

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

>> 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.



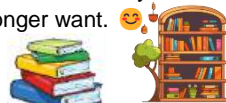
Tea and Coffee After Mass

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

18th of August 2024

20th 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/>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel
Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Today we celebrate the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are blessed to have Father Thomas Muzhuthett celebrate Mass for us this morning. Joining Father Thomas (who is from India), we have two priests from Poland (Fr. Sebastian and Fr. Roberto) and two deacons from the UK (Deacon Craig, and Deacon Tito)!!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
(*Proverbs 9: 1-6; Psalm 33(34); Ephesians 5: 15-20; John 6: 51-58*)

The Book of **Proverbs** gives pithy maxims for right living, applying the Law to real life. God's word is here seen personified as Wisdom, urging us: "Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared". The **Psalm** urges us to glorify the Lord, grateful that he has rescued us from danger. Therefore, we should fear the Lord, "keeping our tongue from evil". Paul tells the **Ephesians** to enjoy food and wine, but they should "not drug" themselves with wine. And after singing Psalms and hymns in community they should "go on singing and chanting to the Lord in their hearts", so giving thanks to God. Chapter six of **John's Gospel** reaches the climax of Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. The Gospel's prologue tells us that "the Word became flesh": the Wisdom of God took our human flesh to share the trials of this world with us. Jesus gives us his flesh and blood to sustain us on our journey, as he fed Elijah. Jesus insists that physically eating and drinking must be part of the Eucharist so that we take his "Word become flesh" into our very beings. Not surprisingly, some Jews – like us – find it difficult to link together the spiritual and material worlds, as did the Samaritan woman, and Nicodemus.

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 HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larysa Makarova

Entry: O the word of my Lord - 434

Offertory: Take our bread - 528

Communion: O bread of Heaven - 392

Final: This is the day - 543





Brothers and Sisters,

Today, we reflect on the readings for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. However, we do so in the light of the beautiful celebrations we had just a few days ago on the 15th of August, the Feast of *Nossa Senhora do Monte* (Our Lady of *Monte*), which coincides with the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Here in Madeira, this celebration holds special significance, as *Nossa Senhora do Monte* is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people.



Monte is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people.

In today's Gospel from John, Jesus continues His teaching on the Bread of Life. He tells us, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51). These words must have been difficult for His listeners to understand, and they challenge us as well. What does it mean to eat the flesh of Jesus, the Bread of Life? How can this promise of eternal life be fulfilled in us?



The key to understanding this mystery lies in the very person of Jesus Christ. He is the Word made flesh, who came to dwell among us. From the moment of His conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary, Jesus began to fulfil God's promise of eternal life. And it is in Mary that we see the first fulfilment of this promise.

Mary's life, from the moment she said "yes" to God, became a living testament to the life that Jesus offers to each of us. In her, the life promised by Jesus is fully realised. She is the one who bore Him in her womb, who nourished Him at her breast, and who stood by Him as He offered His life for the salvation of the world. And now, in her Assumption, we see the culmination of this promise: Mary, body and soul, shares in the fullness of the life that Jesus came to give us.

As we reflect on this, it's important to remember where **Jesus was born: in Bethlehem, a town whose name means "house of bread."** How fitting it is that the Bread of Life, who gives us His very flesh to eat, was born in a place that signifies sustenance and life. Jesus, the Bread of Life, was given to us in the "house of bread," a place that points to the Eucharist, where we receive Him anew in every Mass. In this Eucharist, we are invited to participate in the very life of Christ. When we receive His Body and Blood, we are not just recalling a past event; we are entering into the mystery of His life, death, and resurrection. We are being nourished by the same Bread of Life that Mary bore in her womb and brought into the world.

This brings us back to the celebration of *Nossa Senhora do Monte*. Just as Mary was assumed into heaven, so too are we called to share in the life that Jesus offers. The Assumption of Mary is not just about her; it's a promise to all of us. It's a reminder that the life we receive in Christ, the Bread of Life, is a life that is eternal, a life that transforms us and prepares us for the glory of heaven. **So, as we continue our journey of faith,** let us draw strength from the Eucharist, the Bread of Life. Let us look to Mary, *Nossa Senhora do Monte*, as our model and guide, who shows us the way to Jesus. And let us remember that the life Jesus promises us is not something far off or unattainable; it is a life that begins here and now, in every Eucharist we celebrate, and will be brought to fullness in the glory of heaven.

Amen.

- Revd Tito Pereira



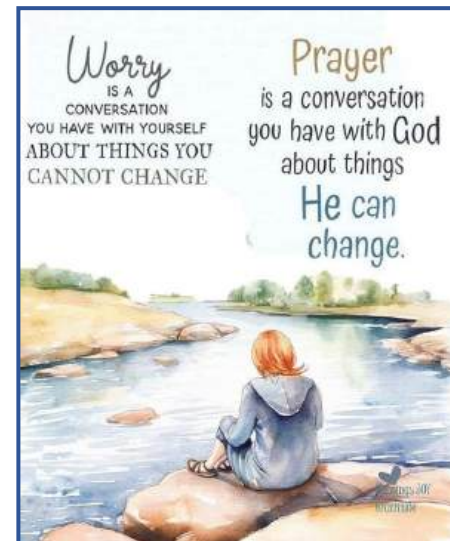
Fr. Sebastian and Fr. Roberto celebrating Mass last Sunday with Fr. Thomas

We have been especially blessed here at the Chapel to have visiting priests from other countries celebrating Mass for us.

The week before last we had 2 priests on holiday from the UK, and last week Sunday, just before Mass started, **two Polish priests (Fr. Sebastian and Fr. Roberto)** let us know that they were here on holiday in Madeira and would like to assist Fr. Thomas in celebrating Mass. Today, they are once again with us at Mass, before flying back home later today.

This morning, we are also joined by 2 deacons from the UK today: deacon Craig and deacon Tito! They often bless us with their presence when they are here in Madeira. 🙏

DON'T FORGET THESE THINGS:



God loves us more than a father, mother, friend or anyone else could, even more than we are able to love ourselves.
- St. John Chrysostom

