

## 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 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

### >> 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

## JOYFUL GIFT

12th of February 2023

10h00 Sunday Mass

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,  
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

**f** [www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..)

**ig** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

**✉** [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

### CATHOLIC MASS - ENGLISH SERVICE

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Our Mass today will be celebrated by Father Joseph Arun.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Sirach/ Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; Psalm 118(119);*

*1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37)*

Writing about 132 BC, Ben Sira was a learned and widely travelled Jerusalem scholar. Today's reading is one of the clearest statements in the whole Bible on free will. God created human beings and – as an essential part of our nature – gave us the ability to choose between right and wrong, life or death. God notes our actions, but “gives no one permission to sin”. **The Psalm** praises God's law, which should be followed because it is designed to help us become who we are meant to be. After saying he did not come using clever human oratory, Paul now tells the **Corinthians** something no human being could work out, namely God's wisdom – his plan from the beginning for our salvation. Because this knowledge comes to us only by revelation, we must be open and listen to the Spirit who reveals it. Continuing the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus states clearly that He is not abolishing the Jewish Law. But He then goes on to clarify the Commandments – we must obey them in spirit, not just a literal minimum. Our free will should be exercised with wisdom, so that we help to build the kingdom of God here on earth. (Matthew 5:32 is usually understood to refer to marrying within forbidden degrees of kindred.)

### PSALM RESPONSE: They are happy who follow God's law!

[www.bible-groups.info](http://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](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)



### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

**Entry** - "This is the day..." - n. 574

**Offertory** - "A new commandment..." - n. 2

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

**Communion** - "O, the love of my Lord..." - n. 433

**Thanksgiving** - "As I kneel before you..." - n. 39

**Final** - "Walk in the light..." - n. 561

**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](mailto: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.



### INSULTS FOR ME, AND BREAD FOR MY CHILDREN

One day, Mother Teresa was asking a baker for some bread to feed the hungry children of her orphanage. The baker was furious with her request for bread. Not only did he did turn her down, he spat at her. In response to his outrageous actions, Mother Teresa calmly reached down into her pocket, took out her handkerchief, wiped the spit off and said: «That was for me; now what about some bread for my poor children»? The baker was touched by Mother Teresa’s love and

greatness, compiled and thereafter provided bread for the children in the orphanage. (Fr. Tony Kadavil)

### LOGIC OF MOTHER TERESA

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.

**Love them anyway.**

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

**Be kind anyway.**

If you are successful, you may win false friends and true enemies.

**Succeed anyway.**

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

**Do good anyway.**

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous,

**Be happy anyway.**

Happiness and transparency make you vulnerable.

**Be happy and transparent anyway.**

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

**Build anyway.**

People who really want help may attack you if you help them.

**Help them anyway.**

You may give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.

**Give the world your best anyway.**

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

**It was never between you and them anyway.**

(Mother Teresa, «Meditations from a Simple Path.»)



Fr. Bernardino Andrade  
12/02/2023



The World Day of the Sick was initiated by Pope John Paul II, 31 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: “Take care of him” - Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing. Pope Francis starts his message with these words:



*Dear brothers and sisters!*

*Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane.*

*When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see how we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to “make do”.*

*For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness....*

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

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20230110-giornata-malato.html>

### PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE – The families you help

Dear members of the *Penha de França* Community (and visitors to our Chapel), most of you don’t know me that’s why I want to start by introducing myself. I am Alexandre Silva, and I have been working with the charity “People Helping People” since it was first started. We are VERY thankful for the donations coming from your community, so we thought we could share with you some of the stories of the families you are helping to take care of. So, every week or so, I will talk shortly about a different family, and unfortunately, there are plenty of them. So, this first week, we will talk about Mrs. S.

Mrs. S. is unemployed and lives with her husband and child in a single room. A folding screen is the only thing separating their bed from their 14-year-old son’s bed. Her husband is disabled after he had a major stroke. It left him in such bad state that you can barely understand anything he says, and although she has been working menial jobs on and off, she is currently unemployed. She is very resourceful. She searched for many available government institutions and IPSS’s (private institutions of Social Solidarity) to get as much support as possible, and yet, Mrs S. and her family have not been able to move out from their 300€/month room...



I think she is one of the mentally strongest people that we help. Most days, she sounds energetic and hopeful, but some days you can really hear in her voice her struggle with depression. They spend a lot on medication for her husband and her depression, and of course, a kid in school is also a major expense... Your donations at the end of Mass make it possible for us to help families like hers. Thank you for your care, and I’ll see you again next week!

12/02/2023 - Alexandre Silva

