

## 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).

"You should wash each other's feet"  
(John 13:14).

### >> 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

12th of March 2023

10h00 Sunday Mass

3rd Sunday of Lent, 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..](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..)

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

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

Welcome



### CATHOLIC MASS - ENGLISH SERVICE

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This morning we are blessed to have **Fr. Juan Noite** presiding Mass for us here at the Chapel. Father Juan is from the Catholic Religious order Priests of the Sacred Heart (normally known as Dehonian priests) and is currently serving the community at the Colégio Missionário (Missionary College) in Madeira. Fr. Juan was ordained a priest in 2001. Welcome Fr. Juan!

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94(95); Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42*)

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt about 1300 BC, probably under Ramses II. God gave them food and water while they wandered in the wilderness. But they grumbled, losing faith that "God was with them". "Massah" means "test", "Meribah" means "quarrelling". As this was before they made the covenant with God by Sinai, they are not punished yet. But this generation will not enter the promised land. **The Psalm** invites us to praise and worship the Lord daily, for he is our king and shepherd. We must not lose faith in God, as did the Israelites on their desert journey. Paul tells the **Romans** that God loves and forgives us, just as he continued caring for the ungrateful Israelites. Christ died for us, proving God's love, gaining pardon for all humanity and access to his grace through faith. We hear the first 3 gospels over 3 years, but we hear parts of **John's gospel** every year during Lent and Easter. Today Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman at the well. John carefully moves the characters on and off stage as the woman gradually comes towards faith in Jesus. Then, while still unsure, she goes and brings the rest of the Samaritans in her town to hear this man, wondering "Could he possibly be the Messiah?"

**PSALM RESPONSE:** O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts'.

[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** - "Praise to the Lord..." - n. 468

**Offertory** - "Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation..." - n. 69

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

**Communion** - "Take my life, and let it be..." - n. 527

**Thanksgiving** - "O Lord, hear my prayer..." - n. 418

**Final** - "Whatsoever you do..." - n. 620





**A NAP, A CUP OF COFFEE, CONFESSION AND TODAY'S MASS**

1.

**The «mountain top» experience of my life in Africa was the experience of organizing and conducting retreats for the youth and smaller groups of children.**

In May of 1966 we started a small group of young adults that we called «Juvenile Center». The group started with twelve boys and girls. All of them were working in different professions. Then students started joining them and pretty soon the group was a large group of different ages. Then the Juvenile Center started growing, up to the point of being able to mobilize the entire city of *Quelimane*, which is not a big city. There were always different activities happening and those activities created among them a sense of community.



Quelimane, Mozambique - after one of many retreats with the youth there

2.

**Retreats were the main event that used to congregate boys and girls for three days in a retreat house** for prayer, meditation, silence and adoration. In all retreats the main theme was the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

«If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you «give me a drink» you would have asked Him and he would have given you living water.» (Jo. 4:10). This was the highest event of each retreat.

«If you knew the gift of God...» Conducting this meditation my concern was to put in their hearts and their minds that this «Gift of God» was something very real. It was not just an idea or a feeling. This gift of God had the power to transform their lives. This was the moment when many of them changed their lives and started a new relationship with God. This Gift of God was an exciting gift that changed many lives during the retreats.

3.

**Because I was aware of this responsibility, every time I conducted a retreat, I used to prepare it very well.** Like as if it were the first time. There were three tools that I used to prepare this meditation: a nap, a cup of coffee and Confession. I wanted to be sure that I was not tired. That's why, before the meditation, I used to do anything to take some time for a nap. I wanted to be rested and full of energy. The other thing was to drink a cup of coffee. I believed (I don't know if it was true) that a cup of coffee would help me to be awake. One third thing was to look for a priest, and have a good Confession. I wanted to be full of that «Gift» Jesus is talking about. With these three «crutches» I was usually on fire and I started talking about the «Gift of God» Jesus was talking about with the woman at the well.

**This «Gift of God» is offered to each one of us today during this Holy Mass** where we all heard the Gospel of the encounter of Jesus and the Samaritan woman who was considered an outcast. But that «Gift of God» performed a miracle. She became a missionary who brought many people to Jesus.



**CRIES OF THE POOR – Mrs. C and her family journey**



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 or so, some of the stories of the families that are helped with your donations.

**Today I will tell you about Mrs. C and her family.**

**Mrs. C is a young mother of 3 small children.** The father has been in and out of jail... She lives with her children and her mother in a social project building. They are all very thin and small. I suspect there may be malnutrition in their history.



She, her mother and one of her children needs permanent medication, so once again, their budget is very, very limited. She has been on and off work since I met her. It's hard to keep a job with this much personal instability. They are several months late on their rent, and we are helping her to repay through a payment agreement she made with Social Security, but every single month they run out of food.

**She has a soft, childlike voice, and her kids are very well-behaved** whenever we meet, but I fear for their future. There was a study done a few years ago that indicated that students who needed social security support were much more likely to never finish their mandatory schooling. Most people, when hearing this, think it has to do with poor education, bad manners or lack of discipline. In truth, it's all about priorities. These are children who grow up with lack of money every single day; they feel like a burden to their families. So instead of having the chance of being a normal child with normal priorities for a child, they just want to start earning money, which they have always seen as a priority within their homes and lives. Unfortunately, this results in them being less prepared for the work market and perpetuates their poverty, all because they need to be «grownups» as soon as possible so they can stop feeling like a burden.

**With your donations, we are able help this family with food, rent and one time, we even helped with some donated furniture** which was needed for her kid's bedroom... but I wish we could protect these kids from all the pressure that they feel.

Thank you for your care, and next week I hope to bring you another story on one of our needy families.

12/03/2023 – *Alexandre Silva* (alexlupus@gmail.com)



**HAMPERS FOR EASTER 2023**



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



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)

