

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:
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 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 where you are visiting us from! ☺



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

25th of August 2024

21st 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/

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CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Today we celebrate the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are blessed to have Father Thomas Muzhuthett celebrating Mass for us. He is joined by Deacon Craig Aburn who is in Madeira on holiday (from the UK).



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
(*Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18; Psalm 33(34); Ephesians 5: 21-32; John 6: 60-69*)

The Book of **Joshua** summarises Israel's history from the death of Moses until they settle in the Promised Land. Before he dies, Joshua invites the tribes of Israel to promise to obey the Lord and to put aside all other gods. In solemn assembly the people rehearse all the Lord did for them when Moses led them through the desert. Three times they solemnly renew the covenant by the stone at Shechem, in Samaria. Last week the **Psalm** urged us to fear the Lord; now it assures us that the Lord rescues the just man from all misfortune. Our last reading from Paul's letter to the **Ephesians**: we must imitate Christ, whatever our role in society. We should "be subject to one another". "Wives, be subject to your husbands" and "children, obey your parents"; balanced by "fathers, do not provoke your children" and "husbands, love your wives". In chapter six of **John's Gospel**, we hear more reactions to Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. Like Nicodemus not understanding how he could be "born from above", many disciples could not accept this teaching. Why is eating his flesh more difficult to accept than his Ascension? These things are "real" – part of the heavenly realm, which we are invited to share, but life given only by the Spirit.

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*



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Father, we adore you" – n.º 136
- [2] **Penitential Act:** "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 659
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Aleluia"
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "O Lord my God – How great thou art" – n.º 419
- [5] **Sanctus:** "When the Saints – Sanctus ..." - n.º 710
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** "Lamb of God..." - n.º 737
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** "Jesus the Lord said: "I am the Bread – n.º 288

- [8] **Thanksgiving:** Portuguese Hymn
- [9] **Final Hymn:** "Spirit of God" - n.º 514



CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH, BECAUSE IT IS HIS BODY

Before we get into today’s readings, I’d like to say how lovely it was to be with you all last Sunday, along with Fr. Thomas and Deacon Craig. It was a quick visit, but a meaningful one. I came home to Madeira to meet up with some cousins who live in Canada.

My cousin Horácio, his wife and daughters have only recently discovered their Madeiran family. Despite the years of unknowing, when our Canadian cousins finally got together with

their Madeiran family, there was an immediate connection. We’re all related by blood, and that bond was instantly felt.

Reflecting on that experience reminds me of today’s readings and how they speak about the strong bond between Christ and His Church. Just like the natural connection I felt with my cousins because of our shared family ties, there’s a deep, unbreakable bond between Christ and His Church, because we are His Body - His flesh and blood - joined to Him through our faith and the sacraments.



Last Sunday’s Mass

In our second reading, St. Paul talks about how much Christ loves the Church, comparing it to the love a husband has for his wife. He says, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy..." (Eph 5:25-26). **This shows us just how deep Christ’s love is. It’s not just words; He showed it** through His sacrifice on the cross. And that love wasn’t just a one-time event - it’s something that continues to shape our lives today.

Christ’s love is also transforming. He doesn’t love us to leave us as we are but to make us better, to help us grow in holiness, to be the best version of ourselves - a Church that is "radiant, without stain or wrinkle...but holy and blameless" (Eph 5:27). This process is ongoing and asks us to keep turning to Christ, seeking His help, and striving to live like He did.

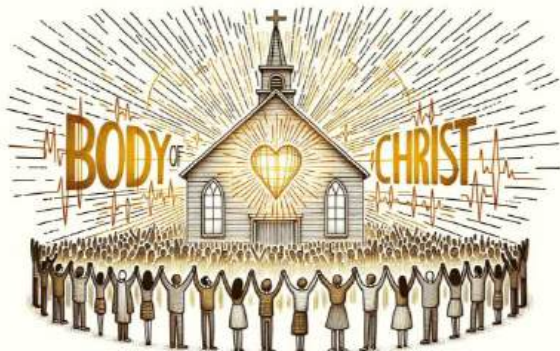
When we say that the Church is the Body of Christ, we’re saying that **we’re closely connected to Him and to each other. Just as I felt that instant bond with my cousins because of our shared blood,** we, as members of the Church, share an even deeper bond with Christ and with one another. We’re not just individuals who believe - we’re part of something **much bigger**, a living Body that is the Church.

This means Christ’s love for the Church is deeply personal - **He loves each of us** as part of His Body, much like the strong bonds we feel within our own families. Just as we care for our relatives and reflect our family’s values, **being part of Christ’s Body comes with both dignity and responsibility.**

We’re called to live out His love in our daily lives, embodying His compassion, forgiveness, and service in everything we do. **As members of this spiritual family, let’s honour our connection with Christ** by reflecting His love in our actions, becoming a living example of His presence in the world.

Amen.

- Revd Tito Pereira



Source: catholiccourier.com/articles/for-catholic-astronauts-flying-to-space-doesnt-mean-giving-up-the-faith/

For Catholic astronauts, flying to space doesn’t mean giving up the faith. On the International Space Station (a habitable artificial satellite, in low Earth orbit) there’s a place called the Cupola, where astronauts like to hang out. It’s a small module with seven large bay windows that give crew members a panoramic view of Earth.



Astronaut Mike Hopkins in Space

On his first mission into space in September 2013, astronaut Mike Hopkins was eager to find the Cupola...it was there that he found himself praying and at times taking Communion. Under a special arrangement with the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and with the help of Father James H. Kuczynski, his parish Priest, **he took with him to space a pyx** (a small round container used to carry the consecrated host (Eucharist) to the sick or those unable to come to a church to receive Holy Communion) with six consecrated hosts broken into four pieces. It was enough so that he could take Communion once a week for the 24 weeks he was aboard the ISS.



Pyx (a container for the consecrated host)

«It was extremely important to me,» said Hopkins. **On long-term missions to the International Space Station, schedules give astronauts blocks of private time daily, allowing them to pray, read the Bible or other inspirational works, write in a journal or reflect on God.** Hopkins used some of his time to keep up with the Sunday readings and his pastor’s weekly homily, both of which he received via email from the support person for his family assigned by NASA who was a member of his parish.

«My crewmates knew I had the Eucharist with me,» Hopkins said. «In fact, I coordinated with my Russian commander. He knew everything going on. They were all aware of that, but I never tried to make a large deal about it and publicize it and they didn’t either. They respected my faith and my desire to follow that faith even when I was in orbit.»

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THIS WEEK:

