

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...**

"Let us not forget that the poor are almost always the victims, not the culprits" – (from the book "Hope does not Disappoint" by Pope Francis).

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

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

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. ☺



Tea and Coffee

After Mass

Join us across the garden for a cup of coffee, cake, and a chat!



Receive this newsletter by email every week. Email us at: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com to be added to the newsletter distribution list, or download them from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org

JOYFUL GIFT

12th January 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

Baptism of the Lord - Sunday after Epiphany - Year C

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



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH



Good morning. Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. A blessed New Year to you all!

The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass will be for the soul of **José Paul da Fonseca Barnard** who passed away this week, on Monday 6th of January 2025, in South Africa. He was only 33 years old and left behind minor children. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends. **May he rest in peace** ☩

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Baptism of the Lord – Year C

(*Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11; Psalm 103(104); Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3: 15-16. 21-22*)

Writing in Babylon about 540 BC, second **Isaiah** majestically consoles Israel in its exile. God tenderly commands his attendants to comfort Israel and to prepare a sacred way for them to return to Jerusalem. He will lead his people to freedom across the desert in a new Exodus. The coming of God's rule should be announced to the whole world, shouted from the mountain-tops. **The Psalm** magnificently praises and celebrates God's creative wisdom and power. **Titus** worked with Paul and later administered the church in Crete. In this pastoral letter Paul advises Titus on setting up church structures and choosing suitable presbyters for each local church. All Christians, and especially Church leaders, are urged to lead godly lives. We should reveal God's love to others in our good behaviour, while not disrupting the lives of others, in confident expectation of our redemption. **Luke** saw us as living in a time of waiting, one of three phases he saw in salvation history. Luke's time of promise, the period of Israel, ended when John was put in prison by Herod, after John the Baptist's prediction that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' baptism begins the period when this promise is fulfilled. Luke's Book of Acts describes his third phase, the beginning of the church.

- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC: By: Larysa Makarova

Entry: O the word of my Lord - 434

Offertory: Take our bread – 528

Peace: Shalom, my friend, shalom – 495

Communion: O bread of Heaven - 392

Final: This is the day - 574



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Water is deeply woven into the fabric of Madeira's identity. From the cascading waterfalls like *Véu da Noiva* and *Cascata dos Anjos* to the intricate network of *levadas* that carry life-giving water through our verdant landscapes, it surrounds us and sustains us. Even the ravines that flow from the mountain peaks to the ocean remind us of the island's intimate relationship with water.



Véu da Noiva Waterfall



Women washing clothes in the stream

As an island, Madeira is shaped by water in many ways, yet **one aspect of its past is no longer as visible** - women washing clothes in the streams. I still remember, as a child, watching the women gather at the *Ribeira de São João*, scrubbing and bleaching white sheets in the sun, their work transforming soiled fabrics into clean and bright linens. It was a vivid image of renewal and purity.



Cascata dos Anjos Waterfall

This memory resonates with my experience in the Holy Land, visiting the River Jordan, where pilgrims flock to the site of Jesus' baptism. John the Baptist's call still echoes, inviting people to repentance and renewal. However, as I stood there, I reflected that if we simply visit this sacred place or even undergo baptism but remain unchanged, we miss the deeper call.

Baptism is far more than an event; **it is a transformation**, a regeneration into new life in Christ. It is the **beginning** of our Christian journey, not its **culmination**. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God" (CCC 1213). This sacrament cleanses us, just as water cleanses physically, but it also calls us to continual renewal.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate at this time, invites us to reflect on our own baptism. In being baptised, Jesus sanctified the waters of the Jordan, transforming them into a source of spiritual renewal for all. Though sinless, He entered the waters to take on our humanity and show us the way to salvation. His baptism marked the beginning of His public ministry, a mission to reconcile humanity to God.

For us, baptism is the beginning of our mission too. It calls us not only to live as children of God but to **share that gift with others**. Just as Madeira's waters flow from the mountains to the sea, bringing life wherever they go, we are called to carry the grace of baptism into the world, making straight the paths for others to encounter Christ.

May we heed John the Baptist's cry to repentance and open our hearts to Christ's transforming power, allowing Him to wash us clean anew. And as we journey together as a parish, **let us help one another walk in the light** of our baptismal promises, becoming instruments of His love and grace in the world.

Happy Feast Day



THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS
January 2025
FOR THE RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION
Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

DOMINUS EST

OFFICIAL POPE'S PRAYER PROFILE

January 8, 2025

For peace
Let us not forget to pray for peace. Let us not forget war-torn Ukraine, or Nazareth, Israel. Let us not forget all countries at war. We should pray fervently for peace. And let us always remember that war is, without exception, a defeat.

Franciscus

CLICKTOPRAY | Franciscus Prayer Returns | VATICAN MEDIA

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T FEAR THE FUTURE

St Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

DO NOT LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHANGES AND CHANCES OF THIS LIFE IN FEAR; RATHER, LOOK TO THEM WITH FULL HOPE, THAT, AS THEY ARISE, GOD, WHOSE YOU ARE, WILL DELIVER YOU OUT OF THEM. HE IS YOUR KEEPER. HE HAS KEPT YOU HITHERTO.

DO YOU BUT HOLD FAST TO HIS DEAR HAND AND HE WILL LEAD YOU SAFELY THROUGH ALL THINGS; AND, WHEN YOU CANNOT STAND, HE WILL BEAR YOU IN HIS ARMS.

DO NOT LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT MAY HAPPEN TOMORROW.

OUR FATHER WILL EITHER SHIELD YOU FROM SUFFERING, OR HE WILL GIVE YOU STRENGTH TO BEAR IT.

Doctor of the Church

Anastpaul/18

5 TIMES TO MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

WHEN PASSING BY A CHURCH
... to honor the **BLESSED SACRAMENT** present inside

WHEN PASSING BY A CEMETERY
(or when someone has passed away)
... as a prayer for the release of the Holy Souls

WHEN YOU HEAR A SIREN
...to heal those in danger of **DYING**

WHEN YOU HEAR THE SIREN OF FIRETRUCKS
... to stop the **conflagration**

WHEN YOU SEE AN ACCIDENT
... as protection for those in **PERIL**

YOU MAY ALSO ADD AN OUR FATHER OR A HAIL MARY

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