

## 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

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

9th of April 2023

EASTER SUNDAY

Year A

### 10h00 Sunday Mass

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,

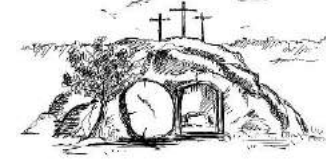
Rua Penha de França 3,  
Funchal, Madeira

Website and Blog:

<http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

[www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..)

[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



### CATHOLIC MASS - ENGLISH SERVICE

**Happy Easter!** Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today is Easter Sunday. 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.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Acts 10:34,37-43; Psalm 117(118); Romans 6:3-11 / Colossians 3:1-4 / 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, Matthew 28:1-10 / John 20:1-9)

Luke's Book of **Acts** describes Jesus' continuing activity on earth through his Holy Spirit. A vision shows Peter that all animals and birds are suitable for eating – the restrictions of the Jewish Law are ending. He can then enter the house of Cornelius, a Gentile. The Holy Spirit interrupts Peter's speech by welcoming the Gentile community into the church. Peter then realises that forgiveness of sins is offered to "everyone who believes" in Jesus' name. This dramatic **Psalm** gives thanks when the Lord responds to prayers for salvation. Verse 26 is the "Benedictus" of our Sanctus. The short reading from Paul's letter to the **Colossians** draws attention away from earthly marks of religion: their focus should be on the life to come when they "will appear with Christ in glory". The alternative reading is an early Easter homily. In the Jewish calendar Passover was followed by the feast of Unleavened Bread. In the three synoptic gospels three women discover the tomb empty and run to tell the apostles. But in **John's gospel** Mary of Magdala is alone. She finds the stone removed from the tomb. Without going inside, she runs to tell Peter. Peter goes in first and sees the empty burial cloths. When the other disciple goes in, he believes.

### PSALM RESPONSE: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

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** - "I will sing a song unto the Lord..." - n. 251

**Offertory** - "Blessed are you, Lord..." - n. 69

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

**Communion** - "Love is his word, love is his way..." - n. 353

**Thanksgiving** - "Give thanks with a grateful heart..." - n. 164

**Final** - "Walk in the light..." - n. 561





**HE IS HERE ... HE IS NOT HERE**

I have been an emigrant for more than forty years. During this period of time, I missed many and very important events in my family. I missed births, Baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, nephews and nieces growing up, uncles and aunts growing older. But there is no doubt that the most difficult and painful events I missed were the funerals. I confess that I don't have the gift of tears but every time I was informed about the death of a family member, I spent a long time in tears.

...The first time I visited Madeira Island after the death of my father, the first thing I did was to visit his grave. My sister was guiding me when we entered the cemetery and the first two words she said were «HE IS HERE».

...When I visited the Holy Land, one of the most touching things I did was to visit the tomb of Jesus that billions of people have visited throughout the centuries. At the entrance of the tomb of Jesus I saw, written in a plaque, the words: «HE IS NOT HERE».

...The difference was that the body of my father was, and still is, in the grave. But on the contrary, the tomb of Jesus was, and is, empty. His body is not there. He came back to life. He is alive. He is at our side. That's what we are celebrating on this Easter Sunday. In the Catholic Church this is the most important celebration of the year because we are celebrating the most important event and the most important foundation of our Christian faith. «If Christ has not been raised from death, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain, St. Paul, 1 Cor. 15:14).



**2. CAN ANY INTELLIGENT PERSON ACCEPT THE RESSURRECTION STORY?**

Albert Roper was a prominent Virginia attorney, a graduate of the University of Virginia and its law school, who eventually became mayor of Norfolk. He once began a thorough legal investigation into the evidence for the Resurrection of Christ, asking himself the question: «Can any intelligent person accept the Resurrection story?» After examining the evidence at length, he came away asking a different question: «Can any intelligent person deny the weight of this evidence?» (Fr. Tony Kadavil).

**3. A SILENT PROTEST AT A COMMUNIST FUNERAL**

As Vice-President, George H. W. Bush represented the US at the funeral of former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev (November 1982). Bush was deeply moved by a silent protest carried out by Brezhnev's widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed. Then, as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev's wife performed an act of great courage and hope, a gesture that surely rank as one of the most profound acts of civil disobedience ever committed in Communist Russia: she made the

sign of the cross on her husband's chest. There in the citadel of secular atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all, made a gesture suggesting that her husband had been wrong. She hoped that there was another way of life – a life best represented by Jesus who died on the cross, and that this same Jesus might yet have mercy on her husband and raise him up on the Day of the Judgement. (Fr. Tony Kadavil)

**GRATITUDE – HAMPERS FOR EASTER** ❤️

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Easter Hamper project. We were able to make up 9 bags for the families our PHP project supports, as well as Easter eggs for all the children. The bags were delivered to the chairman of the charity who delivered them to all the families.

**A message from Alexandre:**



**07/04/2023**

Today we delivered all the Easter Hampers that you all made possible! Thank you so much! And thank you especially to Debbie de Jesus for coordinating the Easter Hamper project.

With your donations, we delivered hampers with food and Easter eggs to 8 families with a total of 19 children! There are always many mixed feelings involved with these deliveries. Some people are more ashamed and try to hide these deliveries from their neighbours, while others come with their children and have them wish us a merry Easter in a choir!

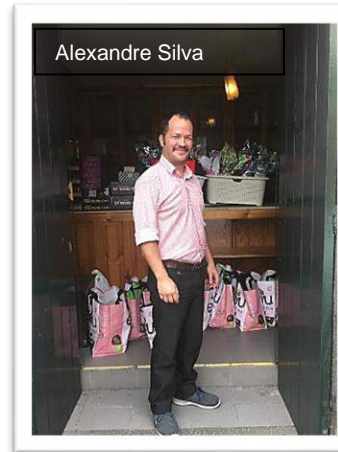
Of course, we try to accommodate our deliveries in a way that is the least intrusive or unpleasant as possible. With them being in a condition where they feel humiliated daily, we strive to be a reference of respect, and try to help them see that they have worth. But the one thing all of them display, is a profound and sincere gratitude.

As do I.

I'm not going to lie, there were tears on both sides today...

**So once again, thank you** to all who have helped us either by donating money, food, telling your friends about us, keeping us in your prayers, and specially, for caring for your brothers and sisters. I can't tell you how invaluable your contributions are. Thank you.

Alexandre Silva – People Helping People



Jesus has **RISEN** and all things are **NEW**.  
PRAISE the **LORD** that His promise was true.

**HAPPY EASTER!**

**HE IS RISEN!**

May you feel Christ's love in your heart & be filled with his peace & Joy this Easter Day... And always!!

EASTER