

## 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: 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 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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

4th of February 2024

5th 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)

Welcome

Vol. 3, nr. 400



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

Good morning. Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. 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 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

(Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; Psalm 146(147):1-6; I Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39)

In this Wisdom Book the blameless Job laments his sufferings at great length. The Lord allowed Satan to afflict **Job** any way he chose except death. Today's reading describes the drudgery that many people see in their lives, with only death to look forward to. Job refuses to curse God, but challenges God to say what he has done to deserve these sufferings. Then he accepts that "I have dealt with great things that ... I cannot know". But Job's challenge is not answered. **The Psalm** sings the praises of God who restored Israel to Jerusalem after their exile, and who sustains the needy. Our readings from Paul's letter to the **Corinthians** have omitted a long argument that Christians should not behave in a way that might be a stumbling block to others. Today Paul gives an example: he does not claim justifiable payments for spreading the gospel in case people doubt his motives – and so doubt the gospel message. In **Mark's gospel** the demoniac was healed by word, now Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law by touch – well enough for her to get supper immediately. Jesus heals many more, but again the demons are not allowed to say who Jesus is – Jesus cannot be understood until the Cross demonstrates God's infinitely merciful love for mankind.

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

### PSALM RESPONSE: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

#### TODAY'S HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "All people that on earth do dwell..." – 20
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Sing hallelujah to the Lord..." - 502
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation..." – 69
- [4] **Amen:** Great Amen (Deutsche Messe) - 726
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** Alleluia, sing to Jesus... - 29
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "A new commandment I give unto you..." – 2
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "God is love: his the care..." - 185



**IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF CONSECRATED FRIENDS – By Fr. Aires Gameiro**

(aires.gameiro@isjd.pt)

We are in the Week of prayers for the Consecrated and on the eve of the feast of the Presentation of Jesus, Day of the Consecrated. They are so, by baptism and by a solemn promise to follow Christ.

In recent days, I have had some losses of physical presences due to death, but who are now living presences through faith in my life, united in the communion of saints. Two of them were the Fathers Pedro Manuel Jorge Ferreira, and **Father Bernardino** Correia de Andrade; and another one was the hospitaller Brother Manuel Joaquim Valente (1930-2024), who has been my superior and director of the *Casa de Saúde S. João de Deus*, where I am chaplain. Father Pedro was from my hometown; he died suddenly on the 15<sup>th</sup> January in Ourém, aged 57, where he was parish priest at the Castelo church. With him I celebrated his 25 years of priesthood in 2017. Father Bernardino passed away on the 18<sup>th</sup> January at Hospital Nélio Mendonça, Funchal, at the age of 86, Brother Valente passed away on the 19<sup>th</sup> January, in Angra do Heroísmo, Azores, at 93. **In my parish a few years ago, there were eight priests; now there are four.**



Fr. Aires Gameiro

Father Bernardino was already in the diocese of Oakland, San Francisco Bay, California, in the pastoral care of emigrants, when he sent me an invitation to collaborate with him in his pastoral activities in Newark of that diocese for three weeks, from 19 Sept. to 8 Oct. 1984. It was a surprise that made me vibrate with delight. He asked for my collaboration as a Brother of St. John of God, a priest and psychologist, to help the Portuguese emigrants he worked with in various communities. I think that his experience of nine years in Quelimane, Mozambique, where he was ordained in 1965, will have brought him into contact with the Brothers of St. John of God in *Alto Molocuê leprosy hospital* where the superior, Brother António Matias, with whom I exchanged views a few days ago, remembers Fr. Bernardino's visit to this leper hospital with the Bishop and where Brother Fr. José Maria Antunes was chaplain, a great almoner in favour of lepers and their families. **In California, Father Bernardino was passionate about the poor and sick** and there he insisted with me to help as much as I could, those who were going through problems. He arranged meetings for me to provide psychological help to immigrants in and around their parishes: Santa Clara, San José, Tracy, Saint Edward, etc. And to collaborate with him in celebrations, confessions and other pastoral meetings. Always in a good mood, he invited friends to take a few car rides to Turlock, to the state of Nevada, to Instituto of Palo Alto, to Salinas, to meet with the American Brothers of St. John of God, and for a day on a boat across the Bay.

His passion had already entered his heart to create the association "People helping People" which he later brought to Madeira and Capela de Penha de França. When he invited me to replace



Celebrating mass with Father Bernardino here at the Chapel on 06.09.2015

him in the celebration of masses in English here at the Chapel, he always insisted that I raise awareness among the participants about the collection at the door of the Chapel to help the many poor people that the association helped. And he asked me to write short articles for the Penha de França Newsletter insisting on the theme of the poor. I did so with great pleasure, reminding people of another Father of the poor, St. John of God (1495-1550), for whom, helping the poor and sick was doing oneself good. Father Bernardino will certainly intercede for those who continue "People helping People" and the poor who are helped. He will not forget all of us, nor all priests and religious on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to go on following Christ among the poor.

Funchal, Day of the Consecrated, February 2, 2024  
Fr. Aires Gameiro, OH,  
(Brother of Saint John of God)



**BOOK SALE THIS MORNING!**

For the last two weeks we have had a successful book sale after Mass.

Mrs Jane Caldwell, an author from England, has written 3 books to help the "People Helping People" (PHP) project here at the Chapel. 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.

Jane (aka Agatha Frisky) will be telling us a bit more about her books just before the end of Mass, and she only has a few more novels left, so don't miss out – get yourself a signed copy after Mass this morning!



Mrs. Caldwell, an author from the UK with her books

Jane Caldwell (janecaldwell902@gmail.com)



**The Legend of the Pretzel**



Popular legend states that a long time ago, there was a kind Italian Monk. He knew the importance of prayer. He created a very special treat for the children who memorized their prayers. The monk cut soft bread dough into long strips and then folded them into a special shape before baking them. The unique shape of the pretzel is like a child with folded arms.

He called the treats "pretiolas" or "little rewards."

Just like the little children in the story, we are rewarded when we fold our arms and bow our heads to pray to our Father in Heaven. We are rewarded with love, peace, comfort, guidance, strength and forgiveness.



## **PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)**

### **Invitation**

Dear friends,  
 We have all been mourning Fr. Bernardino for the last few weeks. It's been strange carrying on in his absence. But of course, the Charity he founded has continued its work. Many of you certainly heard about how he was afraid that "People Helping People" would end with his death. I am afraid of that too...



Fr. Bernardino was an engine in the Charity, giving us power to keep doing the work needed.

Now we need to step up and power ourselves.

I promised him I would not allow the Charity to perish.

And honestly, even if I didn't promise, it is a project that I really believe in. I've seen the difference it is making in so many families' lives. And it really fits that "our brother's keepers" philosophy that my uncle preached all his life.

A philosophy that I proudly teach my children. So I would be ashamed with myself if I let the Charity fail. He started all this, he did the hardest part. We just need to make sure it keeps on running, growing and flourishing into the Charity he dreamt of.

We will be having a meeting on the 7th of February (next Wednesday) at the Anglican Church at Rua do Quebra Costas, N-18 in Funchal, at 6:30pm.

I would like to invite anyone who has ever been involved with the charity, everyone who is currently involved, and anyone who would like to be involved, to come by and help us shape the future of the Charity.

There are several issues we need to review, and I would really like your input and opinions, even if you do not plan on actively participating in the future.

This meeting will be held in English. There will be another meeting in Portuguese on the 14th, and we encourage anyone who is comfortable with Portuguese to also attend.

I will try to make an internet video conference of the meeting for anyone who is unable to attend in person, but I am not sure of the wi-fi capabilities of the meeting room. If you would like to participate remotely, please let me know and I'll send you the details if we are able to do it.

Please let other people know about it, if they are unable to see this newsletter.

As I've said before, Fr. Bernardino would want to be celebrated, and not mourned.

Help me celebrate him and his message.

See you soon,  
*Alexandre Silva*

**email:** alex.lupus@gmail.com    **Mobile/whatsapp:** +351 967 819 322