

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

Vol. 3, nr. 430



People Helping People is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França by the late Father Bernardino Andrade 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.



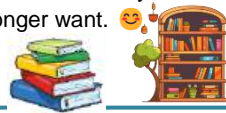
Tea and Coffee After Mass

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 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

1st September 2024

22nd 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/>

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 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are blessed to have Father Thomas Muzhuthett celebrating Mass for us this morning. Father Thomas is originally from Kerala, India and is a Carmelite priest from the Igreja do Carmo Church in Funchal.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
(*Deuteronomy* 4: 1-2, 6-8; *Psalms* 14(15): 2-5; *James* 1: 1-27; *Mark* 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)



After the testamentary speech from Joshua last week, this week we have the beginning of Moses' last testament, following God's refusal to allow Moses to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land. In *Deuteronomy* Moses sums up the Law, but with some relaxations from the strict Law given by God on Sinai. As God's representative, Moses allowed divorce and hating enemies. But God's justice cannot change, and Jesus will later reverse these changes, made "because of their hardness of heart". Observing God's Law "will demonstrate to the peoples" their wisdom and understanding. **The Psalm** summarises the moral qualities required to be "at one" with the Lord, especially the social virtues of justice and charity. **James** also insists "do what the word tells you", especially helping the vulnerable and avoiding contamination by the world. We must be "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger". More practical advice from James in the coming weeks. Jesus gives the same message: his disciples should do what the Pharisees say, but not what they do. As Peter is to learn later before preaching to Cornelius, "nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean". It is what we do that can make us unclean, not lack of washing. This teaching is underlined immediately by the faith of the Syro-Phoenician woman.

PSALM RESPONSE: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

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: Sweet heart of Jesus... - 521

Final: Colours of day... - 93



Brothers and sisters,

Today, as we gather in this beautiful chapel on the island of Madeira, we're reminded of how blessed we are to live and visit a place where the fruits of the earth surround us, from the vineyards to the orchards and plantations. Madeira's fruit trees are a source of sustenance and joy, each tree producing its own particular fruit, just as God designed it. Each tree, according to its kind, produces the appropriate fruit. This truth of nature reflects a spiritual reality: just as a tree is known by its fruit, our love of God is the root, and our love of neighbour is the fruit that grows from it.



The anona fruit



I have to say, one of my personal favourites is the anona, which is not yet in season. The moment I notice the first leaves unfurl, I know that, in time, the delicious fruit will be ready for harvesting. It's a simple reminder that what we sow, we shall reap. And in the same way, what we plant in our hearts will bear fruit in our lives.

In today's readings, we hear about the law of God. This law is not merely a set of rules to be followed but a way of **living in God's presence**. When we live in God's presence, we bring His presence into the world around us, especially to those places where it is most needed. The psalm we heard today puts it beautifully: *"The just will live in the presence of the Lord."* To live justly means to live in such a way that God's presence is visible in our lives, and others can **see it through our actions**. As we look at the fruit trees around us, we see that they produce fruit appropriate to their kind. The same is true for us. If the love of God is the root of our lives, then the fruit we bear will naturally be the love of our neighbour. And this love is not just a feeling; it's active, practical, and visible in our care for others, especially those in need.

This leads us to consider what true religion is. St James, in the second reading, reminds us that unspoil religion is one that brings about God's presence because it includes helping those who are in need. **True religion is not about outward appearances** or mere observance of traditions. It's about cleaning our hearts by filling them with love — love of God and love of our neighbour. **When we help those who are struggling**, the orphan, the widow, the lonely, and the poor, we are not just fulfilling a duty; **we are living out the love of God**. We are making His presence known in the world. Jesus, in the Gospel today, challenges His listeners — and us — not to focus solely on external observances or human traditions unless they reflect the true law of God. He warns us against falling into the trap of honouring God with our lips while our hearts are far from Him. Jesus calls us to cleanse our hearts, not just our hands. He urges us to ensure that our religious practices are rooted in **genuine love** and lead us to greater compassion and mercy towards others. As we go about our daily lives, let's be mindful of the traditions we follow. Are they *truly* helping us to live in the presence of God? Are they leading us to love our neighbour *more fully*? If not, then perhaps we need to look again at the roots of our faith and **ask God to help us bear the right kind of fruit**.

Just as I eagerly await the harvest of the anona, let us eagerly seek the fruits of the Spirit in our lives: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*. When these fruits are evident in us, **we will know** that we are living as God intended, and His presence will be made known to all those we encounter.

May the Lord bless us and help us to live out this true, unspoil religion, bringing His presence to every corner of our lives and to all those who need His love the most. Amen.

- Revd. Tito Pereira



For almost 50 years Mother Teresa worked in the slums of Calcutta, India. She worked among the most forsaken people on earth. You and I would recoil from most of the people that she touched every day - the dispossessed, the downtrodden, the diseased, the desperate. And yet, everybody who met Mother Teresa remarked on her warm smile. How, after almost 50 years of working in conditions like that, did she keep a warm smile on her face? Mother Teresa explained, "When I was leaving home in Yugoslavia at age of 18 to become a nun, **my mother told me something beautiful and very strange**. She said, 'You go put your hand in Jesus' hand and walk along with Him.'" And that was the secret of Mother Teresa's life ever after. (Rev. King Duncan).



— Many of us here have good jobs, we live in nice homes, and we have easy situations. But we don't have the warm smile on our faces that this little nun, working in the most desperate situation imaginable, had on her face. What's the difference? It may be that we've never put our hand in Jesus' hand. It may be that we have Jesus only on our lips as St. James remarks in the second reading and as Jesus remarks in today's Gospel. - Fr. Tony Kadavil

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Simple Maths:
 "2get" and 2give"
 creates many problems.
 So, just double it ..
 "4get" and "4give"
 solves many problems.



Let the Perfect Throw the Stone
by Mrs. Ethel Meadows

If there's one who often falters
 By the wayside in despair,
 Seem unusual his shortcomings,
 Do you hold him up in prayer?
 If the weak should stumble, brethren,
 If he cannot stand alone,
 Let the perfect one among you
 Be the first to throw a stone.

If so often he has wavered
 That you can't believe him true,
 Have you mentioned it to Jesus,
 As the strong one ought to do?
 Do you ever stop, consider?
 Have you no faults of your own?
 Let the perfect one among you
 Be the first to throw a stone.

Is there one with cross so heavy,
 Seems he cannot carry all?
 He may not keep step as you do;
 He may even chance to fall.
 Do you plead with God for mercy
 Till He answers from the throne?
 Let the perfect one among you
 Be the first to throw a stone.