

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: Alexandre Silva, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com

USA: Larry Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 707-333-5501

Email: la.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 we are 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

28th of January 2024

4th 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

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning. Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. We remember Father Bernardino, our beloved priest, who sadly passed away on the 18th of January this year. He loved this Chapel and everyone who passed through these doors. We are grateful to Father Thomas Muzhuthett and Father Joseph Arun who have faithfully stood in for Father Bernardino, celebrating Mass for our community over the last year while he was unable to come to the Chapel. We thank our Lord for Father Bernardino's life and ministry. May he rest in peace and intercede for us with God. Let us pray!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

(Deut 18: 15-20; Psalm 94(95): 1-2.6-9; 1 Cor 7: 32-35; Mark 1: 21-28)

The fifth and final book of Pentateuch, **Deuteronomy** brings up to date the earlier Law books, and seeks to persuade Israel that their only salvation is to obey God's Law. Today's reading, promising that the Lord will raise up a Prophet like Moses, was seen by Jesus and his followers as pointing to Jesus. The **Psalm** invites us to worship God, who is our king and our shepherd, warning us to be more faithful than the Israelites in the desert. In last week's reading Paul emphasised to the **Corinthians** that the world is passing away and they should stop arguing among themselves. They should consider carefully before giving themselves extra worries by more responsibilities. Hence the advice this week for unmarried people to remain in their present state so they can give all their time to the Lord's affairs. But Paul goes on to make it clear he is not against marriage. After the calling of the first disciples, **Mark's Gospel** continues with Jesus teaching in the synagogue. His teaching and healing authority is immediately recognised. But spirits recognise Jesus so he tells them to be quiet. Their words can have no meaning to human beings during his lifetime. Mark insists that we can only know Jesus through the Cross.

- Brought to you by **Chris Oliver**

PSALM RESPONSE: O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts".

TODAY'S HYMNS:

[1] **Entry Hymn:** "Father, I place into your hands..." - 134

[2] **Offertory Hymn:** "Take my life, and let it be..." - 527

[3] **Amen:** "Honour and glory, Amen..." - 727

[4] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495

[5] **Communion:** "All I own and all I do, I give to you..." - 141

[6] **Thanksgiving:** "Nelia Fantasia" - sung by Raquel

"Um Azhagana Kangal" - A song in Tamil - sung by Jaison Jeevanandam

[7] **Final Hymn:** "Follow me, follow me..." - 144



In Loving Memory

Last Saturday, on January 20th 2024, Father Bernardino was laid to rest in the "São Caetano cemetery" in Ponta do Sol, the village where he was born on 29/11/1937. The funeral Mass service was presided over by the Bishop of Funchal, and attended by several priests, family and friends of Father Bernardino, as well as many of you who traveled from all over to attend his funeral.



As we know that Father Bernardino was loved by many, today we share some moments from this sad day for those of you who were not able to attend the funeral.



dedication to the poor. In his homily, Father Thomas shared with us some thoughts on the life and death of a priest:

"The death of a priest is unlike the death of any other: we feel it differently, deeply. We sense that in losing him, we have lost not only the man but also his unique way of manifesting God. The voice that spoke of God has been silenced; hands that once blessed are impotent. Since a priest is one who takes on the person of Christ, his leave of us is somewhat of a loss in our very communication with the Lord. No one will ever again exemplify Christ for us in the singular way that this particular priest has done. Our Lord Himself indicated that special relationship He enjoyed with His priests when, at the Last Supper, He poured out from His Sacred Heart His own priestly prayer: "Father, I pray for those you have given Me; keep them in Your name; they are not of the world; sanctify them in truth; may the love with which You loved Me be in them, and I in them" (cf. John 17)...."



Father Thomas last Sunday, on the life of a priest



On January 17th 2013, Fr. Thomas Muzhuthett was ordained a priest in Kerala, South India. He has now completed 10 years as a priest! Father Thomas is a Carmelite priest and has been in Madeira since March last year (2023). He has been celebrating Mass for our community here at the Chapel for many months while Father Bernardino was ill.



We congratulate Fr. Thomas on his ordination anniversary and we pray that the love of God continues to bless everything that he does.

BOOK SALE THIS MORNING!

We have a book sale at the Chapel this morning. Don't miss out! Jane Caldwell, from England, is an author and has written some books to help the "People Helping People" (PHP) project... (more info about PHP on the last page of the newsletter). Every year when she and her husband, Peter, come to Madeira on holiday they bring along some copies to sell, and the proceeds go directly to PHP to help those in need.



Mrs. Caldwell, and one of her books, "Frozen Stiff"

Jane (aka Agatha Frisky) has brought three different titles with her this time. The final one, set entirely in Madeira is called "Deadly Drama", the second one ends in Madeira called "Frozen Stiff", and the first one is a 'prequel' - (what happened before,) and is called "Deadly Planning", this one is for anyone who has already bought the other two. Get your copies today after Mass. Last Sunday's book sale was a success. 14 copies were sold!
Jane Caldwell (janecaldwell902@gmail.com)

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK – FROM PRIESTS



Live at Peace, and do not worry about anything. Jesus is with you and loves you.
– St. Padre Pio

You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, "Lord I don't know how to Pray" You can be sure you've already begun..."
– St. José Maria Escriva

