

## 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...**

**"God's love is in our midst and is also manifested in our capacity for solidarity and closeness towards many people who are in need"** – a quote from the book "Não há futuro sem solidariedade" (There is no future without solidarity) - by the author Dionigi Tettamanzi.

### >> 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

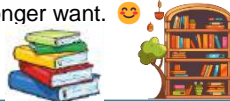
#### After Mass

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

29th of September 2024

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

10h00 – Mass in English

No Mass in Portuguese on Sundays

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/)

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

Today is the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. ☩ The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass is for the soul of **Maria Alzira Dias Sebastião** who passed away 5 years ago on 26/09/2019. May her Soul rest in peace. ☩ We are blessed to have Father Thomas Muzhuthett celebrate Mass for us this morning. Father Thomas is a Carmelite religious priest and serves at *Igreja do Carmo*, in Funchal.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

(Numbers 11: 25-29; Psalm 18(19); James 5:1-6; Mark 9: 38-48)

The **Book of Numbers** mainly describes Israel's wanderings in the wilderness from Mount Sinai towards the Promised Land. The people frequently murmured complaints against Moses, who found the burden of leadership too much to bear. Bored with the daily diet of manna, the people complain, so God gives them heaps of quail, but then punishes them for their greed. God gives some of his spirit to seventy elders to share Moses' burden, but even if the whole people became prophets Moses must continue alone as leader. **The Psalm** rejoices in the way both the heavens and God's commandments reveal the glory of the Lord, while reminding us that we need cleansing from even our "hidden faults". Our last reading from the letter of **James** reminds those who are well off that life is short and their sins will be punished. We should patiently share the earth's fruits until the Lord's coming. In **Mark's Gospel** we hear Jesus' last teachings before he starts his final journey to Jerusalem. Like Moses, Jesus confirms that people may work in God's name even if they have not been formally appointed. God's work is not limited to formal organisations. Above all, we should keep our mind on God's kingdom, not be tempted away from it by the pleasures of this world.

### PSALM RESPONSE: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

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:** God forgave my sin... - 181

**Offertory:** All that I am ... - 21

**Communion:** This is my body... - 572

**Final:** Go, the Mass is ended ... - 175





**There's an old story about a man from Porto Santo, Madeira's sister island.** His name was Fernando Nunes, known by locals as *Fernando the Brave*. Back in 1533, Fernando climbed into the hills, and when he came back, he started ringing a bell and announced to everyone that he was Jesus Christ, come to save the world from evil. He became known as *Fernando the Prophet*. But people from Madeira didn't take him too seriously, and they started calling the folks from Porto Santo *profetas*, or prophets. It's an amusing story, but it raises an important question: what does it mean to be a prophet? Is it someone who claims to be sent by God, or is there more to it? Today's readings invite us to think about this and help us understand that the call to be a prophet is not limited to a special few - it's something God wants for all of us.

In the first reading from the Book of Numbers, we hear about Moses dealing with a problem. Two men, Eldad and Medad, are prophesying, even though they weren't officially part of the group who had received the Spirit. Joshua wants Moses to stop them, but Moses responds with a surprising wish: **"If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!"** Moses doesn't see this as a problem - he dreams of a day when *everyone* would be filled with God's Spirit and speak God's truth.



This dream becomes a reality in the New Testament. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is poured out on the apostles, and Peter quotes the prophet Joel, saying: *"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people."* In other words, God's Spirit is not just for a few leaders or special individuals. It's for *everyone* - young and old, men and women, rich and poor.

**But what does this mean for us here today at the Chapel of Penha de França in Madeira?** How are we, ordinary people, called to be prophets in our everyday lives?

In the Gospel, we hear the disciples getting a bit protective. They see someone casting out demons in Jesus' name, but because he's not one of them, they try to stop him. Jesus quickly corrects them, saying, *"Do not stop him. Whoever is not against us is for us."* **Jesus reminds them - and us - that God's Spirit works in unexpected ways.** It's not up to us to decide who gets to be part of God's plan. The Spirit blows wherever it wants, and God calls all of us to be part of His work in the world.



So, how can we live out this prophetic calling in our own lives?

1. **First, we need to listen to God.** Being a prophet isn't just about speaking; it's about listening. We can't share God's message if we're not taking time to hear it ourselves. This means setting aside time for prayer, reading Scripture, and being attentive to how God is speaking to us in our everyday lives.

2. **Second, we're called to live our lives in a way that reflects our faith.** People are always watching how we live. If we say we're Christians but our actions don't reflect kindness, love, and justice, we lose credibility. Being a prophet means living with integrity, showing through our actions that we belong to Christ.



3. **Third, we need to have the courage to speak up for what's right.** In our families, workplaces, and communities, there will be times when we're called to stand up for truth, justice, or mercy. This can be uncomfortable, but being a prophet sometimes means challenging what's wrong and standing with the vulnerable. You don't have to perform miracles like Fernando the Prophet, but even small acts of kindness and justice can make a huge difference.



4. **Finally, we should encourage others to embrace their prophetic calling too.** Just as Moses wished that *all* of God's people would be prophets, we should support and encourage others in their own faith journeys. Let's not be like the disciples who tried to stop someone from doing good because they weren't part of their group. Instead, let's recognise the ways God is at work in *everyone*.

**As we gather in this beautiful chapel, we're reminded that our faith isn't meant to stay within these walls.** Just like the candles light up the altar, our lives should shine with God's love wherever we go. Every one of us is called to be a *"profeta"* or prophet, not by doing extraordinary things, but by living ordinary lives that point to God's truth, goodness, and mercy.

Being a prophet isn't reserved for a few special people. It's something we're all called to be through our baptism. Just like Moses said, *"If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!"* - that includes you and me. God's Spirit is alive in us and working through us. Let's embrace this calling with faith, courage, and joy, knowing that God is with us every step of the way. Amen.

- Revd. Tito Pereira

## OUR CHAPEL WILL BE CLOSING FOR REPAIRS – Mass changes



**During the month of October our Chapel will be closed due to some much needed repair and maintenance work that needs to be done on the bathroom, and in the Sacristy area.**

As it won't be possible to have our usual mass here due to the work taking place inside the Chapel, it has been decided that our Sunday

Mass service in English will be **temporarily transferred** to the Cathedral in Funchal.



As from next Sunday, **October 6th**, our usual 10am Mass in English will be held there. Mass time will continue the same as we have here: **10am.**



See you there next Sunday!

The Sé Cathedral in Funchal



## SUNDAY HUMOUR

