

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14).

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).

>> 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.



>> 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

Vol. 3, number 320

24th of July 2022

17th 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/penhafranchachapel.

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



Fr. Juan Noite

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

This morning we are blessed to have **Fr. Juan Noite** presiding Mass for us here at the Chapel. Father Juan is from the Catholic Religious order Priests of the Sacred Heart (normally known as dehonian priests) and is currently serving the community at the Colégio Missionário (Missionary College) in Madeira. Fr. Juan was ordained a priest in 2001. He is involved in the Youth and Vocation ministry, and teaches Catholic Religious Moral Education (EMRC) at the Apel School in Funchal." Welcome Fr. Juan!



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 137(138):1-8; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13*)

After promising Abraham a son next year, God hesitates before revealing his plans for Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham urges God to be just to the threatened towns, where his nephew Lot lives. Later Lot defends his angelic guests from the depraved demands of the men of Sodom, and escapes before Sodom is destroyed. **The Psalm** expresses heartfelt thanks to the Lord for his justice and love, confident in his continual help. Paul urges the **Colossians**, whom he has never visited, to be confident in their understanding of "God's mystery", Christ. As Gentiles they were seen as sinners, outside the Jewish Law. But now the Law is overridden, so, "buried in Christ", they should follow only Christ. For Paul, the list of our debts, owed to God for failing to carry out our duties under the covenant, is graphically nailed to the Cross and so destroyed. **Luke's version** of the Our Father is shorter and more abrupt than Matthew's. Both versions look to the end days, especially "Do not put us to the test". "Daily bread" may refer to the Eucharist. Or it may mean "tomorrow's bread" – the heavenly banquet, like the double portion of manna collected in the desert before the Sabbath. God promises to respond to all our requests, as he did to Abraham.

PSALM RESPONSE: On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry – "Glory and Praise to the Lord..." - n. 166

Offertory – "Love is his word..." - n. 353

Amen – n. 726

Communion – "Longing for Light..." - n. 329

Thanksgiving – Silence for Reflection

Final – "Sweet Heart of Jesus..." – n. 521



(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

A MURDERER WHOM GOD CALLED “MY SON”

It was Saturday in the afternoon. During the 5.00 o'clock Mass I proposed a campaign to my parishioners. Everybody was aware of some tragic incidents that had happened recently. My proposal was to launch a combat against arms, including violent toys. Children love those toys. But those toys are not inoffensive. They may not hurt their bodies but may damage their brains. It may be a train for violence. My proposal was that all children would bring to church their violent toys. But my appeal

was addressed mainly to the adults: *Please bring your true rifles, pistols and anything that can hurt people. Let us disarm our Parish and our city. Let us destroy them and transform them into crosses that are symbols of peace.*

After Mass I had to leave the church for a few moments. When I returned to my residence, I checked my voicemail and I could not believe what I heard. The message was very clear. «Father, please go that street and that house. A man just committed suicide». I jumped into my car and in a few minutes I was there.

When I arrived, I met a group of men in the front yard just socializing and each one of them holding a beer in their hands. I said good evening and greeted each one of them with a hand shake. Of course, I was not feeling comfortable. I knew that pistols and beer don't match. All of them were very polite. All of them except one. He was the brother of the man who had taken his life and also the owner of the pistol that had been used. When I extended my hand, he refused to extend his, and said very loud: «I don't believe in God. I am a murderer». Well, gently I tried to «escape» to the back yard where I thought I was going to find a dead body. When I arrived, there was a group of women praying the rosary around a lit candle but his body had been already removed by the authorities. I prayed with them for a while and then I left. I left and encountered the same man and told him also about the campaign to collect all the arms and violent toys. He said: «The pistol I cannot give you because the authorities took it with them but I have a rifle that I want to give you right now.» And in a few moments, there was Fr. Bernardino carrying a big rifle with both hands. It was big. According to the experts it was a «valuable» rifle from World War II. I left to a very quiet street to come home. He came after me. I stopped

to say «good bye». A few Mexican men came to me and asked for a blessing. He kept saying that he was a murderer. I told him that «When God planted the first seed of your life in the womb of your mother, He put a label on you. Do you know the name of that label?». «Yes... murderer». «If you think that you have that label it was not put on you by God. Maybe somebody else. The only label God put on you was «MY SON».

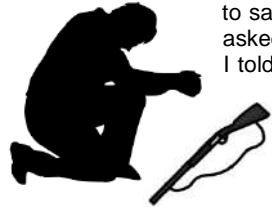
Seeing me blessing his friends he knelt on the pavement and said: «Bless me too». I did it with a little prayer. When I finished, he stood up and said: «I already believe in God». «Well. It was fast»- I thought to myself. Finally, I departed walking through the street holding my big rifle with both of my hands when I heard somebody calling me: «Father, you forgot your car». Imagine how mixed up I was.

I still don't know why he insisted so much that he was a murderer. But I suspect that being a soldier and sent by the American Government to El Salvador or Nicaragua to support their ugly war was the root of that horrible guilt. Soon we had in front of the altar a basket full of «beautiful» violent toys and also some real rifles. The newspapers took pictures and put me on the front page holding the big World War II rifle. Later on, I received a telephone call asking me if I wanted to sell that rifle. I said that all those arms had been collected to be destroyed. Since then we met many times and my way of greeting him was: «What is the name of your label? ». And he always answered: «My son».

No matter how bad and ugly our past life has been, God never stops calling us «MY SON».

Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade, 24-07-2022



FREE MADEIRAN SUMMER LUNCH IN BICA DA CANA

Next Sunday, July 31st, is the last Sunday of the month. As it is becoming a tradition, I am going to say Mass at the **Cantinho do Bom Pastor (little Corner of the Good Shepherd) in Bica da Cana** at 4:00 PM.

A group of Madeiran people connected with agriculture have decided to prepare a Free Summer Lunch for everyone.

You will not need too many knives or forks or spoons. It is a Summer lunch prepared with fresh produce that has just come from the earth.

All of you are welcome. No reservations are necessary.

Lunch will be served at 1:30 PM and Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 PM.

Please join us.

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



DID YOU KNOW?

Today, July 24th is....



We grandparents and elderly people have a great responsibility: to teach the women and men of our time to regard others with the same understanding and loving gaze with which we regard our own grandchildren.

- Pope Francis

Message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - 24 July 2022
www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

"Spread love wherever you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier."

St. Teresa of Calcutta
Pray for us

Even if the *world* were to capsize, if *everything* were to become *dark, hazy, tumultuous*, God will *still be with us.*

- ST. PADRE PIO -