paul says: «To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in my flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me «My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me». Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong». (II Cor. 12: 7-10).



The Group of Priests who made their retreat last month

Maybe it was inspired by this ministry of the children's vulnerability that Henry Nouwen wrote a wonderful book with the title of the «The Wounded Healer».

Fr. Bernardino Andrade
 03-04-2022



WHY PRIESTS GO ON RETREATS

Source: <https://aleteia.org/2021/07/18/why-priests-are-required-to-go-on-a-yearly-retreat/>

Many Catholics are not aware that Priests go on a spiritual retreat once a year. Why do they do this? Priests, religious and even seminarians are required by Canon Law to go on a yearly retreat: *«[Religious] are faithfully to observe the period of annual retreat» (Can. 663 §5).* *«[Priests] are equally bound to make time for spiritual retreats according to the prescripts of particular law» (Can. 276 §2).* *«Each year [seminarians] are to make a spiritual retreat» (Can. 246 §5).*

What happens during a Retreat? A spiritual director is invited to lead the priests on retreat, which normally lasts 5 days. A theme is chosen for reflection, and there is also time for prayer, and for confession. The retreat is a time where priests are able to make time for themselves, and afterwards to go back to their churches, feeling recharged.



These two photos on the right, above, were taken at this year's first priest retreat which was held from 7-11th of March. The retreat was guided by Fr. Alexandre Palma, from the Patriarchate of Lisbon. 14 priests from our Diocese participated.

CONFESSIONS... - During Lent



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 2 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. On any other day, confessions are by appointment. Get in touch with Fr. Bernardino on 916192783 or by email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

PALM SUNDAY...



Next Sunday, April 10, it's Palm Sunday. The vestments of the priest are red. The same thing happens on Pentecost Sunday.

When he was In America, Father Bernardino used to **invite people if possible, to dress in red** or bring some piece or sign in red on this day.

He would like to do the same here in this Chapel on Palm Sunday. Of course this is not mandatory. It's just a tradition in some countries and since we are a multicultural community, Father would like to do something that is symbolic. *Thank you!* 😊

