

## 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

13<sup>th</sup> of August 2023

19<sup>th</sup> 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/>

**f** [www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

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

**envelope icon** [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 11 h30.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info))

(1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Psalm 84(85); Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33)

**The books of Kings**, Joshua, Judges and Samuel tell the story of Israel from entering the Promised Land until frequent unfaithfulness leads to exile. After Elijah successfully called on God to produce rain, and killed all the failed prophets of Baal, he fled from Jezebel's threat of revenge to Mount Horeb, ie Sinai. After Elijah recognises God in "a light murmuring sound" – "a sound of fine silence", God promises a remnant of faithful Israelites will survive, and gives Elijah more tasks. **In the psalm** a prophet, after the return from exile, first listens to hear what the Lord has to say, and then reports the joyful future happiness revealed to him. Paul shows the Romans just how great is his agony that most of the Chosen People have failed to recognise God in Jesus: he would be willing to give up even his own hope of salvation "if it could help my brothers of Israel". **Matthew** describes a small group who do recognise Jesus, and are willing to step out into the unknown to be with him. Jesus encourages them: they have "little faith", but it is enough for them to believe that he is "Son of God". (Matthew teaches what the disciples understood after the Resurrection, although Mark says "they did not understand".)

### PSALM RESPONSE: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

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:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1- Entry Hymn: – n. 302 | 6- Peace: -n. 495        |
| 2- Gloria: - n. 669     | 7- Communion: -n. 32     |
| 3- Alleluia: - n. 502   | 8- Thanksgiving: -n. 364 |
| 4- Offertory: - n. 528  | 9- Final: - n. 561       |
| 5- Amen: - n.727        |                          |



### My Life Has Been a Disaster

Michelle (not her real name) was 24 years old. She was beautiful and looked younger but with profound marks of suffering on her face and in her smile.

Michelle came to my office because she wanted to baptize her four small children. She was not married, and her four children were from four different fathers. It happened that Michelle was not even baptized.

My understanding about the Sacraments is that they are always a starting point or 'food for the road' and not a 'reward' for the 'good people who are behaving well.' That's why people like Michelle are my favourites. I know that they are the favourites of God not because they are better but because they are the lost, the last and the least. And these are the people who need help the most.

I extended her a 'red carpet' and spent some time talking about Baptism but mainly about her life. At a certain point I wanted her to be reassured that I was going to baptize her babies, but gently I asked, "Michelle... it is going to be a privilege for me to baptize your babies. But I am very curious to know why you want to baptize your babies when you have been so far away from Church and you are not even baptized."

She squeezed and kissed the little one she had on her knees, her eyes became teary and then she answered, "Father...! I was raised without God or without any spiritual or family values. My life has been a disaster. I don't want the same thing to happen to my adorable children."

On that evening I learned two important things:

- I. **Hospitality** is the eighth Sacrament or... maybe the only Sacrament of the Church. People will join the church and find life not through our policies, our regulations, laws or how 'right' we are but through the way we welcome them and touch them.
- II. Life without principles is a disaster.

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



### PRAYERS FOR AN IMPENDING SURGERY

Last month Fr Bernardino asked for our prayers for his health and his Dr whom will be operating him:

« [...] 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 »

Fr Bernardino's doctor called to confirm the date of his surgery for 17th August, please can we all pray for God to guide the hands of the doctor and nurses who will be doing his operation. 🙏

### ASSUMPTION OF MARY MASS



This Tuesday, **15th of August**, the Church celebrates the ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, a holy day of obligation (like on Sunday).

There will be Mass in English here at our Chapel at 10:00 AM.

### WAS THERE A MIRACLE IN FATIMA DURING POPE'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL?

"I opened my eyes and I could see perfectly," says Jimena, the 16 year old Spanish girl.

Jimena has lost most of her vision over the last two and a half years, she explained to the Spanish COPE radio station, and had traveled to World Youth Day from Madrid with a group from Opus Dei, with her family and friends, whom had organized a novena to ask Our Lady of the Snows for the gift of her healing. The last day was precisely the 5th of August, the feast day, but she says that she woke up that morning the same as the last many months, "with everything very blurry, seeing almost nothing."

Anxious for relief from this suffering, and considering that it was the last day of the novena, the feast of Our Lady of the Snows, Jimena was in tears after Communion. But then, she said, "I opened my eyes, and I could see perfectly. I saw the altar, the tabernacle, my friends were there and I could see them perfectly." In fact, she could even read the prayer for the novena. "The Virgin has given me a huge gift that I'll never forget," Jimena affirms.



Cardinal Juan José Omella, president of the Spanish bishops' conference, spoke about the possible healing at a press conference concluding the WYD, the cardinal referred to it as a "grace of God," and noted how Jimena had been working to learn braille since her eye sight had failed her. Jimena had told him of her prayer, and she was now able to read a prayer at Mass with a group from Madrid. The cardinal reflected that later, doctors could evaluate the situation, but at the moment, for Jimena, this has been "an incredible event." "Let us say, a miracle. She didn't see, and now she sees. Afterward, the doctors can speak to the rest, but she's going back home able to see. Blessed be God."

For more information on World Youth Day, see the official website: <https://www.lisboa2023.org/en>

### WHAT DOES THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY MEAN?



According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Assumption refers to an event that occurred at the end of the Virgin Mary's life, an ancient celebration done on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August, is one that honors the Virgin Mary and her role in salvation history and the eternal destination prepared for her by her Son, Jesus.



### 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

This morning a lovely couple, **Steven and Glynis Pratchett**, whom are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary will be renewing their vows.



They usually attend our most precious chapel, Our Lady of Penha de França, when they are here on holiday in Madeira.