

## 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

19th of March 2023

10h00 Sunday Mass

4th 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)



### CATHOLIC MASS - ENGLISH SERVICE

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today we are blessed by the presence of two priests: **Fr. Joseph and Fr. Thomas!**

*The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass* will be for **Costa Tsohanoglou** who passed away suddenly on the 12th of March at the age of 28. He passed away tragically on what would have been his aunt Stacey Dias' birthday (who passed away only a week before, and for whom we prayed for in our Chapel two Sundays ago). We extend our condolences to the family, especially to his mother, Lara Dias.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Psalm 22(23); Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41)

Before our first reading King Saul had disobeyed God's instructions by allowing animals from his defeated enemy to be sacrificed to the Lord. He put more faith in ceremony and ritual than he did in the Lord. **Samuel** told Saul obedience is more important than holocausts, and that the Lord has rejected Saul as king of Israel. The Lord sends Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint one of the sons of Jesse as king. **The Psalm** celebrates God's loving care for his people, like a shepherd guarding and guiding his flock, and looking forward to his generous end-time feast. Paul's letter to the **Ephesians** is centred on the Church as Christ's body, with a mission to make God's plan of salvation known throughout the world. Christians must "be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in goodness, right living and truth". **John's** dramatic gospel readings continue with the healing of the man born blind, who, at first, appears to take little interest. His parents distance themselves out of fear, echoing the growing separation between Jews and Christians by John's time. But for John, just seeing is not enough, the light of faith is essential. So Jesus seeks the man out and gradually leads him to full belief, and so to worship him.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

[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** - "Look around you, can you see?..." - n. 330

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

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

**Communion** - "Longing for light..." - n. 329

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

**Final** - "Hail, Glorious Saint Patrick..." - n. 202





1.

**WHO SPILLED THE COFFEE?**

I was conducting a Bible class to a group of parishioners. They had planned that, each day, one of them would bring a cake and a pot of coffee to be shared after the class. The meeting had ended and people were gathering their things. In this moment I heard something, I looked and saw coffee on the floor. Being very «righteous» I looked and the first thing that came to my mouth was a question: «Ho... who spilled that coffee? ». When I asked the question there was a



lady already cleaning the floor. Without raising her head, she answered: «Father, now we don't ask who spilled the coffee. Now we clean it».

Today's gospel reminds me of the story of the «spilled coffee».

«As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him: «Rabi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?» (Jo. 9: 1-2)

I heard many years ago a conference delivered by the captain of an Airlines Company. And one thing that I never forgot was what he said about «blaming». He said that this society will be remembered as the «blaming society». If something goes wrong, very often the first reaction is not to solve the situation. If something goes wrong the first reaction is to find whom to blame. It seems that the normal reaction should be: «What can I do to solve this problem?» or «What can I do to help»? But the most common reaction is: «Who did that»? «Whose fault is it»? «I am glad I was not there. They cannot blame me». «Who spilled the coffee? ». «Who sinned? »



In this story of the blind man, it seems that there was a conspiracy to hurt and humiliate Jesus and to hurt and humiliate the blind man. It seems that the first reaction should be of compassion for the blind man. Besides he was not just blind but also very poor. He was a beggar. The second reaction should be of joy and celebration. They had all the reasons to celebrate and rejoice. A member of their community whom they knew very well had been blind during all his life and now by Jesus' intervention he can see.

«It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. »

2.

**THE WORST BLINDNESS IS TO HAVE EYES AND NOT SEE**

I was driving my car, with two ladies inside, in one of the busiest streets of Funchal. It was 2PM on one of the hot summer days. It was very very hot. On the sidewalk there was a man sleeping under that sun, covered with a heavy coat. One of the ladies said: «Look at that man laying down under this hot sun». And then she added: «But nobody stops. Nobody stops. They don't even look at him. They don't even see him».

We all have blind spots that prevent us from paying attention to the human tragedies, and all kinds of human suffering. LORD HELP ME TO SEE.

Love and Peace  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade  
19-03-2023



Today, March 19th, we celebrate Father's Day in Madeira! We ask for the intercession of St. Joseph for all who have received the gift of fatherhood. Today, we give thanks to God for the parents he gave us and to show them deep gratitude: "thank you, father".



As many of you may know, Friday was Saint Patrick's Day.

Saint Patrick is one of the world's most well-known Saints, and the foremost patron saint of Ireland. Here at the Chapel of Penha de França every year we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our Irish community and visitors! The final hymn this morning will be:



«Hail, Glorious Saint Patrick».

Please join in the singing!

Saint Patrick was born in Roman Britain. Having been captured by pirates he was taken as a young slave to Ireland to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of druids and pagans. Later he escaped and returned to Britain where a vision prompted him to train for the priesthood. He was ordained a bishop, and went back to Ireland to preach the Gospel.

Saint Patrick arrived at Slane on 25<sup>th</sup> March 433, where he converted the local druidic chieftain to Christianity. He preached throughout Ireland and worked many miracles. After years of living in poverty and enduring much suffering, he died. He is believed to be buried in Down Cathedral, where his grave is marked by a granite stone.



**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**  
**At the Cathedral of Funchal**

**April 2, PALM SUNDAY**

10:30 AM – Gathering at Church of Colégio  
Blessing of Palms and Procession to the Cathedral

11:00 AM - Solemn Mass at the Cathedral

**April 6, HOLY THURSDAY**

10:00 AM – Chrism Mass  
5:30 PM – Mass of the Last Supper,  
Washing of the Feet  
Adoration

**APRIL 7, GOOD FRIDAY**

5:30 PM - Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, followed by the procession of Jesus burial

**April 8, HOLY SATURDAY**

9:30 PM - EASTER VIGIL MASS  
Blessing of the Fire  
Blessing of the Easter Candle  
Blessing of the Water

**APRIL 9, EASTER SUNDAY**

10:30 AM – Procession of the Resurrection  
11:00 AM – Mass

**Masses during the daytime:** 8:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM, 6:00 PM



**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:

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