

## 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

**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.

## JOYFUL GIFT

2nd of July 2023

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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/>

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

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

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



### CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM SERVICE IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. Father Bernardino Andrade is our priest who celebrates this *Catholic Mass in English* every Sunday morning here at the Chapel at 10h00. Masses in Portuguese are celebrated on Saturdays at 18h30 and Sundays at 11h30.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

(2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16; Psalm 88(89): 2-3, 16-19; Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10: 37-42)

Today we hear only the beginning of this story from the **Second Book of the Kings**. Recognising this frequent passer-by as a holy man, the Shunammite woman hospitably offers him a place to stay each time he passes. Elisha promises she will have a child. Some years later the child became ill and died, and the woman urgently travels the twenty miles to Carmel, confident that Elisha will heal her son, and Elisha brings her son back to life. The long **Psalm**, written during or after the exile, reminds God of his promise to David of an everlasting dynasty, and expresses confidence that God keeps his promises. Paul's meditation on redemption leads him to ask "Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound?" No, he says, God's grace is not prompted by sin but is the expression of God's love. "We were buried with Christ through baptism into death". After our ritual death in baptism, we must unite ourselves with Christ to share in his bodily resurrection. In **Matthew's gospel** Jesus concludes his teachings on the requirements and rewards of discipleship. Disciples must accept the trials that it entails, burying ourselves completely in Christ. But acts of charity and hospitality will be rewarded, just as the Shunammite woman found.

### PSALM RESPONSE: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

[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)



### HYMN NUMBERS:

**Entry Hymn:** "I, the Lord of sea and sky" – n. 247

**Offertory Hymn:** "Take my life and let it be..." - n. 527

**Peace:** "Shalom..." - n. 495

**Communion Hymn:** - "We come to share our story..." - n. 607

**Thanksgiving:** - "Hail, Mary, full of grace..." - n. 203

**Final Hymn:** "Lord the light of your life..." - n. 344

**TWO WASHING MACHINES**

**1.- WASHING MACHINE NUMBER ONE:**

I don't remember the day, not even the year. I was in my office at St. Anthony's Parish in California, when I received a telephone call. It was from an elderly Mexican lady. She was very poor. She had already heard about washing machines and she would love to have one but her family could not afford to buy it. She asked me that if I could find a second-hand washing machine, to please remember her. I said that I was going to try to do my best. I wrote down her telephone number and her address.



About one hour later an American man called me saying that he had a washing machine in good condition that he would like to donate to somebody in need. He added that I didn't need to do anything. I just needed to give him the telephone number and the address, and he would be happy to take the machine to wherever it was needed. I gave him the lady's telephone number and her address. I didn't know them, and I didn't talk with them after that.



I stopped, and started thinking of how many things were stored in many houses, just occupying space, that could be used by people in need. After that event and that reflection, «People Helping People» was born in my parish in California. It never crossed my mind to start a new Association. The only thing that crossed my mind was to «mobilize many people to help many people». It worked. Many things were donated to many people in need with no questions asked. Many things were sent overseas including money for medication and to build houses even in Madeira.

When I came to Madeira, that dream never left me anymore. The storm of February 20<sup>th</sup> of 2010, which killed many people and destroyed part of the Island, was just an excuse to start *People Helping People* in the Chapel of Penha de França, which has performed many miracles among the poorest of the poor of this Island. Tourists and residents attending Mass at Penha de França have heard the call and have learned how to transform prayer into service.



**2. WASHING MACHINE NUMBER TWO**

Most recently, another washing machine was broken. Helen (not her true name) called me for help. She needed a washing machine. We had no possibilities to buy one. Alexandre, President of *People Helping People*, suggested that we announce something during Mass and put it in the newsletter. So we did. At that time, our Sinead Moynihans, was in England taking care of her business. I believe she and her husband found out that this family of four people was in need of a washing machine. It was a joyful surprise when I received the following email from Sinead: «I have found someone that is selling a washing machine. I will buy it. Please tell me where to deliver».

Alexandre, replied to Sinead: «It's incredible how fast you offered a solution to this issue. I can assure you that this family is incredibly thankful for your help.

*They have two children and Helen is seven months pregnant, so as you can imagine, they have a lot of clothes to keep up. Thank you again, not only for this, but also for all the help you have been providing to PHP and consequently, all the families we have been helping. Thank you! ».* (Alexandre)

Love and Peace  
 Fr. Bernardino



Helen, her husband, and their "new" washing machine.



**DID YOU KNOW THAT PRIESTS GO ON RETREAT ONCE A YEAR?**



Many Catholics are not aware that Priests go on a spiritual retreat once a year. There are 3 opportunities during the year for priests to take part in a retreat: March, July and in September. This week, starting tomorrow, the second group of priests start their annual retreat. It will be from Monday through Friday. They will gather in a retreat house for prayer, reflection and rest.



What happens during a Retreat? A spiritual director is invited (usually from mainland Portugal) to lead the priests on retreat, which normally lasts 5 days. A theme is chosen, and there is also time for prayer, for reflection, and for confession. The retreat is a time where priests are able to make time for themselves, and afterwards to go back to their churches, feeling recharged.

They gather to pray but also need and ask for our prayers. As a Christian Community we are invited to pray for them especially in these moments when they are making special efforts to become better priests and better shepherds.



**LADYBUGS... A SIGN OF OUR LADY?**



Source: <https://www.churchpop.com/lady-bugs-as-a-sign-of-our-lady/>

**Have you heard the enduring story about how the ladybug earned its name?**

The story goes that in Europe during the Middle Ages, swarms of pesky insects (probably aphids) destroyed crops and threatened faithful farming communities with starvation. In desperation, the farmers, who had a devotion to the Blessed Mother, turned to the Virgin Mary for help!

Soon after, a cloud of black-spotted, red-orange insects came and devoured the plant-destroying pests, saving the crops! The farmers considered this an answer to their prayers and a sign of Our Lady's intercession. They began referring to these life-saving, beautiful insects as "Our Lady's Bugs." Variations of this name, including "The Beetles of Our Lady" and "Lady Beetles" came about. In Germany, the term "Marienkäfer" means "Marybeetle." The bug's red-orange wings represent the mantle of the Blessed Virgin Mary, while the black spots symbolize her joys and sorrows.



*Wherever God has put you,  
 that is your vocation.  
 St. Teresa of Calcutta*

