

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

16th of July 2023

15th 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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: 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 – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

(Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 64(65); Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23)

Second **Isaiah**, writing around 550 BC, concludes his "Book of Comfort" to the Jewish exiles in Babylon with an invitation to a joyful banquet. After renewing His covenant of peace, God has reminded Israel that "my thoughts are not your thoughts": God's words come down gently to bring forth divine fruits, like the rain which enables the earth to yield its fruits. The **Psalm** gives God praise and thanks for his power over all the earth and the rains which produce abundant crops. Paul continues this theme of God's plan slowly moving towards its climax: creation is unable to attain its purpose without help, and it was made this way by God. Paul gives us a brilliantly clear vision of God's plan: with the coming of Christ creation is now groaning in the birth pangs of being set free. It is worth listening carefully to **Matthew's** explanation of the parable of the sower. And especially to Jesus' very difficult statements that he talks to the crowds in parables because "they listen without hearing or understanding". He says "They have shut their eyes, for fear they should see, ... and be converted". The coming of Jesus brings both judgement and mercy. But some will not receive God's words, unless their minds are open and cease making their own image of God.

PSALM RESPONSE: Some seed fell into rich soil, and produced its crop.

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



HYMN NUMBERS:

Entry Hymn: "How lovely on the mountains..." - n. 235

Offertory Hymn: "Let us break bread together..." - n. 318

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

Communion Hymn: - "Sweet sacrament divine..." - n. 522

Thanksgiving: - "As I kneel before you..." - n. 39

Final Hymn: "We shall go out with hope of resurrection..." - n. 615

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.

I HAVE A DREAM

I was still an adolescent when I dreamed about being a missionary in Africa and dedicating my life to the poor. That dream accompanied all my life and marked my destiny. In the Bible we can find many people, especially leaders, who lived according to their dreams, which made a big difference in lives of many people and even nations. I would like to share part of the text that Fr. Tony Kadavil published recently:

29) **"I have a dream."** Jacob's dream is a revelation of his destiny. It gives us a glimpse of what lies ahead for him. In the same way, the people of our times are also gifted with "dreams".

Martin Luther's "dream" has a social-mystical quality that is deeply inspiring and transforming. The following is an excerpt from the speech, "I Have a Dream", given by civil rights worker, Martin Luther King on August 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.



.....
Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends. And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of the creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.



*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.
I have a **dream** today!*

*I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification" – one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a **dream** today!*



*I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together".
This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.*

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. (Lectio Divina).

.....
Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade 16/07/2023

BLESSED PRIEST'S RETREAT

Every year in Madeira, our priests go on a retreat together where they spend time in prayer and reflection.

The retreat is a time where priests are able to make time for themselves, and afterwards to go back to their churches, feeling recharged. A group of priests recently completed their retreat between the 3rd and 7th of July 2023, at the retreat house in *Terreiro da Luta*.

We share with you a photograph taken by Duarte Nunes of "Jornal da Madeira".



PRAYERS FOR AN IMPENDING SURGERY



A few weeks ago, I received via WhatsApp, a short speech from a Neurosurgeon with a powerful Gospel message. He said that they don't discuss anymore the effects of prayers on the sick. They have made many experiments with prayers for the Sick, or for the sick people who are in a coma and are not aware that people are praying for them, and other experiences and the

results have been astonishing. The only thing they discuss is that it works and the scientists don't know how to explain. **The Neurosurgeon who operated on my back** last year, told me that every time he performs a surgery, he always consecrates his hands to Our Lady, the Mother of Jesus. With this in mind I am asking you a favour. At any minute I am waiting for a telephone call from the Hospital telling me to show up for my impending surgery. I am going to ask you all for a special favour. Please pray for my health and for Dr. Ferdinando Pereira who is taking care of me and will operate on me. I am anxious for the day when I will receive that decisive phone call.

With deep gratitude,

Love & Peace, *Fr. Bernardino Andrade*

