

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

30th of July 2023

17th 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/>

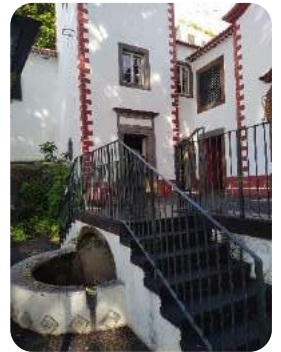
Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

Welcome

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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 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

(1 Kgs 3:5,7-12; Ps 118(119); Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52)

After David's death his son, Solomon, became king. Until Solomon built the Temple, sacrificing to God in high places was acceptable. It was during one such sacrifice that God appeared in a dream asking Solomon what he most wanted. In humility Solomon asked for a discerning judgement, rightly earning God's praise. **The Psalm** praises God's law as the supreme rule for life because it is designed to help us become who we are meant to be. Paul continues describing life in the Spirit to the **Romans**. Christians should try to reproduce in themselves images of Christ by progressively sharing in his risen life. God prepares those called to do his work and cooperates with them. Each individual is called for some task in God's plan for salvation. Those who love him will share in his glory. This includes not only Christians and others of goodwill, but also the Jews, "the ones he chose specially long ago".

Matthew's Gospel compares the Kingdom of Heaven to the greatest treasure found either accidentally or after a search, and then compares the Kingdom to a dragnet: the good fish will be kept and those of no use will be thrown in the furnace. There is a surprise ending: not all old treasures should be thrown away, some should be kept – like Israel's Scriptures, our Old Testament.

PSALM RESPONSE: Lord, how I love your law!

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: "Longing for light, we wait in darkness..." - n. 329

Offertory Hymn: "Lord, accept the gifts we offer..." - n. 332

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

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

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

Final Hymn: "Jesus is Lord!..." - n. 281

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.



BETTER THAN A JEWEL

(Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

A monk on his travels once found a precious stone and kept it. One day he met a traveller, and when he opened his bag to share his provisions with him, the traveller saw the jewel and asked the monk if he could have it. The monk obliged readily.

The traveller then departed overjoyed with the unexpected gift of that precious stone. That jewel was going to be enough to assure him wealth and a sense of security for the rest of his life. However, a few days later, he came back in search of the monk, found him and gave him back the stone, saying: "Now, give me something much more precious than this stone, valuable as it is. Give me that which enabled you to give it to me." (Barbara Thiel)



Things like this always intrigue me. I met a beautiful girl in Canada called Maria. She had a wonderful boyfriend, a top of the game car, a heart full of beautiful dreams, a good job and a good salary. One day a very good friend of mine who was a saintly priest invited her to go to Brazil and start an institution for abandoned children. Those children who had no family, no school, who would sleep in the streets fighting with cats and dogs for the food found in the trash cans. Those children who were shot by the police to "clean" the streets for the tourists. She has been there for over 40 years. She looks like the happiest woman in the world.

I know so many of you young people who have committed their lives to God by helping the poor. And like the begger and the monk, I stop, kneel and pray: "Lord, give me that which enables them to do that."

Love and Peace, Fr. Bernardino Andrade



WORLD YOUTH DAY



On Wednesday 26th July, the Sé Cathedral in Funchal was filled to the door with young people attending the 5:30pm Mass.

Over 600 youth from ten different countries (Canada, Argentina, Austria, Spain, Poland etc.) are in Madeira at the moment as part of the "Days of the Diocese" leading up to World Youth Day celebrations which will take part in Lisbon, Portugal, from 1st - 6th August. Today at 6pm in the Santa Catarina Park in Funchal, Bishop Nuno will celebrate the Sending Mass with over 800 youth from Madeira.



All are welcome to attend the Mass in the park.

CAN YOU HELP? - Special request for an elderly lady

This week Fr. Bernardino received a special request to help an elderly lady who is in much need. If anyone knows of, or can help with getting one of those chairs that can be used as a "toilet", please contact Fr. Bernardino on 916 192 783, or by email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com



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" (PHP) 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.

This week I have a very special request for all of you.

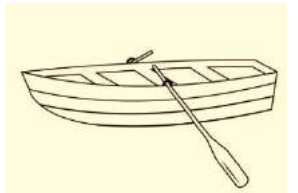
We are always seeking ways to get our families out of poverty. Most times, they are in a very complex position where many different aspects need to be dealt with in order for them to be truly "liberated" from poverty. But sometimes, we have a real shot to make that happen.



Some time ago, I wrote about Mr. J. and his kind soul. He used to catch fish to sell to restaurants. It was not a comfortable income, but it was enough for his spartan living. And it was plenty for him because he really is a man in love with the sea. He is a fisherman at heart. I went fishing with him a few years ago. We went to Ribeira Brava and it was clear how happy he was, just being there, fishing for hours.

He lost his canoe in the 2010 storm, and never had a chance to purchase another one.

All this to say, that we found a nice, used canoe! I asked him to check it out last Saturday (22/07), he confirmed that it has everything legally needed, a small working engine, and it even has license until 2027! It's ready to go into the sea.



It costs 2000€, and this is where we really need your help... PHP cannot divert anything into this expense. We already cannot supply the needs of the people we help, it's even more complicated for a non-extreme-survival-need expense... And it's much more money than we can handle anyway... At this moment, PHP has 0.85€ in its bank account. All your donations are usually used immediately. That is why I cannot ask you to switch from giving to the PHP families, to giving to this specific project.

So what I'm asking is, if you can help this "extra" cause, please help us get this man a minimum actual proper living. It's the proverbial "give a man a fish" saying, but this time we can solve it with a canoe. You can donate directly into the PHP bank account, but add a comment to the transfer, mentioning anything from "To Mr. J" to simply "boat". If you donate through Mrs. Sinead, just ask her to add that information into the transfer.

These donations will remain as a separate fund, exclusively for the purchase of the canoe, and as soon as we reach the 2000€ we will let you know! If we get any amount over the objective, we will use it for Mr. J. to purchase fishing equipment appropriate for fishing on the canoe.

We have it reserved until the 5th of August, and of course, I'm not sure how long they will hold the reserve after that.

If you would like to know more about Mr. J., please check the newsletter from 23rd of April 2023.

Thank you for your care, and I'll "see" you again soon! 30/07/2023 - Alexandre Silva (alexlupus@gmail.com)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7