

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).

>> 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.

JOYFUL GIFT

26th of February 2023

10h00 Sunday Mass

First Sunday of Lent, Year A

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

Welcome



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

f www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel.

ig www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

✉ penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS - ENGLISH SERVICE

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. On this 1st Sunday of Lent we are blessed to have Father Joseph Arun celebrating Mass for us.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Psalm 50(51); Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11*)

From **Genesis** we have the second and probably older description of the creation of humanity. This expresses the truth that God made us as "living beings". By eating the forbidden fruit, man does "become like God", able to make choices, but without the wisdom needed to choose well. Perhaps like a child's growing self-awareness. The mischievous serpent later came to be interpreted as Satan. This penitential **Psalm** begs pardon for our sins, asking to be restored to grace and purity, and promising to make God's mercy known to others. Paul has been arguing to the **Romans** that righteousness comes only through faith. Human beings are unable to become righteous by following the Law given to Moses, which identifies – but does not help to avoid – sin. God offers righteousness as gift, through Jesus' obedience to his Father. In **Matthew's gospel** the devil introduces each temptation with the words: "If you are the Son of God", exploring what can it mean for Jesus to be "Son of God"? Is he a miracle-worker, able to satisfy all desires without effort? Is it about showy displays of power or trying to make God do what we want, in return for belief in him? Jesus dismisses Satan, showing his real power. Jesus will rule over all creation, but only through the Cross.

PSALM RESPONSE: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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 - "Christ be beside me..." - n. 82

Offertory - "All that I am..." - n. 21

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

Communion - "Be still, for the presence of the Lord..." - n. 58

Thanksgiving - "Be still and know that I am God..." - n. 57

Final - "Longing for light..." - n. 329



A PRIEST TRANSFORMED INTO A HOMELESS PERSON

A pastor transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon-to-be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service. Only 3 people said hello to him; most looked the other way. He asked people for change to buy food because he

was hungry. Not one gave him anything.

He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was told by the ushers that he would need to get up and go sit in the back of the church. He said hello to people as they walked in but was greeted with cold stares and dirty looks from people looking down on him and judging him. He sat in the back of the church and listened to the church announcements for the week. He listened as new visitors were welcomed into the church that morning but no one acknowledged that he was new. He watched people around him continue to look his way with stares that said you are not welcome here.

Then the elders of the church went to the podium to make the announcement. They said they were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. "We would like to introduce you to our new Pastor." The congregation stood up and looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle.



That's when all the clapping stopped and the church was silent. With all eyes on him....he walked up the altar and reached for the microphone. He stood there for a moment and then recited so elegantly, a passage from the bible.....

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked

after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.' (Math.25)

After he recited this, he introduced himself as their new pastor and told the congregation what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and bow their heads in shame.

"Today I see a gathering of people here but I do not see a church of Jesus. The world has enough people that look the other way. What the world needs is disciples of Jesus that can follow his teachings and live as he did. When will YOU decide to become disciples?"

He then dismissed the service until the following Sunday as his sermon had been given.

(Sent to me by Sinead Moynihan)

Love and Peace,

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

26-02-2023



THOUGHTS ON LENT



Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words, Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude, Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope, Fast from worries and trust in God, Fast from pressures and be prayerful, Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy, Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others, Fast from grudges and be reconciled, Fast from words and be silent, so you can listen.

MichelleDeRusha.com



—Pope Francis

CRIES OF THE POOR – The journey of Mrs. G

Dear members of the *Penha de França Community* (and visitors to our Chapel),

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 every week some of the stories of the families you are helping to take care of.

Two weeks ago, I shared with you the first story of one of our families.

This week, we will talk about Mrs. G.

Mrs. G and her husband's business was severely hit by the crisis in 2008 and went bankrupt. In an effort to try to save some of their belongings, they divorced in order to keep some of their things in her name, while the husband kept the debts, while they of course stayed together. Unfortunately they ended up losing everything anyway and unexpectedly her (now technically ex-)husband died. Since they were officially divorced, she was unable to request a widow's pension.

She now lives with her son in a rented apartment. She is 64 and had a stroke that left her with a limp, a weaker arm and a side of her face less responsive, but her requests for disability or even early retirement have been denied. According to them she is supposed to find a job.

Her son works waiting tables with a minimum salary. He is the one paying for most of their living costs. When we met her, she was several months behind in her rent and was facing eviction. Since she was late on her rent, all rent support from the state was cancelled.

Ironically you can't have any rent support if you don't have the rents up to date. She takes a lot of medication since her stroke, including for depression, and most of the times I speak with her, she seems to be in a jolly disposition. She loves to make jokes. But almost always, somewhere during our conversations, there are moments when, behind her tired smile, you can sense the helplessness and frustration she feels inside.

We have been able to slowly help her recover her late rents while managing the situation with her landlord, and at this moment she is only one rent behind. This is all thanks to your donations which make it possible for us to help families like hers.

Thank you for your care, and I'll "see" you again next week!

26/02/2023 – Alexandre Silva (alexlupus@gmail.com)

