

## 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...**

"It's time for a new 'fantasy of charity', which manifests itself not only and above all in the effectiveness of the aid given, but in the ability to think and be in solidarity with those who suffer, in such a way that the gesture of help is felt not as humiliating alms, but as fraternal sharing" – from the book "Pobreza e relações humanas" (Poverty and Human relations) by Delfim Jorge Esteves Gomes.

### >> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACT INFO:

**EUROPE:** Alexandre Silva, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.  
Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com / penhafranca.php@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: sineadmoynihnan7@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

15th September 2024

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

10h00 – Mass in English

No more Masses in Portuguese until further notice

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 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our priest this morning is Father Thomas Muzhuthett. He is originally from Kerala, India, and is a Carmelite priest. Father Thomas serves at the Carmelite church in Funchal (*Igreja do Carmo*). We are blessed to have him celebrating the English Mass for us here at the Chapel.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS** – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B  
(*Isaiah 50: 5-9; Psalm 114(115); James 2: 14-18; Mark 8: 27-35*)

Second **Isaiah** was writing during the exile in Babylon. Israel had lost land, king, and Temple. But Isaiah confidently proclaims hope of returning to Jerusalem: have no fear, whatever ills beset us, God is on our side and will save us. The **Psalm** offers an individual's grateful praise to the Lord: in danger of death, he trusted in the Lord who saved him. **James' letter** develops last week's theme of what faith is: real faith cannot help but be expressed in good works. James insists that you cannot show you have faith without showing the good works it produces. He then gives examples: Abraham, who offered Isaac; and Rahab the prostitute, who protected Joshua's spies in Jericho. Both were justified by their works of faith. This message challenges us today: is giving money enough? For the first time in **Mark's Gospel** a human being acknowledges Jesus as the Christ. But then Peter immediately gets it wrong and is severely chastised by Jesus: God's ways are not our ways. Jesus has to suffer the humiliation Isaiah described to show the way we must follow to salvation. The way of the Cross is the only way, and we must imitate Jesus' faith in his Father and follow his way in faith.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

*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:** O the word of my Lord... - 434

**Offertory:** Take our bread, we ask you... - 528

**Communion:** O bread of Heaven... - 392

**Final:** This is the day... - 574





Brothers and sisters,

Today's Gospel presents us with an important and demanding message from Jesus: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

Jesus is inviting us to a deeper kind of living — one that involves genuine self-denial and a willingness to embrace our own crosses. This isn't about simply giving up luxuries or enduring a few inconveniences. It's about fundamentally shifting our focus from our own desires to a life dedicated to serving others and fulfilling God's mission.



To illustrate this, consider the life of Maria da Silva, a remarkable woman from a small village here in Madeira. Maria was known for her incredible generosity. Despite her own modest means, she devoted herself to caring for the elderly, the sick, and the poor in her community.

One day, a neighbour asked her, "Maria, you give so much of yourself, but you have so little. Why do you do this?" Maria replied with a gentle smile, "In giving, I have found a richness that surpasses anything material. My life is fuller because I have shared it with others."

Maria's life was not without its hardships. She often went without so that others could have a little more, facing her own struggles with unwavering faith. Yet, her life was marked by profound joy and purpose. She demonstrated the truth of Jesus' teaching: **true life is not found in preserving our own comforts but in giving ourselves for others.**

Maria's story shows us that living for others — though it involves taking up our crosses — actually enriches our lives in unexpected ways. By choosing to embrace challenges and prioritise the needs of others, we find a deeper, more fulfilling existence.

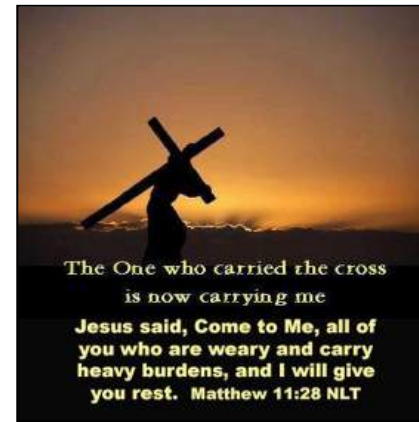
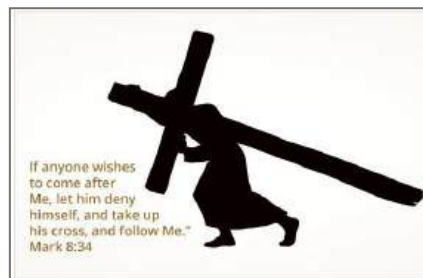
This call to self-denial and taking up our cross is deeply connected to Jesus' own passion. He didn't merely teach these principles; He lived them. Jesus' journey to Calvary, His suffering, and His ultimate sacrifice on the cross are the ultimate examples of renouncing oneself and taking up one's cross. **His life and death demonstrate that true fulfilment comes from giving oneself fully for others, even when it means enduring great suffering.**

As we reflect on this teaching today, let us consider how we might follow Christ's example in our own lives. Are we prepared to put others first and accept the challenges that come with true discipleship? Are we ready to let go of our own desires and take up our crosses?

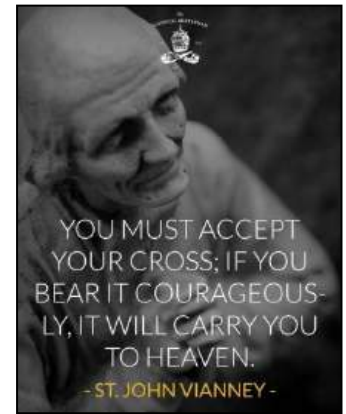
Let us pray for the strength and courage to embrace this calling, inspired by the example of Maria da Silva and the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. May we find true life by following Jesus with humility and love, and may our lives reflect our commitment to putting our faith into action each day.

Amen.

- Revd. Tito Pereira



ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS:



— SEPTEMBER IS THE MONTH OF —

*Our Lady*

— OF SORROWS —

THIS TITLE COMES FROM THE SORROWS SHE ENDURED AS THE MOTHER OF JESUS

ALSO REFERRED TO AS MATER DOLOROSA (MOTHER OF SORROWS)

MANY PEOPLE CONTEMPLATE HER "7 SORROWS" USING THE 7 DECADE ROSARY OF THE SERVITE ORDER

NOVENAS ARE OFTEN PRAYED ASKING HER INTERCESSION FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER, ESPECIALLY FROM GRIEF

"THE MOTHER OF SORROWS IS MY CONFIDANTE, MY TEACHER, MY COUNSELOR, AND MY POWERFUL ADVOCATE."  
—ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO)

IDEAS TO INCREASE YOUR DEVOTION:

- CHANGE YOUR PHONE WALLPAPER TO AN IMAGE OF OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER OR HER HEART
- PRAY THE OUR LADY OF SORROWS ROSARY
- PRAY A NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS FOR SOMEONE WHO IS LONELY OR GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE (AND SEND THEM A NOVENA CARD)
- MEDITATE ON AN IMAGE OF THE PIETÀ (A SCULPTURE BY MICHELANGELO)
- LISTEN TO SONGS REFLECTING ON THE SORROWS OF MARY
- MEDITATE ON LUKE 2:34-35
- INCLUDE THE PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

NOVENA cards