

## 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).

### >> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

**EUROPE:** Alexandre Silva, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.  
Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com

"You should wash each other's feet"  
(John 13:14)

### >> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

**ACCOUNT NAME:**  
Associacao 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: sineadmoynihnan7@icloud.com

When making any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.php@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.php@gmail.com) with the date, and name on the transfer so that Alexandre Silva is able to confirm that the transfer has been received. Thank you.

**Food items are also appreciated and can be left in the basket at the Chapel door on Sunday mornings.**



**Tea and Coffee  
After Mass**  
Please join us in the Social Hall across the garden for a cup of coffee and a chat. And a piece of home-baked cake!

Please sign our Visitor's book in the Social Hall.... leave us your comments, or suggestions, let us know where you're from! ☺ We also have a map where you can place a pin on your home town! ☺



Our Social Hall has a Free Little Library: a cabinet full of books. You're welcome to take a book, borrow a book, leave one in exchange, or even bring in some books that you have lying around that you no longer want. ☺



## JOYFUL GIFT

21st of July 2024

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

10h00 – Mass in English

11h30 – Mass in Portuguese

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)

Today we celebrate the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are blessed to have two dedicated priests at the Chapel who celebrate Mass in English for us on Sundays: Father Joseph Arun, and Father Thomas Muzhuthett, who are both originally from Kerala, India and are Carmelite priests from the Igreja do Carmo Church in Funchal.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS** – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B  
(*Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Psalm 22(23); Ephesians 2: 13-18; Mark 6: 30-34*)

**Jeremiah** was preaching around 600 BC. For forty years before the exile he reminded Judah's rulers how they had broken the covenant, worshipping other gods and taking advantage of the poor. His warnings were ignored, Jerusalem was destroyed, and the people taken into exile in Babylon. But the Lord promises to rescue his people. He will make a new covenant and send a descendant of David to rule with truth, integrity and honesty. **The Psalm** celebrates God's loving care for his people, like a shepherd guarding and guiding his flock, and looking forward to his generous end-time feast. Paul tells the **Ephesians** that Gentiles and Jews, previously separated by the Law, have now become one "by the blood of Christ". The Law's barriers have been broken down, and God's covenant now extends to Gentiles. Early proposals for Christians to ignore the Jewish Scriptures were rejected, and the Old Testament readings now included at Mass can help our faith. **Mark's Gospel** has described the death of John the Baptist while the apostles were away on their mission. On their return Jesus takes them away 'on retreat'. But the crowds follow, setting the scene for the feeding miracles. For the next five weeks we switch to John's Gospel for a fuller account of Eucharistic feeding.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

These Scripture reading notes are brought to you every Sunday by: **Chris Oliver**.... [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

**By:** Larysa Makarova

**Entry:** This is the day - 574

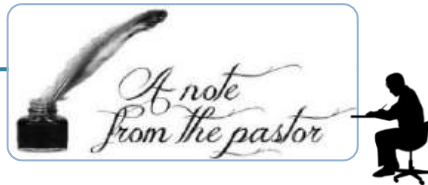
**Offertory:** Take our bread - 528

**Communion:** Sweet heart of Jesus - 521

**Final:** Colours of day - 93



Email: jvenattu@gmail.com



**GOD'S PLAN – The spirit of a missionary**

**When I was four or five years old, the first seeds of Carmelite spirituality took root in my life.** In Kerala, where I was born and brought up, one of the most beautiful states in India, there was a Carmelite monastery near my house. With

my grandmother and my mother, I used to go there on Saturdays to participate in the special prayer service conducted by the Carmelite fathers. Many faithful attended the prayer service. Unlike the liturgical services in our parish churches and other retreats, in that monastery, I felt something different. I felt serenity; there was no noise, and everyone was praying in silence. Except for the choir singing at times, the rest of the ambiance was very silent.

The song that the choir used to sing, we continued to sing in our family prayers. My grandmother was a singer, and until her death, if somebody asked her to sing a song, her first preference was singing a hymn of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

**The story continues:** I was wondering why it was so silent here. Why were there silent prayers in the monastery? One of the Carmelite fathers, with a long beard, after seeing me walking and playing in front of the chapel, asked me, *"Do you want to become a priest?"* I saw his beard and I was scared. I strongly believe it was the first calling that I received consciously from God through that priest when I was 5 years old. The venerable priest has already died. I didn't give an answer but ran to the side of my mother. I forgot all this, but after my studies, I wanted to become a parish priest. However, God's plan was already made, and the situations to join the diocesan seminary were not favourable for me. A Carmelite priest came and invited me to join the Carmelite Seminary. The meaning of the silence that I felt in the monastery when I was a kid, I only understood well when I joined the Order of Carmelites. We Carmelites in our daily life give more importance to silence and contemplation.

**Before joining the seminary, I had the option to stay in my state or to go to mission areas.** I chose not to go on a mission because I wanted to be close to my parents and relatives. After ordination, I again had the opportunity to go to mission areas, but God's plan was different. I wished to learn liturgical music in Italy, but my provincial assigned me another mission. He told me to go to Madeira, the beautiful island, to do mission work and serve the people of Madeira, and to learn Portuguese. **In 2019, I started my new mission in Madeira.** Dear friends, living on this distant island without eating spicy food was my main challenge! Now I am used to it.

Even though we have modern facilities to call our parents and relatives, the time difference sometimes makes it difficult to find enough time to talk with my loved ones. I often think about how much our missionaries who preached the Word of God many years ago must have suffered. However, saying yes to the call of God to become a missionary is the fulfillment of our lives. He will provide whatever we need.

Prayer was the cornerstone of the missionaries' strength. While not all of us are called to be missionaries in the traditional sense, we can support their work in various ways. We can contribute food, money, and clothing to mission efforts, pray for missionaries' safety and success, and educate ourselves about their needs and challenges. More importantly, we can embody the missionary spirit in our daily lives by showing Christ's love to those around us.

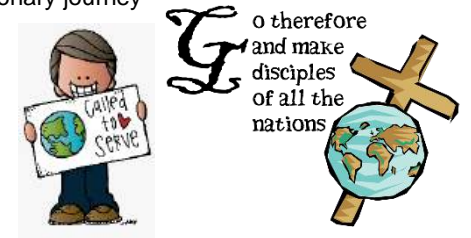


As we reflect on this passage, let's consider how we are being called to participate in Christ's mission. Are we cultivating a close relationship with Jesus?

Let us explore how we can embody the spirit of a missionary in our daily lives.

- 1. Live Out the Gospel.** Living out the Gospel means embodying the teachings of Jesus in our actions. This starts with love. Show kindness, patience, and compassion in your interactions, whether at home, work, or in your community.
- 2. Be a Light in Your Community.** Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world". Engage in acts of service, volunteer your time, and support local initiatives that align with Christian values.
- 3. Share Your Faith.** You don't need to be a preacher to share your faith. Be open about your faith in conversations, and offer to pray for others when they are in need.
- 4. Practice Hospitality.** Hospitality is a tangible way to demonstrate God's love. Small acts of kindness can make a big difference and open doors for deeper relationships and spiritual conversations.
- 5. Support Missionary Work.** While not everyone can go on missions, we can support those who do. This can be through financial support, prayer, or even helping with logistics and fundraising.
- 6. Pray Without Ceasing.** Prayer is a powerful tool for every believer. May we all be inspired to embrace our daily missionary journey with Joy and dedication, bringing glory to God in all we do. Amen.

With love and Prayers,  
*Fr. Joseph Arun, OCD*



**DID YOU KNOW? – Padre Pio had a funny sense of humour!**



**St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina is one of the most popular saints of modern times.** What most people do not realize is that aside from being super holy, he was also quite funny. Here are some of his jokes that were recorded:

**When he learned another priest had a hearing aid:**

*"Take it off. Let me see it."* As soon as he had it in his hands he said, *"Come on, boys. This is the right time to talk bad about Padre Costantino. He can't hear now!"*

**Headache wisecrack:**

A fellow priest asked for prayers because he was going to the doctor for bad headaches. When the priest returned a week later, he reported, *"They didn't find anything in my head"*. Padre Pio replied, *"That is something that we all knew already."*

**To an emotional groom:**

When an emotional groom at a wedding had trouble getting out his vows, Padre Pio asked, *"Well, when are you going to say yes? Perhaps you want me to marry her?"*

**When they asked him what he thought about the tomb they were building for him he said...**

*"I think that it's a bit smallish, and I will not have much air to breathe."*

