

## 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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

5th of March 2023

10h00 Sunday Mass

2nd 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..](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

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. We are blessed to have **Father Joseph Arun** celebrating Mass for us this morning. **The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass** will be for **Stacey Dias** who passed away on Friday in South Africa after battling cancer. She was only 35 years old and leaves 2 young children. We extend our sincere condolences to her family who are present at Mass today. **May she rest in peace** ✠

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 32(33); 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9)

After the Fall, the Flood and the Tower of Babel, **Genesis** moves to the times of the patriarchs, probably before 1500 BC. God tells Abram to travel from Haran near the Euphrates to "a land that I will show you". God promises that Abram's descendants will become a great nation which will be blessed, and will take God's blessings to all peoples. Abram trusts in God and obeys, following the age-old migration route through Palestine to Egypt. **The Psalm** praises the Lord's power and kindness, confident that he will rescue us from our urgent waiting. In one of his last letters Paul instructs **Timothy** to continue proclaiming the true gospel he received from Paul, correcting errors that will arise from false teachers. God's plan, made before time began, was revealed by the appearing of Jesus Christ, who has saved all humanity, abolishing death. And God freely offers us grace to be holy. In **Matthew's gospel**, Jesus for the first time tells his disciples of his coming passion. They are then given a preview of Jesus' glory as the Son of God. Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus, who is the correct interpreter of the Law and the Prophets. Then Jesus predicts his resurrection, after which they will understand what they have seen.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

[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** - "For the healing of the nations..." - n. 150

**Offertory** - "Gifts of bread and wine..." - n. 159

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

**Communion** - "Soul of my Saviour..." - n. 512

**Thanksgiving** - Silence for reflection

**Final** - "The Light of Christ..." - n. 548





**I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE AN OATH**

**Mexicans formed a large community in my Parish when I was in California.** Every weekend I used to say three Masses in English, three in Spanish and one in Portuguese. Mexicans formed a beautiful community with their traditions and their faith, their children and their elderly. Their presence, with their diversity was not a problem but a blessing.

**One day I was in my office when this Mexican man approached me with a request that I had never heard before.** The request was: «Father, I would like to take an oath». I did not understand. I even thought that there was something to do with the immigration services.

Then he explained. He was an alcoholic. And he came to church to make an oath to stop drinking. That's when I realized that it was a tradition among them. Since then, many Mexicans started coming to church in private or with members of their families. We would go to church, make a prayer before the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe and make a special prayer promising not to drink for some period of time. It could be three months, one year, or forever.

During that short ceremony he would have a godfather. When he felt a big desire to drink, he would call his godfather who would encourage him to be faithful to his oath. Sometimes their wives were present to be their supporters in moments of weakness.



Another detail was that some of them would put a little cross or a little rock in their pocket. When they felt that uncontrollable urge to drink, they would introduce their hand in their pocket and squeeze the cross or the little rock until they felt it hurting and were in control.

But I had to face more surprises. One day a man came to me sometime after taking the oath to stop drinking and asked me to write a letter. **All these things were new for me that's why I needed to ask for their help.** I did not understand what a letter had to do with drinking alcohol. Very simple. Most of the Mexicans like to drink. If they are in a social gathering and everybody is drinking alcohol and there is one who refuses to join them, their friends start insisting with him to drink and start making fun of him. Of course, nobody likes to be the center of laughter. That's when he shows the letter declaring that he made an oath before the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe whom all Mexicans venerate and respect with great devotion. Their friends stop insisting, stop making fun and apologize.

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Lent. We all heard about the temptations of Jesus. All of us experience different kinds of temptations. However, we know that there are different ways of resisting to the temptations like Jesus did even if we need to carry a little rock, or a little cross in our pockets or ask a friend to help us.

Love and Peace,  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade  
5/3/2023



**HAMPERS FOR EASTER 2023**

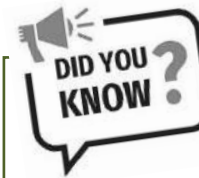
We are collecting items for personal hygiene; dried and tinned food; and Easter eggs for the children.

Please bring in what you can spare and place in the basket at the entrance of the church.

These will be distributed amongst families who need our help.

Collection is until **SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

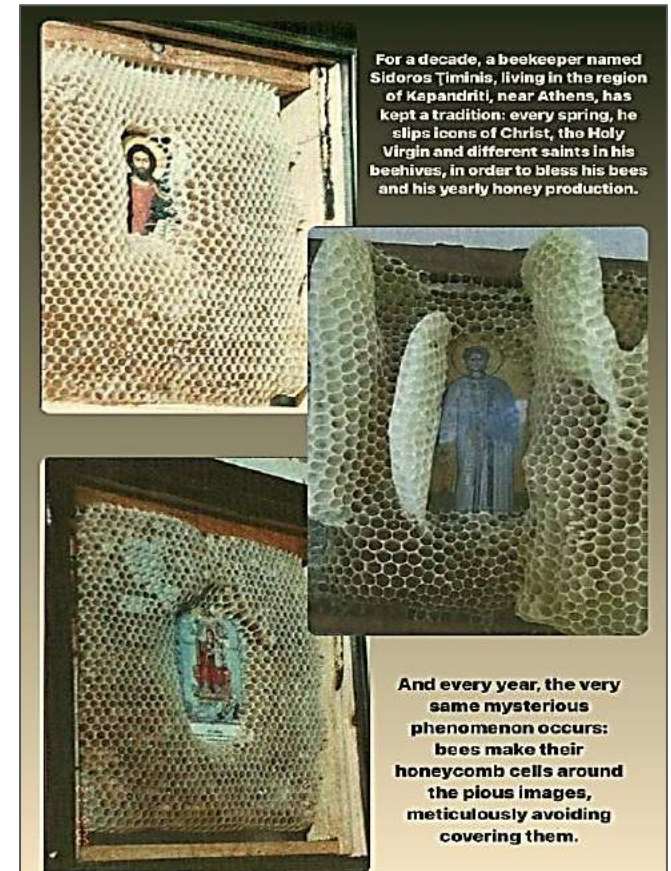
(For further details please send an e mail to: [deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk))



**Did you know that each month of the year has a traditional Catholic devotion?**

Most people know that in the Catholic Church, the month of May is traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary...

but did you know that the month of March is **dedicated to Mary's husband, St. Joseph?**



For a decade, a beekeeper named Sidoros Timinis, living in the region of Kapandriti, near Athens, has kept a tradition: every spring, he slips icons of Christ, the Holy Virgin and different saints in his beehives, in order to bless his bees and his yearly honey production.

And every year, the very same mysterious phenomenon occurs: bees make their honeycomb cells around the pious images, meticulously avoiding covering them.

Source: [www.pinterest.pt/pin/281543720374414/](http://www.pinterest.pt/pin/281543720374414/)