Vol. 3, nr. 427

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

>> 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: sineadmoynihan7@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 homebaked 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

11th of August 2024

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

10h00 - Mass in English

No Portuguese Masses in the month of August

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)

Today we celebrate the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are blessed to have Father Thomas Muzhuthett celebrate Mass for us this morning. The special intentions of this morning's mass

are for Anita Jorge-Helena who is in hospital in the ICU, and for Father Joseph Arun who is recovering from surgery. Please remember them in your prayers this week.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

(1 Kings 19: 4-8; Psalm 33(34): 2-9; Ephesians 4:30-5:2; John 6: 41-51)

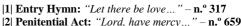
Elijah had defeated the gods of Baal by pouring water over the firewood, and then asking God to accept his sacrifice, thus bringing rain to end the drought he had predicted. The king's wife, Jezebel, had brought worship of Baal to Israel, so she was very angry, and sought to kill Elijah, who fled in despair. But today we hear how God encourages Elijah to continue his journey to Mount Sinai, and, as during the Exodus, God provides food and water for the journey. The Psalm invites us to praise the Lord, who will help us in time of need. Our readings from the letter to the **Ephesians** continue with rules for the new life, teasing out the real meaning of the Ten Commandments. But in loving others we must be prepared to suffer persecution and even death, as Christ did. Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist in Chapter 6 of John's Gospel continues. Last week we heard Jesus say "I am the bread of life". This week Jesus takes it further: just as God fed Elijah, and had fed the Israelites with manna and quails during the Exodus, Jesus feeds us with the "living bread". Even more: the bread that Jesus gives is his own flesh. Next week we hear reactions to this astounding claim.

PSALM RESPONSE: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

TODAY'S HYMNS:

Music by: Fátima Cátia Marques



|3| Gospel Acclamation: "Aleluia"

|4| Offertory Hymn: "How lovely on the mountains— Our God reigns" $- n.^{o} 235$

/5| Sanctus: "Scarborough fair Sanctus..." - n.º 707 /6| Agnus Dei: "Dona nobis pacem..." - n.º 126

|**7**| **Communion Hymn:** "As I kneel before you – Ave Maria gratia

plena..." – **n.º** 39

|8| Thanksgiving: *Portuguese Hymn*

|9| Final Hymn: "Our God loves us..."- n.º 454

REFLECTIONS – By Deacon Tito Pereira

Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

As we gather here today, surrounded by the stunning beauty of our island, we are reminded of God's handiwork in every wave that crashes against our shores, in every mountain that stretches towards the heavens, and in every flower that blooms with vibrant colours. Madeira is a place where the beauty of God's creation is on



full display, inviting us to pause and reflect on His goodness.

It is in this spirit that we turn our hearts to the words of the Psalmist: "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). This verse is not just a poetic expression; it is a divine invitation. An invitation to each of us to go beyond simply talking about God or hearing about Him - to truly experience Him in our lives. When we think of tasting, our thoughts might naturally drift to the delicious flavours of our local cuisine, the freshness of the fruits that grow in our fertile soil, and the warmth of a homemade meal shared with loved ones. Taste is something personal and intimate; it's a sensation that connects us to the world around us. And so it is with our relationship with God. He calls us not just to know Him from a distance, but to draw close, to savour His presence, and to experience His goodness in a deep and personal way.

Here in Madeira, we have a rich tradition of faith - a tradition passed down from generation to generation. Our forefathers built chapels and churches, they prayed and sang hymns, and they passed on the stories of God's faithfulness. But as we honour this tradition, we are also called to make it our own, to move from inherited faith to a lived and personal encounter with the living God. When the Psalmist invites us to "taste and see," he is asking us to engage with God in a way that touches **every part** of our being. It's not enough to simply **know** about God; we must **experience** Him. Just as we would never be satisfied with merely hearing about the flavours of a delicious meal - we want to taste it for ourselves - so too should we desire to experience God's goodness firsthand.



How do we do this? Here on our island, where life often moves at a pace that allows for reflection, we have many opportunities to encounter God's presence. Whether we are on holiday or not, we can use this time to pray, to meditate, and to listen for God's voice in the quiet of nature on this island. When we gather with our families or friends to share a meal, we can invite Christ to be present at our table, recognising His goodness in the blessings we enjoy. When we engage in acts of kindness and service, reaching out to help our neighbours in need, we taste and see God's love in the joy of giving. Our faith is not meant to be something that stays within

the walls of our churches. It is meant to be *lived out*, experienced, and shared in the everyday moments of our lives. Jesus Himself showed us this through His life and ministry. He didn't just *preach* about God's love; He *lived* it. He *touched* the sick, *fed* the hungry, and *welcomed* the outcast. He invites us to do the same - to experience His goodness in the way we live our lives and interact with others.

Madeira is a place where the richness of creation meets the depth of tradition. As we stand on this sacred ground, let us be mindful of the ways in which God is inviting us to taste and see His goodness every

day. Let us be *open* to experiencing His love in new and profound ways, trusting that as we do, our faith will grow stronger, and our lives will be filled with the sweetness of His presence. May we be known for the depth of our faith, a faith that goes beyond words and is rooted in a deep, lived experience of God's goodness. Let us taste and see that the Lord is indeed good, and may His love be evident in every aspect of our lives. Amen.



- (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



Fr. David and Fr. Philip

LAST SUNDAY'S MASS

Here at the Chapel, we are often blessed with the presence of priests who come to Madeira on holiday, and join us at Mass. Last Sunday we were especially blessed to have two visiting priests! They both celebrated Mass for us: **Fr. David**



49 years of marriage, blessed by Father David

Gummett and **Fr. Philip De Freitas**, who were both visiting Madeira on holiday (both from the United Kingdom). Father Philip's grandfather is originally from Madeira. A couple attending Mass, who were celebrating their **49**th **wedding anniversary**, received a special blessing from Fr. David.



ASSUMPTION DAY MASS - Thursday, August 15th

This Thursday, August 15th, is a religious holiday here in Madeira. On this day, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. It is a Holy Day of obligation like on a Sunday. There will be NO MASSES celebrated here at the Chapel on that day, but you are welcome to attend Mass at the Sé Cathedral in the centre of Funchal.

Mass times at the Cathedral on Thursday are as follows:

8h00 / 9h00 / 11h00/ 17h00.../ 18h00

All are welcome to attend ! ©

OUR LADY OF MONTE FESTIVAL - 14th and 15th of August

On the 14th and 15th of August the island of Madeira celebrates the Nossa Senhora do Monte Festival (Our Lady of the Mount). It is the biggest religious festival on the island and attracts thousands of devotees. In this popular festival held in honour of the patron saint of Madeira, Monte Parish is decorated with traditional festoons of colourful flowers. Food and beverage stalls are set up in the streets where you can sample the island's traditional boiled sweets, beef skewers, regional drinks and baked goodies. Lively processions honouring



- Revd Tito Pereira