

## 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

## JOYFUL GIFT

23rd of April 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 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](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

[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

**Good morning!** Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. After many months away, we are blessed to have Father Bernardino celebrating Mass for us this morning!

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, celebrated by Fr. Bernardino.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Acts 2:14,22-28; Psalm 15(16); 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35)

Today and next Sunday we hear parts of Peter's speech at Pentecost. Peter emphasises that Jesus' death was part of God's plan, quoting the prophet Joel's words about the wonders expected in the last days, when God's Spirit will be poured out on all peoples. Jesus, a descendant of David is this expected "Anointed One", "Messiah" in Hebrew, "Christ" in Greek, who now rightfully succeeds David as King of Israel. **The Psalm**, attributed to King David, expresses total confidence in God, who will not let his soul die and will not let "your faithful one" suffer corruption in the grave. Both Peter, in today's reading, and Paul saw this as referring to Christ's resurrection. **Peter's first letter** reminds us of the price Jesus paid for our salvation in his suffering and death, so that we might "have faith and hope in God". We should persevere in hope, in face of attacks and attractions of secular society. In **the Gospel** Jesus appeared to the women. Then he joins two disciples walking despondently to Emmaus, and explains the scriptures to them, before they recognise him "at the breaking of bread". The appearances of Jesus after the resurrection invite us to listen carefully: he was clearly bodily present, not just a spirit. Yet he was different, and could only be recognised with faith.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** Show us, Lord, the path of life. Or: Alleluia!

[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** - "I give my hands..." - n. 241

**Offertory** - "How lovely on the mountains..." - n. 235

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

**Communion** - "Holy virgin, by God's decree..." - n. 231

**Thanksgiving** - "Lord, the light of your love is shining..." - n. 344

**Final** - "I danced in the morning..." - n. 240



**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](mailto: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.



**JESUS IS A DAILY SURPRISE FOR THOSE WHO ARE OPEN TO HIM**

**Karl Barth was a very famous Swiss Theologian** of the 20 Century. He was Protestant but was very loved by all Christian Churches, including the Catholic Church.

Karl Barth was one day riding a streetcar in his home city of Basel, Switzerland. He took a seat close to a tourist, and the two men started chatting with one another. «Are you new to the city?» Barth inquired. «Yes» said the tourist. «Is there anything you would like particularly to see in the city?» asked Barth. «I would like to meet the famous Swiss Theologian Karl Barth, do you know him?» Barth answered: «As a matter of fact, I do know him. I give him a shave every morning». The tourist got off the street car at the next stop, quite delighted. He went back to his hotel and told everyone: «I met Karl Barth's barber today!».



Karl Barth

**This is the third Sunday of Easter.** Easter is not a day. Easter is a season that starts on Easter Sunday and ends on Pentecost Sunday. That's the reason why we keep hearing in our Sunday Masses the fascinating Resurrection stories.

**In the Bible there are many stories of God walking with people who didn't recognize Him,** like the tourist who didn't recognize Karl Barth. After the Resurrection, this was very common. One of them was when two of Jesus' disciples left Jerusalem and took the road to Emmaus. It seems that they were husband and wife. They were very sad and depressed. For them the Cross had been a big failure. On their way home, a man going in the same direction joined them and their conversation, which was about Jesus of Nazareth. This man was the very own Jesus of Nazareth who explained everything that was supposed to happen to the Messiah. Because it was very



late, they invited Jesus to stay with them. And Jesus stayed with them. And the story continues saying that «Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing, then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were open and they recognized Him». (Lk.24: 13-35).

One thing that touches me the most is to see that the two disciples of Emmaus only recognized Jesus when the bread was broken.

**We are surrounded by many poor.** There are poor who never have a decent meal, others who are desperate because they have no money to buy medicine, to pay their rents, their electricity, their water. I know people who live permanently anxious for what they are going to feed their children tomorrow. A lady approached me one day and said: «Father, help me to find a job. No matter what kind of job. In the last three days the only thing I am giving to my children is boiled guava leaves».



**That's why I feel so happy to worship with the community of Penha de França** where every Sunday the members of the community «break the bread» with the poorest of the poor by donating part of their «bread». I feel so happy where there is a Skip and Jane House who left the comfort of their homes to go to the Dominican Republic to help those who live in misery. I would like to invite Skip and Jane to give their testimony during one of our Sunday Masses.

Love and Peace,  
 Fr. Bernardino Andrade

23/04/2023



Skip and Jane House in the Dominican Republic



**CRIES OF THE POOR – A heart of Gold**

**Dear members of the Penha de França Community (and visitors to our Chapel),**

I am Alexandre, 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 some of the stories of the families you are helping to take care of. So, every week or so, I will talk shortly about a different family, and this week, we will talk about Mr. J.



Mr. J is a single man without children. He has a disfiguring health issue and he also had a stroke (although not severe, still a very disabling one). I can't think of any way that he could find a job that keeps him afloat, and yet, the government won't allow him a disability status. He recently lost his home, and we helped him find a 330€/month one room place. The cheapest we could find... Unfortunately, since the landlord doesn't declare the rental, he is unable to request support for the rent anywhere. He spent some desperate times asking for a place in several government institutions, and they all replied the same thing, “get in line and wait”. I know of a person that waited. It took 17 years for them to get her a home.

He had a small canoe that he used for fishing, and would sell to restaurants, but he lost that in the 20/02/2010 floods. He still goes fishing sometimes, catching fish, crabs or limpets on the shore to make some extra cash, but it's much harder to catch restaurant quality fish without a boat. If you meet him, you will find he is one of the sweetest people you have ever met. He is very emotional, laughs and cries and will share everything he has with you, including the clothes on his back. He told us how when he was a child, when he walked back home from school, his eyes would be looking for the chimney of his house. If there was smoke, they would have dinner, if not, well I think you can guess what happened then.



Mr. J (José Manuel) receiving a hamper from Debbie de Jesus

And still, it's remarkable the willingness he has to share his things, and trust people around him. He is truly a kind soul. Your donations at the end of Mass make it possible for us to help him, and families like his.

Thank you for your care, and I'll “see” you again soon!

Alexandre Silva (alexlupus@gmail.com)



PS. José Manuel is now the gardener at the Chapel of Penha where he takes great pride in caring for all the flowers and plants. Two days ago (on Friday 2<sup>1st</sup> April) it was his 64<sup>th</sup> birthday! He has been looking forward to be able to get a blessing for his birthday at Mass today!

**EASTER IS NOT A DAY BUT A SEASON**

**CONFESSIONS**

If any of you would like to go to Confession during this Easter time and experience God's Mercy, please approach the priest who says the English Mass or talk to Manny and he will be very happy to help you to contact the priest.

