

## 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 Fr Bernardino (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.

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

## JOYFUL GIFT

14th of January 2024

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

10h00 Sunday Mass

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

Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

[www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

[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. Father Thomas Muzhuthett will be celebrating Mass for us this morning. This 10am Mass is the only one on the Island of Madeira that is celebrated entirely in English. There are also masses celebrated in Portuguese here at the Chapel: on Saturday evenings at 18h30, and on Sunday mornings at 11h30.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

(1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19; Psalm 39(40); 1 Cor 6: 13-15, 17-20; John 1: 35-41)

In the first Book of **Samuel**, Hannah, the devout but barren wife of Elkanah, prayed for a child in the temple at Shiloh. She promised if she had a son, she would give him to the Lord as a Nazirite. Her prayers were answered, and Hannah gave Samuel up into Eli's care in the temple. Luke's story of the birth of John the Baptist recalls the miraculous birth of Samuel, and Hannah's song of thanks is echoed by Mary's Magnificat. In our first reading Eli realises it is Samuel who is to succeed him as prophet to bring the word of the Lord to the people.

**The Psalm** expresses gratitude to the Lord for saving us, recognising that obedience is better than ritual sacrifice – as later seen in the supreme example of Jesus' obedience.

Paul devotes several parts of his letter to the **Corinthians** to sexual immorality, which some Corinthians did not see as sins, but Paul sees as sinning against your own body.

In **John's Gospel**, the Baptist prophetically points Jesus out to his own disciples as the "Lamb of God", so they follow him instead. Like the rest of Jesus' disciples, they come to Jesus through the testimony of others, responding to the invitation to "Come and see".

### PSALM RESPONSE: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

[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:** "All things bright and beautiful..." - 24
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Sing hallelujah to the Lord!..." - 502
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Gifts of bread and wine..." - 159
- [4] **Amen:** "Honour and glory, amen!..." - 727
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "Abba, Father, send your Spirit..." - 5
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "Ave, Maria, gratia plena..." - 39
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "O Lord, all the world belongs to you..." - 416



## FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART



As many of you may already know, two Sunday's ago (on the 31st December 2023), Father Bernardino arrived at the Chapel as a surprise, to celebrate Mass together with Father Thomas and Deacon Tito, and our community that he loves. On his way to Mass that morning, he had fallen, but as he was feeling ok, he decided to continue on to the Chapel and celebrate Mass as he had planned. It was a blessed morning. Unfortunately, since then, Father Bernardino had a stroke which may have been brought on by his fall, and he is now hospitalized, and in a coma. Please keep him in your prayers. 🙏🙏🙏

\* \* \* \* \*

His nephew, Alexandre, has kindly written an update, which we share below:



Fr. Bernardino at Mass with Fr. Thomas and Deacon Tito (31/12/2023)

### Hello to everyone in the Penha de França Chapel community and beyond.

I wish I had better news, but as I write this, Fr. Bernardino is still in a coma. Last Monday they stopped the inducing coma medications, but he has yet to show any sign of awakening in any meaningful way. That makes the specialists believe that the brain damage was extensive, and that makes the probability of him waking up without severe sequelae very dim. I may be wrong. I wish I am wrong. I hope I am wrong. It has been difficult times for me and my family. Fr. Bernardino lives with my mother, his niece. Right on the day after his stroke, I found out that most of us felt guilt over what happened to him. Especially the ones closest to him. I wasn't surprised, I felt it too. If I had taken him to Mass that morning, this wouldn't have happened. If he didn't go, this wouldn't have happened. If I forced him to go to the hospital, this wouldn't have happened. If I just spent more time with him, this wouldn't have happened. But somehow, just knowing my guilt was shared by others, made it more bearable, and that helped me remember that there are things way beyond my control, that in hindsight, inevitably, it is easy to find a million things that could have been different. But we cannot control the past. Uncle Bernardino would be the first to tell me that when something like this happens, there is no answer I can find in the past. He would tell me that my life is a gift, and it's such a huge and important gift, that I shouldn't waste any time of that gift dragging pain, guilt, frustration or anger with me. He would advise me to release myself from that weight, and focus on the present and in what is to come. He would say that everything in my life should be guided by this simple truth: "We were put here to love".

I still hear of people feeling guilty about what happened to him. I still feel guilty over what happened to him. We shouldn't. Nor should we transform that frustration into blaming others. Things happen that no one can predict.

I know it's hard to manage our feelings, but I will do my best. I know my Uncle abhors the idea of someone feeling guilty or blaming others over something that happened to him. All we can do now is pray and hope. That's what he would do for me and you, and he would probably feel guilty about that too. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers, and I'll try to keep you updated on Fr. Bernardino's condition.

- Alexandre Silva (alex.lupus@gmail.com)

## "A MESSAGE OF THANKS" – From Deacon Tito and his wife Andrea



I wanted to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your warm welcome and kindness during my time at the Chapel of Penha de França. The sense of community within the church has been truly amazing, and it has been an honour to be a part of it over the last three months.

I must also express my appreciation for the wonderful guidance and presence of Fr. Thomas. His leadership has been invaluable in fostering a sense of belonging within the community.

On a more sombre note, I was deeply saddened to hear about Fr. Bernardino's health. Please convey my sincere prayers and thoughts to his family and the entire community. May the

strength of the community provide comfort during this challenging time.

Andrea and I look forward to returning later in the year and continuing to be a part of this incredible spiritual family.

Warm regards,  
Dcn Tito



## "SANTO AMARO" FEAST - January 11th to 15th

Source: <https://en.santacruz-madeira.com/santo-amaro>

Madeirans celebrate, in a particularly festive and ceremonial way all over the island, the religious festivity of *Santo Amaro*, which is held from January 11th to 15th.

*Santo Amaro* is when families gather to share the remaining delicacies of the festive season, take off the Christmas decorations and dismantle the *lapinhas* (nativity cribs) and "clean" the kitchen cabinets – a custom deeply rooted in the traditions of the people of Madeira.

On this day the municipality of Santa Cruz pays tribute to its patron saint in a very lively religious festivity, which marks the end of the Christmas holidays.



## Our Chapel has a candle-lighting machine!



If you are new to our Chapel, you may not know that we have a candle lighting machine where you can light a candle and say a prayer for yourself or for your loved ones. Unfortunately due to safety reasons we aren't able to have real candles burning, but generous donations received made an electronic candle machine possible! You'll find it right at the front of the Chapel, just below the statue of Our Lady of Penha de França. There is also a small prayer by the candle-lighting machine which you're welcome to read.