

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.

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org

JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, nr. 383

8th of October 2023

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

10h00 Sunday Mass

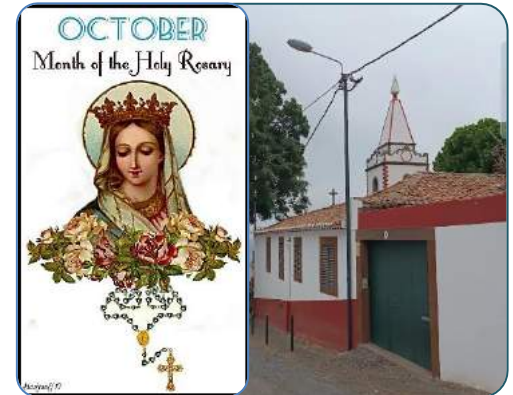
Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

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, and welcome! The Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. The English 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 on the island of Madeira.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A (Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 79(80); Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43)

First **Isaiah** was writing before 700 BC, when Assyria threatened and eventually overwhelmed Israel, the northern kingdom. Isaiah insists that only being faithful to God will protect the nation from disaster. The unproductive vineyard is the house of Israel, where, in spite of the care lavished on it by the Lord, there is bloodshed and injustice. **The Psalm** beseeches the Lord to protect his vine, Israel. Transplanted from Egypt, it has been severely damaged, but Israel promises not to forsake the Lord again. In his affectionate farewell to the **Philippians**, Paul urges them to "rejoice in the Lord always", not anxious, but thinking about all that is good, letting the Lord know all their needs. They should imitate Paul in the way he relies on the Lord. Then God's grace will bring them peace. Our God is the God of peace. He not seeking to catch us out, but longs for us to accept the peace he offers and to rely on him totally. This parable in **Matthew's Gospel** about a vineyard owner follows immediately after last week's story of the two sons. Matthew has brought Isaiah's tale up to date with the murder of the prophets and even the Lord's son. As with Isaiah's prophecy, Israel would again be devastated, in AD70.

PSALM RESPONSE: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

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

TODAY'S HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "This day God gives me strength ..." - 571
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Sing hallelujah to the Lord..." - 502
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Lord, accept the gifts we offer..." - 332
- [4] **Amen:** "Honour and glory, amen!..." - 727
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "Jesus Christ is waiting..." - 280
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "Father, we love you..." - 137
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Mary most holy, from your hands falling..." - 364





CIGARETTES FOR MY FIRST COMMUNION

It was October 8th 1950. I remember very little about this day. However, what I do remember very well is that, after church, my mother took me by my hand to a little store and bought me a few packs of cigarettes. That was the only gift I remember receiving on the day of my First Communion. Then she made me walk with her to the

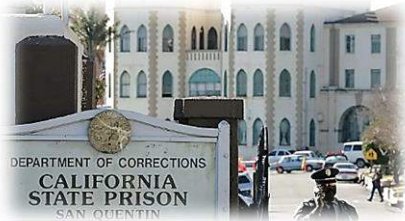
local prison. The prisoners were separated from the street only by the prison bars.

Being there, my mother asked me to give two cigarettes to each prisoner. They made two lines as if they had rehearsed to receive communion in church. They were all considered tough criminals. I was 12 years old. And there I was giving two cigarettes to each man who approached me, and they all did. One week later, October 15, I entered the Seminary.



One of the highest points of my life as a priest was prison ministry. One of my first Masses in Africa and in my home parish was in jail. I used to spend all Christmas nights in prison saying Mass for the prisoners, eating, singing and dancing all night long with them. This is the way I started my priestly ministry. I miss them a lot, especially our Sunday Masses.

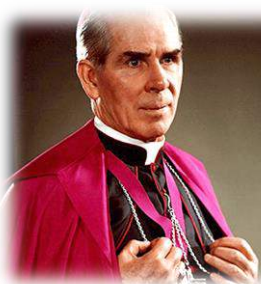
One day I said the Holy Mass in one of the prisons of San Francisco. At a certain point, Archbishop Fulton Sheen said to the prisoners: "Do you want to know the difference between you and me? The difference between you and me is that you have been caught and I wasn't". I agreed.



One of the most touching moments of my prison ministry was to congregate with many other people at the gates of St. Quentin Prison and spend time praying, singing and hearing speeches while we waited for the last decision to execute, or not, the death sentence. Unfortunately, a little after midnight we heard a man announcing: "The dirty job has been done".

Now I have to correct something. I said that cigarettes have been the only gift I received for my First Communion. Actually, with the cigarettes my mother gave me one of the best and everlasting gifts I have ever received in my entire life – MY LOVE FOR THE UNLOVABLE.

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



"Because kindness is related to love, it follows that the kind person loves another not for the pleasure the other person gives, not because the other person can do us a kindness in return, but because the other person is lovable in himself. The basic reason why everyone is lovable is because God made him."

- Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen



"The Miracle of the Sun" is a miraculous event which occurred on the 13th of October 1917 in the *Cova da Iria* fields near Fátima, Portugal.

It was witnessed by as many as 100,000 people who had gathered to observe what the three shepherd children: Lúcia, Jacinta, and Francisco, had predicted was going to happen at 12 noon. The children had said that Our Lady, who had appeared to them several times, had promised them that she would perform a great miracle "so that all may believe". The miracle of the sun was also seen by several witnesses up to twenty-five miles away from the apparition site. The Portugal news and other newspapers at that time reported the miraculous event.

Read more about this miracle here:

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/sixth-apparition-of-our-lady-23368>



The Memorare is a 16th century version of a 15th century Latin prayer that began: "Ad sanctitatis tuae pedes, dulcissima Virgo Maria..." At the feet of your Holiness, O most sweet Virgin Mary... The author of *The Memorare* is unknown, but it is traditionally attributed to St. Bernard. A French priest, Fr. Claude Bernard (1588-1641), credited reciting *The Memorare* with curing him of a serious illness. He had 20,000 copies of the prayer printed and distributed in many languages during his lifetime.

FROM OURCATHOLICPRAYERS.COM & CCCB'S BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR HOME AND FAMILY

Remember, most loving Virgin Mary, never was it heard that anyone who turned to you for help was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, though burdened by my sins, I run to your protection for you are my mother. Mother of the Word of God, do not despise my words of pleading but be merciful and hear my prayer. *Amen.*



This prayer that reminds us that we have a wonderful advocate and protector in the mother of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary. It invites us to ask the Blessed Mother for her assistance and her grace, especially when we feel most troubled in our daily lives.

FROM OURCATHOLICPRAYERS.COM

