

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:
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: sineadmoynihn7@icloud.com

When making any donation, please send an email to 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

4th of August 2024

18th 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

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



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CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Today we celebrate the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are blessed to have two visiting priests celebrate Mass for us this morning: **Father David Gummert** and **Father Philip De Freitas**. They are both from the United Kingdom; Father Philip's grandfather is originally from Madeira. The special intention of this morning's mass is for Father Joseph Arun who is recovering from surgery. Please remember him in your prayers this week.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
(*Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15; Psalm 77(78); Ephesians 4: 17, 20-24; John 6: 24-35*)

Exodus, the second of the five books of the Law, tells of Moses leading the Israelites through the desert to the promised land, a collection of slaves becoming a people, developing culture and laws. Above all coming to recognise and worship the God who saved them as the one God. They often rebelled and murmured against Moses. But God fed them in the desert with quails and manna – 'daily, or tomorrow's bread'. **The Psalm** reminds us of the importance of handing down to later generations the traditions of God's dealings with his people. Paul continues reminding the **Ephesians** of the new rules they must live by. Not overturning the rules in Exodus, but demanding more and deeper conformity to Jesus' way. We have to put aside our old self which – as Paul knows very well – so easily "gets corrupted by following illusory desires". We must "put on the new self that has been created in God's way". In chapter 6 of **John's Gospel**, after Jesus fed five thousand, he starts to explain the meaning of this miracle. Jesus feeds us, just as God fed the Israelites in the wilderness. Gently Jesus corrects the Jews' understanding of Exodus: It was not "**Moses** who gave" but Jesus' "**Father** who gives the bread from heaven" – now and always.

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

These Scripture reading notes are brought to you every Sunday by: **Chris Oliver....** www.bible-groups.info



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: **Larysa Makarova**

Entry: Bind us together, Lord - 65
Offertory: Father, I place into your hands - 134
Communion: Let there be love - 317
Final: Go, the Mass is ended - 175





- By Deacon Tito Pereira

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

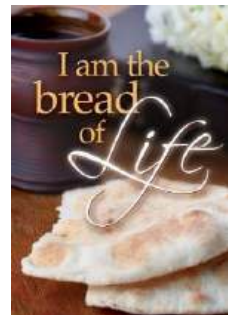
Today's Gospel gives us Jesus' powerful words: "It is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven; I am the bread of life." These words are not only spiritually enriching but also connect deeply with our daily lives, especially here in Madeira, where bread holds a special place in our culture and traditions.

In Portuguese culture, bread is much more than just a basic food. It symbolises community, hospitality, and sustenance. From our beloved *bolo do caco*, the traditional Madeiran flatbread, to the simple but essential pão, bread is a part of our daily lives. It's there in our family gatherings, festive celebrations, and humble meals. It brings us together, creating bonds and sharing in the simplicity of a meal.

When Jesus calls Himself the bread of life, He's speaking directly to this deep understanding of bread. He's telling us that just as bread nourishes our bodies, He, the bread from heaven, nourishes our souls. He sustains us in ways that go beyond the physical, offering us spiritual fulfillment and eternal life.



Madeiran "Bolo do Caco" bread



Think about how bread is made. It starts with simple ingredients: flour, water, yeast, and salt. Yet, through the skill and care of the baker, these ingredients transform into something that sustains life. Similarly, our lives, though made up of simple and often ordinary moments, are transformed by God's love and grace into something extraordinary. Jesus, the master baker of our souls, takes the humble elements of our existence and infuses them with His divine life.

In Madeira, bread is often shared, passed around the table, symbolising unity and community. This act of sharing beautifully reflects the Eucharist, where we partake in the body of Christ. When we receive the Eucharist, we are reminded that we are part of a larger family, the body of Christ, and that we are called to share His love and grace with others.

Jesus' invitation to see Him as the bread of life is a call to embrace a life of faith and trust in God's providence. Just as our earthly bread gives us the strength to face each day, Jesus, the bread from heaven, provides us with the spiritual strength to overcome life's challenges, to forgive, to love, and to serve.

As we gather here on our beautiful chapel of Penha de França, let us cherish the gift of bread in both our culture and our faith. Let us remember that in every piece of bread we break, we are reminded of God's unending love and the true bread of life, Jesus Christ. Let us strive to be bread for others, nourishing those around us with kindness, compassion, and the love of Christ.

May we always give thanks to God our Father, the giver of all good things, who provides us with the bread from heaven. And may we remain ever close to Jesus, the bread of life, who satisfies our deepest hunger and fills us with everlasting life.

Amen.

- Deacon Tito Pereira



JESUS SAID TO THEM, "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE; WHOEVER COMES TO ME WILL NEVER HUNGER, AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER THIRST."

JOHN 6:35

www.frtonyshomilies.com

SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

We need spiritual nourishment from the word of God and from the Holy Eucharist: In the Holy Mass, the Church offers us two types of bread: a) the Bread of Life, contained in God's Word and b) the Bread of Life, contained in the Holy Eucharist.



"Sir, I'm building a cathedral for God"

Three labourers were dragging massive stones. The first was asked by a reporter what he was doing. The reply was terse, "I'm dragging a big stone, and it's breaking my back."

He put the same query to the second fellow. His reply was, "I'm helping to build a wall, and I need your help right now."

The journalist politely declined. He moved on to ask the third man. He replied with a smile: "Sir, I'm building a cathedral for God."

— As Catholics, we have to examine our attitude to work. Are we working for the food which lasts and which gives eternal life as today's Gospel suggests? Or are we part of the problem? Are we giving a fair day's work for a fair day's pay? (Fr. James Gilhooley).

Fr. Tony (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).



Physical hunger vs spiritual hunger: In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about food - for the body and soul. The three biggest sellers in any bookstore are the cookbooks and the diet books and exercise books. Cookbooks teach us how to cook good meals, diet books warn us not to eat all we cook, and exercise books tell us what to do if we ignore the warning of diet books! A California scientist has computed that the average human being eats 16 times his or her own weight in an average year, while a horse eats only eight times its weight. This all seems to prove that if you want to lose weight, you should eat like a horse! - (www.frtonyshomilies.com)



THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

