

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.



>> 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

14th of August 2022

20th 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



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

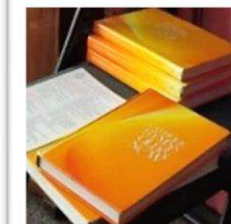
Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. The Chapel was founded 400 years ago (in 1622) by Antonio Dantas, who wanted to provide the garrison of soldiers close by in the port of Funchal, a space for prayer. It was here in the Chapel of Penha de França, that the first mass in English was celebrated in 1966, by Fr. Agostinho Rafael, which continues to take place every Sunday at 10 am. This is the only Catholic Mass celebrated entirely in English on the whole Island of Madeira. We often have visiting Priests and Deacons from other countries celebrating Mass with us. Today we are blessed with the presence of **The Rev. Canon David Hayman**, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Cardiff, and **Deacon Craig Aburn** from the Diocese of Portsmouth, UK.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Psalm 39(40):2-4,18; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53*)

Writing during the turbulence just before the exile, **Jeremiah** was caught between the king, Zedekiah, and jealous nobles, who falsely imprisoned him. In 586 BC Judea again revolted against Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Jeremiah told the king he should surrender because Judea would be defeated anyway, as God's punishment for their infidelity, and resistance would lead to Jerusalem's destruction. But the nobles said Jeremiah's advice was undermining morale and threw him into a cistern. Jerusalem did not surrender, and was destroyed, and most survivors were deported to Babylon. Jeremiah might have used this **Psalm** to give thanks after being rescued from the well. And to ask God for help in the troubles to come. Last week we heard part of the discussion in **Hebrews** about the meaning of faith, "the conviction of things not seen", giving the example of Abraham. After further examples, Hebrews says yet all these "did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better". With so many witnesses confident of this unknown reward, we must persevere in our faith, enduring, like Jesus. The themes of turbulence and suffering continue in today's reading from **Luke's gospel**, which follows the insistence last week that unfaithful servants will be punished. Jesus' message brings division between believers and non-believers, whose evil deeds are thrown into relief by the gospel.

PSALM RESPONSE: Lord, come to my aid.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "Bind us together..." - n. 65

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

Communion - "O Lord my God..." - n. 419

Thanksgiving - Silence for Reflection

Final - "Immaculate Mary..." - n. 256



(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

SORRY JESUS, YOU «BROKE» MY MARRIAGE

They seemed to be the ideal couple. After a short preparation, Frank and Mary (not their real names) decided to get married. I was the priest they chose to celebrate and bless their marriage, even if they didn't belong to my Parish. I never suspected that they were having serious problems in their relationship.

One day I was told that Mary was pregnant. I felt very happy.

When I see a pregnant woman, I feel like kneeling and kissing the mother's and father's hands. I look at them and I feel as if that woman is a tabernacle carrying Jesus inside her. Very often I congratulate her, introduce myself as a priest and my great love for babies and ask if they would like me to give the baby a special blessing. They always, always, express their gratitude and sometimes they share with me some of their tears. I have done this in lifts, in hospitals, in shopping centres, in churches and even in the streets. One of those mothers even «blamed» my blessing for her having twins! Of course, this was said before we had a good laugh.



Well, but going back to Frank and Mary's pregnancy... before I had the chance to meet them and congratulate them on their baby, I heard a sad story:

One day, Frank approached his wife and told her: «*Tomorrow, be ready at 10:00 AM. We need to go to San Francisco*». Mary was surprised and naturally asked him: «To do what? » His answer was: «*I made an appointment at a clinic for you*». As it is obvious, Mary became very nervous and asked him: «But what for? » His answer was: «*You have an appointment to have an abortion*. » Mary stopped breathing for a few seconds, took a glass of water, sat down and stayed in silence for a few minutes.

Then she stood up, looked at her husband straight in the eyes, and very firmly told him: «Our Marriage has ended right now». There was no return. It could not be negotiable.

A precious baby was born, but Mary's Marriage could not survive such a monstrosity from somebody she trusted so much.

I confess that for a long time I felt a little confused when I read the Gospel of this 20th Sunday of the year C.

For me, *Shalom* (meaning peace) was just one other name for Jesus. **I always believed that the main role of Jesus was to bring peace to the world and heal the wounds of wars, divisions and misunderstandings** and transform this world into a joyful family, the family of God. But this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 12: 49-53) teaches something that looks the opposite of peace «I have come to bring fire to the earth... Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, but rather division. From now on a house household of five will be divided: three against two or two against three, the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter in law, daughter in law-against mother-in-law».

It was listening to stories like Frank and Mary's stories that I understood that there are issues that the followers of Jesus don't compromise on. If we have to choose between a relationship and an abortion, we have only one choice. Abortion, no matter how legal it is, will never be an alternative. Even if it puts husband against wife.

Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade, 14-08-2022



ASSUMPTION DAY MASS – Tomorrow - August 15th

Tomorrow, Monday August 15th, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. It is a Holy Day of obligation like on a Sunday. In Madeira it is also a public holiday, with many people attending Mass on this day. Mass will be celebrated here at the Chapel at **10:00 AM**, by Fr. Bernardino Andrade, and Deacon Craig Aburn (visiting from the UK). Please join us.



Source: <https://aleiteia.org/2019/08/14/exclusive-photos-an-assumption-celebration-like-no-other/>

Around the world there are many ways that the Solemnity of the Assumption is celebrated. In New York, there is a celebration that tops them all, and amazingly, it began only 28 short years ago in Chinatown. The story begins decades ago in the depths of the forests near the Fujian Province on the Chinese coastline. The region was a missionary territory of the Spanish Dominicans in the late 19th century. After the Chinese Communist Revolution in 1949, Catholics and other religious groups were forced to align themselves with state approved/run versions of their faith, often in opposition to their true beliefs. **Those desiring to remain faithful Catholics were forced to practice and worship in secret**, which set the foundation for the underground Catholic Church of China. On the evening of the Assumption after midnight, Catholics would make their way into the forests to hold a secret candlelight procession in honour of the Blessed Mother. **In the late 1980s, a small group of Catholics from the Fujian Province were smuggled out** and were ultimately



granted citizenship in the United States. In 1994 this group arrived at the doorstep of the Church of the Transfiguration in Chinatown, popularly known as "The Immigrants' Church." They approached the pastor, Fr. Raymond Nobiletti, with a simple request: to have an Assumption procession as they had done back home but **during the day**. Fr. Nobiletti, moved by their story, helped them organize, and on August 14, 1994, they took to the streets rejoicing in the freedom to celebrate their faith as they never could have before, and thanking the Blessed Mother for their answered prayers. **Word of this spread like wildfire throughout the Chinese-American community** and now, a mere 28 years later, on the 2nd Sunday of August, New Yorkers are greeted by the sounds of



thousands of raised voices proclaiming the Hail Mary in Cantonese as a marching band plays the Salve Regina for a two-hour long procession through the corridors of lower Manhattan. **What began as a top-secret worship operation in the depths of a forest in China has become one of the largest Marian events** in the grandest of all cities, demonstrating once again the power of persevering Faith!



SILVER ANNIVERSARY – Bernadette & Stephen Norton



25 years of love – Stephen & Bernadette Norton

HAPPY Anniversary!

«The Sacrament of Matrimony is the symbol of the passion that God has for His people». I have had the privilege of knowing

many of those couples who became a visible Sacrament. They became a visible sign of the love of God among us. Through them we can see God. That's the kind of love that has been uniting Stephen and Bernadette Norton from England, who came to Madeira to celebrate with us their 25th Anniversary. Congratulations to you and to your three daughters Holly, Abbie and Lia.



Abbie (23), Lia (20) & Holly (24)

Love & Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

