

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

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

19th of February 2023

10h00 Sunday Mass

7th 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/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

Welcome



CATHOLIC MASS - ENGLISH SERVICE

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Father Bernardino has been slowly recovering after his illness and hospital stay, and we are blessed to have him back with us this morning after almost 3 months away.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 102(103); 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48)

Leviticus, meaning "he called", is about holiness, the utter separateness of God. We are each called to become whole, like a jigsaw with all the parts fitting together perfectly. Hence "You shall be holy, because I, the Lord, am holy". The book expands the basic commandments, insisting on concern for our neighbour, the sacredness of sex, the marriage laws, and forbidding aberrant sexual behaviour. Thus the Israelites are to keep themselves in a state of wholeness, as a sign of their intimate union with the Holy Lord.

The Psalm is a hymn of grateful praise to God, whose mercy is great because he knows man's frailty. Paul is critical of the **Corinthians**, telling them they were not mature enough to be given the solid food of spiritual instruction, because they were still jealously quarrelling among themselves about who to follow. They must follow only Christ, obeying God's rules, even though this will be seen as foolishness by the wisdom of this world. In **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus continues drawing out the meaning of the Commandments in the sermon on the mount. Last week the shorter form omitted the difficult teachings forbidding divorce and calling our brother a fool. Today we are urged to love our enemies. Always Jesus pushes us further, urging us towards perfection, in union with our heavenly Father.

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is compassion and love.

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 - "I cannot tell..." - n. 239

Offertory - "Father I place into your hands..." - n. 134

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

Communion - "O, the word of my Lord..." - n. 434

Thanksgiving - "Father we adore you..." - n. 136

Final - "Bind us together, Lord..." - n. 65



FEBRUARY 20TH, ANNIVERSARY OF A TRAGEDY

1.
It was a Saturday morning, It was February 20th, 2010. It was a date that became part of the history of Madeira Island. Today if people from Madeira are talking and somebody says «February 20th », nobody needs to explain the subject of the conversation. Everybody understands that the people are talking about one of the biggest tragedies that hit the Island of Madeira which opened wounds that are still bleeding.

Lots of rain started falling and running from the mountains on this Saturday morning. Nobody was ready for this. People had started their normal lives. All of a sudden, the streets were full of running water where bodies of people could be seen rolling along with cars, uprooted trees, garbage and rocks from the rivers. **Houses were being destroyed** taking with them people, animals and everything that was in their way. The water was so abundant and messy that nobody could help anybody. If somebody tried to help a member of his family no doubt that he would be swallowed by the uncontrolled dirty waters. Everything was disappearing into the ocean, many of them forever, including people.

Tomorrow is the 13th anniversary of what is considered one the biggest tragedies that destroyed part of what is called the «Pearl of the Atlantic».

A few days ago, one of the local newspapers commented that we were very lucky that this happened on a Saturday morning when the schools were closed. If children were in school and their parents came to fetch them, as is obvious, the panic would be out of control especially at the school doors. And for sure, parents, children and teachers would be trapped and found dead after the rain stopped.

2.
It was at this time that a miracle happened. The following Sunday (one day after the tragedy) without any plans and any special appeal, the English-speaking people who attended Mass at Penha de França contributed to an extraordinary collection to help the poor. It was the beginning of «*People Helping People*».

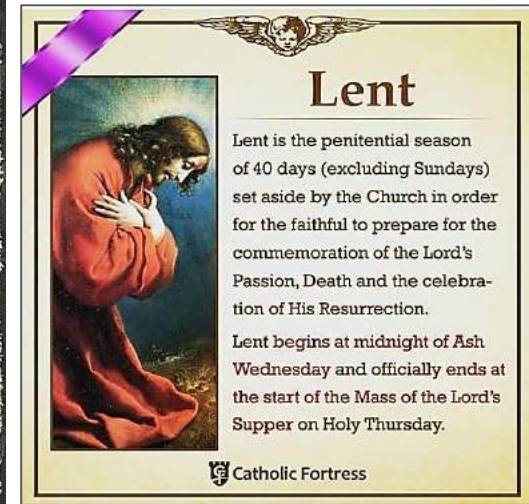
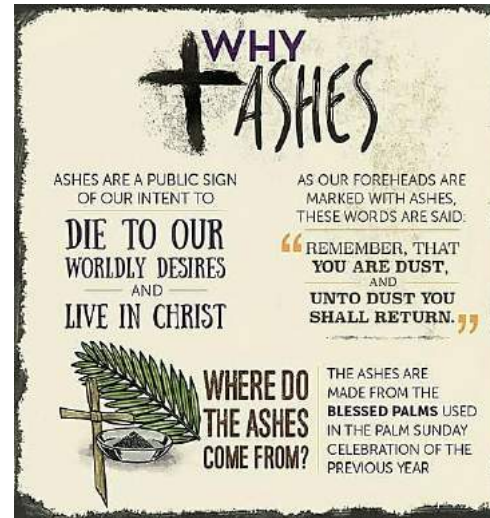
Since then, the same people adopted this project of helping the poorest of the poor in Madeira and there is no doubt that miracles have been happening.



LENT BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY – 22nd of February 2023

Ash Wednesday is a holy day of prayer and fasting and takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and **marks the first day of Lent.** Every year Ash Wednesday falls on a different date. This year it will be celebrated on Wednesday, **February 22nd.** There will be a special Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Funchal (in Portuguese) at **5:30pm at the Sé Cathedral** in the centre of Funchal.

Other Mass times on Ash Wednesday at the **Sé Cathedral** are at: 8:00am, 8:30am, and 11:00 am.



2023 – LENT & HOLY WEEK

February 22	Ash Wednesday		<h1>Lent</h1>
April 2	Palm Sunday		
April 6	Holy Thursday		
April 7	Good Friday		<h1>Lent</h1>
April 9	Easter Sunday		