

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

26th of March 2023

10h00 Sunday Mass

5th 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/>

www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel.

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS - ENGLISH SERVICE

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This English Service Mass is a tradition that dates back to 1966, when Fr Rafael Andrade, having just returned from his first visit to England, complied with the Bishop's request to start an English celebration. Fr. Rafael presided this mass for over 30 years, when he had to stop in 1999 due to overlapping duties. For eight years there was no Mass in English in Madeira, until it began again on the first Sunday of Lent in 2007 with Fr. Bernardino.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 129(130); Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45*)

For the Jews after 597 BC, exiled in Babylon without their king, land, Temple, all seemed lost as a nation. **Ezekiel's** encouraging messages gave them hope that the nation would rise and live again, like a field full of dry bones coming to life. But this will be the Lord's doing, for the sake of his name, which they have profaned by their idolatry. In deep sorrow the **Psalm** cries to the Lord, begging pardon for our sins, trusting in God's mercy and awaiting redemption in hope. Writing to the Jewish Christians in **Rome**, Paul has been puzzling over our human condition: "I do not do the good that I want, but I do the evil that I hate". Mortal flesh is weak. "But God sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh" so that the Son's Spirit might give us the strength to live according to His Spirit. Paul's conclusion: with Christ's Spirit in us we are given life reconciled with God both now and in bodily resurrection after death. These foretastes of resurrection prepare us for **John's** description of the raising of Lazarus, the third of the three beautiful Lenten readings from John. Perhaps we should ponder how difficult it is to believe, and how difficult it was for Martha to open the tomb?

PSALM RESPONSE: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

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 - "O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder..." - n. 419

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

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

Communion - "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound..." - n. 32

Thanksgiving - "Ave, Maria, gratia plena..." - n. 39

Final - "Go, the Mass is ended..." - n. 175





WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT HEAVEN ON MY SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY

It was in the morning when Joe, a very good friend of mine and my parishioner, called me: - «Happy birthday, Father. Today is your birthday. My wife and I would like to invite you to have dinner at our house». I thanked him and said yes, of course.

...However, things started getting complicated and I didn't understand why. A little later Joe called me again saying: «Father please don't bring your car. I will pick you up». I didn't understand why and I didn't care to ask

questions. I knew that whatever plans he made for me would be good even if I didn't understand them.

Again, sometime later the telephone rang again. It was Joe with another information or request:

«Father, don't wait for me at the front door of your house. Wait in the back at the door of your garage. That's where I will pick you up». My answer was very simple: «I will be there waiting for you». It is obvious that I found that a little strange but not even for one minute I worried about all these changes. I never asked him why or what is next. I trusted in him. Joe was my friend.

At the planned time there I was at the front door of my garage smiling and in peace. I knew that he was my friend and whatever he did would be nothing to hurt me. He arrived, I entered his car, and there we went in the direction of his house. When we arrived, Joe stopped the car and told me: «Actually we will not have dinner at my house. It is going to be in another place. Please wait here for a few moments.» He entered his



house and came back bringing in his hands a black blindfold. After so many complications and confusions he asked me: «Father, do you trust me?» My answer was: «Oh Joe, what an idiot question. You know that I trust you». Then he covered my eyes with the blindfold and started driving. I had no idea where I was and what streets we were driving through. I was completely blind.

Finally, after driving for a few minutes he said: «We are here». Without telling me where he just said: «We are having dinner here. Wait one minute and I am going to guide you.» He opened the car's door and guided me.

I heard a door being opened and from inside a big cry: **SURPRISE!!** It was the Parish Hall. The blindfold was taken off and what I saw was unbelievable: A band of Mexican Mariachis playing and singing their marvelous songs, tables with lots of food from different countries, children hugging me, lots of presents. It was really a surprise, a beautiful and emotional SURPRISE.

On this fifth Sunday of Lent the Gospel talks about the death and Resurrection of Lazarus.

It is a very appropriate time to meditate about our death, resurrection and our destiny that is Heaven. If anybody asks me what is Heaven, where is Heaven or how is Heaven, my answer will be: «I don't

know and I don't care». **Heaven is a beautiful surprise that God has for me and for us.** My biggest concern should be my unconditional trust in God and to follow God and His plans like Abraham. God told him: «Leave your country, your relatives and your father's home and go to a land I am going to show you» (Gen 12:1). And Abraham went without knowing where to, and without knowing the way. But he knew Whom he was walking with. That's what I learned on my sixtieth birthday:

Heaven is a Surprise!

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Last Sunday was an unusually blessed day at the Chapel. We had 2 priests (Fr. Joseph and Fr. Thomas) and a Deacon (Deacon Peter) celebrating Mass for us! Some fathers and mothers were chosen at Mass to receive a special blessing and a flower: these were the fathers and mothers with the most children (we had a mother with 7 children), & the oldest and the youngest!



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 2nd April.

For further details:
deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk

