

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

Vol. 3, nr. 439



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 ground of our souls is the same. That's why, when someone opens their heart completely to someone else, the other immediately recognizes those wounds and joys as their own." - (José Luís Nunes Martins) in his book: "Luz".

### PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

**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: sineadmoynihian7@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.

### 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. ☺



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## JOYFUL GIFT

3rd of November 2024

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

10h00 – Mass in English

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 we celebrate Mass of the 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time. This is our 2nd Sunday back at the Chapel after being closed for three weeks for renovation work. We are blessed to have Deacon Tito Pereira joining us again from the UK.



**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS** – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B  
(Deuteronomy 6: 2-6; Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51; Hebrews 7: 23-28; Mark 12: 28-34)

**Deuteronomy**, the "second law", the last of the five books of the Pentateuch, was written long after the Israelites settled in Palestine. It summarises, expands and completes the record of the Law given by God to Moses. It was very familiar to Jesus, who quoted from it frequently. Today's reading ends with the "Schema": "Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord", the basic principle of the Mosaic Law, and familiar to all Jews. **The Psalm** is said to be by King David, giving thanks to the Lord for rescuing him after he had called for help in dire distress. David goes on to imagine God sending earthquakes and raining down lightning bolts and arrows to overwhelm his enemies. The Letter to the **Hebrews** continues from last week, explaining that Christ is a priest forever, replacing the priests of the tribe of Levi, each of whom dies and has to be replaced. For our sake Christ sacrificed himself once and for all. When Jesus is asked in today's gospel which is the first of all the commandments, the *Schema* is what he immediately thinks of. There is one God, and we must love him with an undivided heart.

### PSALM RESPONSE: I love you, Lord, my strength.



### TODAY'S HYMNS:

Music by: Fátima Cátia Marques



- [1] Entry Hymn: "A new commandment" – n.º 2
- [2] Penitential Act: "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 663
- [3] Gospel Acclamation: "Aleluia"
- [4] Offertory Hymn: "Father, we adore you" – n.º 136
- [5] Sanctus: "Scarborough fair Sanctus" – n.º 707
- [6] Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God" – n.º 733

[7] Communion Hymn: "Our God loves us" – n.º 454

[8] Thanksgiving: Instrumental

[9] Final Hymn: "Ubi caritas" – Lyrics: "Ubi caritas et amor. Ubi caritas Deus ibi est. Ubi caritas et amor. Ubi caritas Deus ibi est."



When I was a small boy, my grandparents would often take me to Santa Catarina Park in Funchal on Sundays. I have fond memories of them and still think about them whenever I visit. When I got older, my grandmother mentioned that we had family “wasted in that soil.” I later

discovered that the park had once been the city cemetery here in Funchal, hence her comment. Today, it’s a place full of life and beauty, a place where we go to relax and enjoy. To me, it reflects the Church’s teaching about death and new life in Jesus - **a reminder that even in places once marked by sorrow, God can bring renewal and hope.**

As we step into November, our thoughts naturally turn to loved ones who have gone before us, and the Church lovingly sets aside this month to remember and pray for the faithful departed. It’s a time when we pause, not in sadness alone, but in the hope and confidence that our faith brings us. Catholic teaching beautifully reminds us that death, while a parting, isn’t the end; rather, it’s the door to the fullness of life with God.

Our faith in the Resurrection is at the heart of this hope. We believe that Jesus Christ conquered death, and because of this, death doesn’t have the final say. As we recite in the Creed, we look forward to *“the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.”* This promise lifts us up, reminding us that those who have passed from this world remain alive in Christ. They are not gone, but transformed, and their journey continues in the communion of saints.

**The communion of saints is a lovely mystery of our faith** - our connection with all believers, both those here on earth and those who have entered eternity. We pray for our loved ones, and they, too, can intercede for us. This bond isn’t broken by death; rather, it’s strengthened as we are united in God’s love. When we come together in prayer, we participate in this beautiful communion, knowing we’re still connected to our loved ones in a very real way.

For those who mourn, November offers the comfort that our loved ones are in God’s hands. Praying for the souls of the faithful departed is a powerful act of love, and it brings peace to us as well. In our prayers, we ask God to bring them into His presence and to complete the work He began in them. And we are reminded that we, too, are being prepared for the day we will join them in God’s kingdom.

So, as we remember those who have passed, let us also hold onto hope, knowing that in Christ, we are united. **Let November be a month where we cherish memories, pray with faith, and look forward to the life to come.** In our sorrow, let us be comforted by the promise of resurrection and by the joyful thought that one day we’ll all be reunited, celebrating together in God’s unending love.

- Revd. Tito Pereira



Santa Catarina Park when it was a cemetery (“Cemitério das Angústias”) – photo from “Madeira Quase Esquecida” (Facebook page)... and how it is now



Monthly Prayer Intentions

In November, we pray with Pope Francis for all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter that they might find support in their community, and that they may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation.



This year, as customary, we will be making up Christmas boxes for the needy families we support under the auspices of our People Helping People Charity. We will be collecting hygiene products (e.g. lotions, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, etc.), and dried and tinned goods (tins of fruit, sardines, tuna, beans, dried nuts and fruit, rice and pasta, etc.). Please bring along your offerings and place in the hamper at the entrance of the church).

Any queries contact Jane House at: [janelh1945@gmail.com](mailto:janelh1945@gmail.com).



**BOOK SALE – After Mass**

Jane Caldwell, an author living in England, has brought along some copies of her latest book to sell after Mass, and will be donating all proceeds to the poor.

**If you love reading** and would like to get a signed copy of her book, Jane and her husband, Peter, will be outside the Chapel after Mass today. Go get yourself a copy!

**REMEMBERING LOVED ONES**  
– A special Mass celebrated by the Bishop

Yesterday afternoon in the church grounds of the cemetery of Sao Martinho, a special Mass was celebrated by the Bishop of Funchal. On this date, it is a tradition where many Madeirans go to the cemeteries to visit their loved ones who have passed away.

**ALL SAINTS DAY TRADITION**

**PÃO POR DEUS** Did you know that in Madeira we have a tradition on All Saints Day called “Pão por Deus”? In English it means “Bread for God’s Sake”, and the tradition started after the Great Lisbon Earthquake of November 1<sup>st</sup> 1755 which destroyed a large part of town and many people lost everything they had. They had no choice but to beg for food, so they went from door to door and begged for bread in the name of God. **The tradition is still celebrated in schools on the island.** In some schools, children are walked to elderly care homes where **they will dance and sing**, and come back with **bags full of fruit, nuts and little cakes.**



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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

“Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure.”

- St. John Paul II



After 3 weeks closed, we were finally able to return to the Chapel for our usual English service Mass last Sunday. We were pleasantly surprised by the renovation work carried out by the Diocese of Funchal:

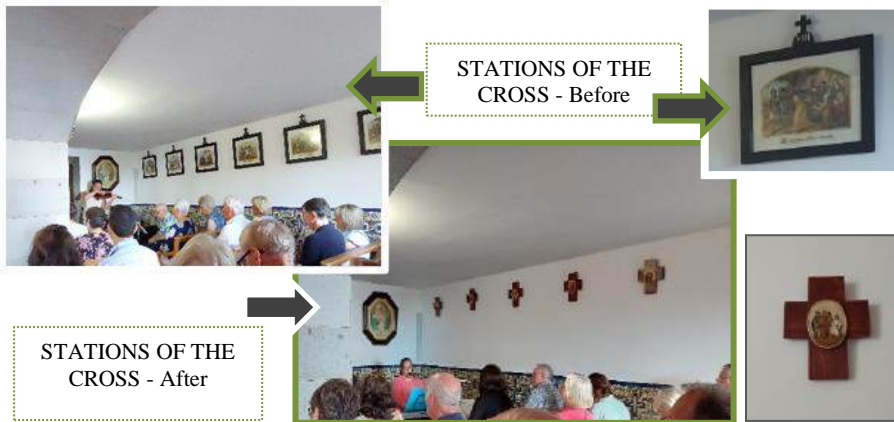
BEFORE and AFTER – THE BATHROOM HAS BEEN COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED!



BEFORE and AFTER - CORRIDOR LEADING TO THE SACRISTY



THE SACRISTY



STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Before

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - After