

## 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

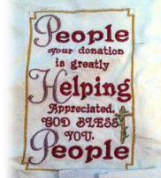
**BRANCH:** Univ. of Cambridge

**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

12th of November 2023

32nd 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](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

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

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



### CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM - (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Our Mass today will be celebrated by Father Thomas Muzhuthett who is originally from Kerala, India.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

(Wisdom 6:12-16; Psalm 62(63):2-8 r.2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13)

**The Book of Wisdom** was written in Greek, probably in Alexandria during the century before Christ. It seeks to strengthen faith by recalling the ways in which God rewards his people. But our just God also punishes individuals who act unjustly. We must learn wisdom to live justly in accord with God's justice, and so imitate and be drawn into the life of God. **The Psalm** expresses our homesickness for God's sanctuary, our true home, confident that God will help us overcome all our enemies. Good advice: when our minds are empty, as at night – fill them with thoughts of God.

The parousia, when Christ will return – or be revealed in glory – was expected almost daily by the early Christians. But some believers had already died, so Paul reassures the **Thessalonians** that they will not "miss out" – they will join everyone else in the resurrection of the dead. Two thousand years later we may now see the parousia at the end of time being anticipated by Jesus revealed to us in every Mass.

**Matthew's gospel** links the two readings together: we must live justly every moment of our lives so that we may be ready when the Lord calls us to him. We cannot rely on a last chance to repent.

### PSALM RESPONSE: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

[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)

### TODAY'S HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Amazing grace! ..." - 32
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Alleluia..." - 679
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "I am the bread of life..." - 237
- [4] **Amen:** "Amen, amen..." - 726
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "He is Lord, he is Lord..." - 215
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "Abide with me, fast falls the eventide..." - 6
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Alleluia, sing to Jesus..." - 29



**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 Fr Bernardino ([bernardinodandrade@gmail.com](mailto:bernardinodandrade@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.



**ONE HUNDRED YELLOW RIBBONS**

There once was a man who spent a long time in jail. I don't know how long, but two things seem to be part of the story in a song sung by Tony Orlando. The time spent in jail was very long and his wife was a victim and part of the story.

There were years and years of loneliness.

One day he was surprised by a letter informing him that he had been released from prison and was going home. But inside of him there was a big inner struggle. He didn't know if his wife was going to welcome him after being released from prison. It seems that she had



been a victim of his crime and he would understand if she rejected him after all these years away from home.

The trip between the prison and his home would be long. He embarked on a trip that was not going to be easy, nor short. Before taking the bus to make this long trip, he asked her in a letter, to welcome him, but he would understand if she refused. Then he decided to take courage and told her that he was going to take the bus, with the hope that she would welcome him.

The bus was approaching and his anxiety was growing. Finally, he lost his courage to face that moment by himself. He decided to ask the bus driver and the passengers a special favour: «I will close my eyes before the bus arrives. When the bus arrives if you find a yellow ribbon hanging on the old oak tree, please inform me and stop the bus. I am home. If arriving at the bus stop and you don't see a yellow ribbon please keep going. I will continue my travels».

In his struggle between stopping at the bus stop, and going home, he decided to offer his wife two choices. The first choice was: «If you are willing to welcome me at home, please hang a yellow ribbon in the old oak tree. If arriving at the bus stop, I see a yellow ribbon I will stop, go home and we will be very happy. If arriving at the bus stop, I don't see the yellow ribbon hanging from the old oak tree, I will not blame you. I will keep going and I will desire for you a very happy life. Remember. I will never blame you.»

The bus was approaching and his anxiety was growing.

Finally, he lost his courage to face that moment by himself. He decided to ask the bus driver and the passengers a special favour: «I will close my eyes before the bus arrives. When the bus arrives if you find a yellow ribbon hanging on the old oak tree, please inform me and stop the bus. I am home. If arriving at the bus stop and you don't see a yellow ribbon please keep going. I will continue my travels».

At a certain moment, when the former prisoner arrived at the old oak tree, the bus stopped, and the entire group of passengers interrupted with a round of applause.

Nobody saw «one» yellow ribbon. All of them saw ONE HUNDRED YELLOW RIBBONS HANGING FROM THE OLD OAK TREE.



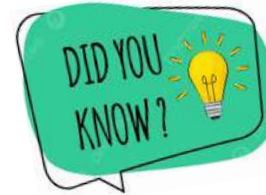
«To forgive is to return to others the right to be happy».

Fr. Bernardino Andrade  
2023-11-12



**LET US REMEMBER THEM**

The First World War was meant to be, “the war to end all wars” – it never did. As many different nationalities come together here for Mass this morning in beautiful Madeira, let us remember all who have lost their lives and those who suffer, in war and conflict, across the world.



**STATUE OF OUR LADY UNDERWATER?**

Source: [www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story.php?id=74173](http://www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story.php?id=74173)

Did you know? ... Off the coast of the Bohol province in the Philippines, is a 14-foot statue of the Virgin Mary, situated underwater.



To visit the statue requires scuba gear. Divers visit the statue regularly to honour Our Lady. The beautiful statue was placed on the reef by local officials to help discourage illegal fishing techniques that use dynamite. The locals have used dynamite, which destroys the reef and kills sea life indiscriminately.

Fishermen harvest only the fish they want, and leave the rest to decay. This practice is traditional, but it is also destructive. Since the statue was placed, the dynamite fishing has stopped. This is because the fishermen know that the statue is down there, and so they won't use dynamite. The placing of the statue of Our Lady has helped to protect the reef, providing sanctuary for all life there.



**CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE – For the needy**



We are collecting items for personal hygiene (body wash, soaps, lotions, shampoo, bath sponges, toothpaste, etc.), and also dried and tinned goods (tins of fruit, beans, rice, pasta, sardines, tuna, cooking oil, jam, etc.) and sweets for the children.



These will be distributed this Christmas amongst families who need our help. Please bring in what you can spare and place in the basket at the entrance of the church.

Many thanks to all who have donated so far. You will be helping to make someone's Christmas a lot brighter this year!

Any queries please contact Debbie de Jesus at: [deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk)