

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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](mailto: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.



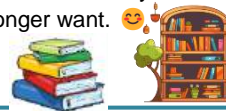
### Tea and Coffee After Mass

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

8th September 2024

23rd 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](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

**Email:** [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



### CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Today is the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our priest this morning is Father Thomas Muzhuthett. He is originally from Kerala, India and is a Carmelite priest from the *Igreja do Carmo* Church in Funchal.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS** – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B  
(*Isaiah 35: 4-7; Psalm 145(146):7-10; James 2: 1-5; Mark 7:31-37*)

First **Isaiah** preached in Jerusalem before the exile in 587 BC. In God's presence in the Temple, Isaiah became aware that the great sin is pride: we think we can "do it my way". The nation's disasters were their own fault. They must trust in God, especially in face of the constant threats from Assyria. After dire descriptions of the calamities to come, Isaiah paints this encouraging eschatological picture of the kingdom in the end time. **The Psalm** praises and thanks God for his generosity and kindness, especially to those who put their trust in him. **James** continues his theme that faith must be shown in what we do. His mentioning "synagogue" reminds us how Jewish was the Christian community this "brother of the Lord" was writing for. He insists that faith in Jesus is not compatible with treating people differently depending how we see them. We are in no position to judge the worth of others. In **Mark's Gospel** we see God's kingdom breaking into creation, as Jesus heals first the Syro-phoenician woman's daughter and then a deaf-mute. Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled. Naturally the disciples cannot help spreading this good news far and wide. But Jesus cautions them not to do so yet, because his work will not be understood until after the Crucifixion.

### PSALM RESPONSE: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

These Scripture reading notes are brought to you every Sunday by: **Chris Oliver**.... [www.bible-groups.info](http://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's readings invite us to reflect on how God sees the world, especially those who are often overlooked. They challenge us to think about how we treat others and how we live out our faith in our everyday lives.



**One of my favourite images of Mary is found right here in our own chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França.** You can see the statue to the right of the sanctuary as you look towards the altar. It's a statue of our Blessed Mother holding the child Jesus in her arms. At her feet is a poor man, bowing humbly before her - sometimes obscured by the flowers at her feet, but do take a look. This image reminds us that when we lift up the poor, we are also lifting up Christ Himself.

In today's second reading, James reminds us that to be rich in faith means we should make no distinctions between people. God doesn't

see us according to wealth, status, or power. The world often values people based on these things, **but in God's eyes, everyone is equal.** His love and grace are freely given to all, regardless of who they are or what they have. It's important to remember that a blind person can see God just as clearly as a sighted person. Often, those who are powerless or living on the margins hear God's voice more clearly than those who have power. This is because the poor and humble are more in tune with God's voice. They don't have the distractions of wealth or self-importance that can drown out what God is saying.

Right here in our chapel, we have a wonderful tradition of helping the poor through the *People Helping People* charity. This charity is a living example of what it means to lift up the poor, just as Mary lifts up Jesus. **It's a reminder that our faith isn't just about what we believe but also about what we do.** When we support this charity - or any charity, for that matter - we are not just helping the poor materially; **we are also lifting them up in dignity,** reflecting the love of Christ.

I've seen this truth in my own life as well. I once worked in a very deprived inner-city school where families had very little. Yet, they saw God's work in the smallest of things and were quick to give thanks. Their faith was strong, not because they had much, but because they knew that every blessing, no matter how small, was a gift from God. This is why I believe that despite their poverty, it was the happiest group of children and families I have ever worked with.

Sometimes, it takes a tragedy or a significant loss to make those who have everything realise that their success isn't solely down to their own efforts. In these moments, they often see that it's God who has been guiding them all along, giving them the wisdom and strength they need.

This is a message for all of us. Whether we're wealthy or poor, powerful or powerless, we must remember that **God sees us all with the same love.** He calls us to listen to His voice, to see others as He sees them, and to act with compassion, especially towards those most in need.

In the Gospel, we hear of Jesus healing a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. With just a touch and a word, Jesus opened his ears and freed his tongue. This miracle isn't just a story from the past; it's a message for us today in 2024. When we lift up the poor, when we show kindness and compassion, we allow the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the dumb to shout for joy. We bring the healing presence of Christ into the world.

**As we leave here today, let's carry this message with us.** Let's be people who lift up the poor, who give voice to the voiceless, and who recognise Christ in everyone we meet. And let's continue to support the work of *People Helping People*, knowing that in doing so, we're living out the very heart of our faith.

Amen.

- Revd. Tito Pereira



## DEACON CRAIG WRITES



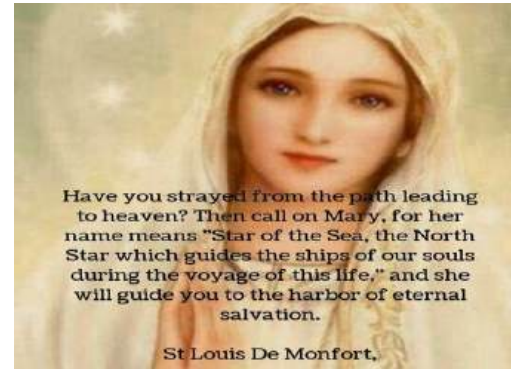
*Dear friends,* it was a joy to be back with you in August to assist Fr Thomas and preach at Mass. Thank you as always for the warm welcome.

An added bonus was the surprise of my brother deacon, Deacon Tito being there on the first Sunday too. (We assisted dear old Fr Bernadino together at

Mass the first Sunday that I was at the chapel after my ordination 8 years ago).

I look forward to being with you again next May, when Nicki and I will be coming to your beautiful island to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. Please pray for me in my ministry in the diocese of Portsmouth.

*God bless you all.*



Live at Peace,  
and do not worry  
about anything.  
Jesus is with you  
and loves you.  
- St. Padre Pio

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT: - By Carla Rodrigues

Quotes from the book "*Pobreza e Relações Humanas*" (Poverty and Human Relations) by the author, Delfim Jorge Esteves Gomes:

"The poor are those with their own wounds who require "hugs", closeness and equal opportunities."

"Only serving others opens my eyes to what God does for me and how He loves me."

"If the poor are to be given the chance to escape poverty, it is up to us to remove the institutional barriers we have created around them. We must end the absurd rules and laws that treat the poor as non-entities"

