

## 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...**

*"Only to the extent that we serve the poor does the Church become a home open to all and a place of compassion"*

– 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: 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.

### 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!



## JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, nr. 450

19th January 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,  
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

**f** [www.facebook.com/penhafranchapel](http://www.facebook.com/penhafranchapel)

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

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

## Remembering



## Fr. Bernardino

### THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

**Good morning.** Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França.

Today we remember in a special way, our beloved priest, Father Bernardino, on the first anniversary of his death.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

(Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 95(96): 1-3.7-10; I Corinthians 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11)

Writing after 515 BC, when the Temple had been rebuilt after the exile, third **Isaiah** heavily criticised idolatry and other excesses in the Temple, and injustices among the people. But he also had this glorious vision of a restored Jerusalem, comparing the Lord's delight in his people with the bridegroom's delight in his virgin bride. **The Psalm** invites all mankind and all creation to praise the Lord, the one true God. Over these Sundays before Lent we hear from Paul's letter to his beloved church in Corinth. Paul criticised the **Corinthian** Christians for misbehaving during the Eucharist: the rich ate and drank too well, while poorer members of the community were left out. The church should have unity in diversity: different gifts are given to different individuals, so that all contribute to the whole. After the Baptism of Jesus, and before resuming our readings from Luke's gospel, we hear today **John's** description of a marriage feast at Cana. A happy family occasion, to which Jesus and his newly chosen disciples were invited. Both Isaiah and Paul saw that the Lord longs to join himself to his church as intimately as possible. Water intended for use in Jewish purification rites is replaced by the fine wine of the heavenly banquet.

- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. ([www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info))

### PSALM RESPONSE: Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

#### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Bind us together" – n.º 65
- [2] **Penitential Act:** "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 663
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Alleluia" – n.º 679
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "Take our Bread" – n.º 528
- [5] **Sanctus:** "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord" - n.º 704
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** "Lamb of God" - n.º 737
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** "Our God loves us" – n.º 454
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental
- [9] **Final Hymn:** "Go, the Mass is ended" - n.º 175

By: *Fátima Cátia Marques*



## FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART – Remembering Father Bernardino



Today we remember **Father Bernardino** who passed away one year ago yesterday, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. He would usually start Mass on Sunday mornings with a "last minute" idea, or "change of plans" which always seemed to work out perfectly in the end. He would say that his Masses were sometimes a bit "messy", but were always a joy. He loved this Chapel and its community, and warmly welcomed those who were visiting.

We thank God for his life and ministry. 🙏✝️🕊️  
May his soul rest in peace.

You may notice that near the altar this morning there is an orange. This is because of a story that Father Bernardino often used to tell at Mass. 🍊

He wrote about the significance of one special orange in the newsletter one year. This is what he wrote:

**One Christmas day I got my first ever Christmas gift. It was an orange. It was so yellow and so beautiful that I didn't have the courage to eat it. When I was in California I told the story of this orange, the only Christmas gift of my childhood. A few days later I got a bag of oranges from a family. Since then, I always found a yellow orange on the top of the altar on the First Sunday of Advent and a box of oranges was delivered to my Parish residence on Christmas Eve. When I left California, 12 years ago, the same family gave me a plastic orange that I still treasure in my room. It is still yellow and beautiful and full of memories.** – (June 2019)



A gift of an orange

## WHY YOU SHOULDN'T FEAR THE FUTURE – According to St. Francis de Sales

The fear of some future suffering is often greater than the suffering itself. That's because when we are anticipating the future, we are not yet being given the grace that God will give at that moment. **Here's how St. Francis de Sales puts it:**

*Do not look forward to the trials and crosses of this life and fear. Rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise, God, to whom you belong, will deliver you from them. He has guided and guarded you this far in life. Do you but hold fast to His hand, and He will lead you safely through all trials. Whenever you cannot stand, He will carry you lovingly in His arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. The same Eternal Father who cares for you today will take good care of you tomorrow and every day of your life. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you the unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all useless thoughts, vain dreads, and anxious imaginations.* – **St. Francis de Sales**



## NUTELLA'S SECRET INGREDIENT OF SUCCESS – The Virgin Mary?

Source: <https://www.ucatholic.com/blog/creator-of-nutella-says-secret-ingredient-of-success-was-the-virgin-mary/>



Since its introduction in 1965, **Nutella** (a chocolate spread) became an instant sensation enjoyed today by millions around the world. It might surprise you to learn that founder and inventor, **Michele Ferrero**, credits all of his success to Our Lady of Lourdes.



Michele Ferrero, the late founder of the world famous *Ferrero* confectionery company and inventor of *Nutella*, was a humble man who preferred to stay out of the spotlight. Few people know that he was a fiercely devout Catholic endowed with a strong faith. **Michele Ferrero had a particularly strong devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes.** He ensured every one of the company's offices and factories in Italy and abroad had at least one statue of the Madonna.

Every year, he would visit the shrine of Our Lady at Lourdes, and would organize pilgrimages for his employees to visit as well. In fact, not only is the popular *Ferrero Rocher* praline named after the shrine, but even its design was inspired by it as well. The craggy grotto at the shine to Our Lady of Lourdes is called the *Rocher de Massabielle*, whose appearance inspired the design and name of the popular praline treat. It isn't hard to imagine the rough nutty surface with a hollow interior, resembling that of the sacred grotto of Lourdes.

In 1996 when he celebrated the 50th anniversary of the founding of Ferrero, he revealed the sole reason for his success:

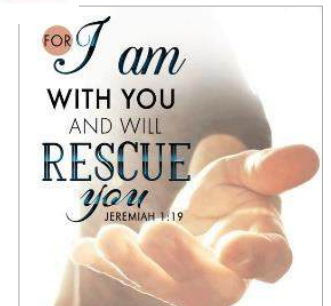
*"Everything that I have accomplished I owe to Our Lady of Lourdes, to Mary. I have always placed myself in her hands and I thank her. I pray to her every morning and this gives me strength. Without her we can do little."*



Rocher de Massabielle at Lourdes



♥️ *Let God handle it...*



## TURNING THE ORDINARY INTO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

- By Deacon Tito Pereira (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



The Gospel for this Sunday brings us to the Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11), where Jesus performs His first public miracle. With a quiet act of compassion, He transforms water into wine, revealing His glory for the first time. What's remarkable about this moment is not just the miracle itself but where it happens – at an ordinary wedding celebration, among family, friends, and neighbours. In this act, **Jesus shows us that God is not distant from the ordinary.** Instead, He works in and through it, transforming the mundane into something extraordinary.



31/12/2023 – Fr. Bernardino's final Mass at the Chapel



This Gospel reminds me of a moment with Fr. Bernardino that deeply moved me and those who witnessed it. Back in 2023, I had the privilege of being with the community at Penha de França Chapel while Fr. Bernardino was unwell. From October 2023 to January 2024 I served there, a time that culminated in Fr. Bernardino celebrating his final Mass at Penha alongside Fr. Thomas, with me as the assisting deacon. During that November, my wife Andrea and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. Although we had hoped for his blessing, his ill health meant he was absent from the chapel for much of that period. Still, his presence and spirit were felt throughout those weeks.

One late December evening, at a packed Moynihan's Irish Bar, I unexpectedly saw Fr. Bernardino enjoying supper. Despite his frailty, he looked content. We hugged, exchanged words of gratitude, and shared a brief, joyful moment. He even congratulated us on our 40th wedding anniversary. Then, as he was returning to his table, he came back to me and made an extraordinary request.



"You know," he said, "in all my years as a priest, **I've given thousands of blessings, but no one blesses me. I would love you to give me a blessing.**"

I was stunned by his humility. Here was a holy priest, who had spent his life pouring out blessings on others, now asking a deacon for a blessing. "Of course," I said, thinking he meant at Mass on Sunday. But he smiled and said, "Shall we do it now?"

The pub was buzzing with life - people laughing, getting ready for the quiz night - but I stood up, placed my hands on his head, and prayed, giving him a blessing. Suddenly, the noise of the terrace softened. Nearby tables grew silent, and heads bowed in respect. My family, moved to tears, witnessed something beautiful: the ordinary transformed into the sacred.

That moment was a reflection of the Gospel at Cana. Just as Jesus revealed God's glory by turning water into wine, **Fr. Bernardino revealed the presence of God in the most unexpected place - a crowded Irish pub in the middle of Funchal.** His humility, faith, and openness to receiving grace touched everyone who witnessed it.

The story of Cana and the moment with Fr. Bernardino remind us that **God's glory is not limited to grand, majestic settings.** It is revealed in the small, everyday moments of life, often in the places we least expect. God's grace is abundant, and when we open our hearts, even ordinary water can become the finest wine.

This Sunday, **let us reflect on how we can recognise and reveal God's glory in our own lives.** Like Mary at Cana, we are called to trust in Jesus' power to transform.



Like Father Bernardino, we are reminded of the humility it takes to ask for and receive blessings from others. And like those gathered at Moynihan's that night, we are invited to pause and acknowledge the sacred moments in our everyday lives.

May we have eyes to see and hearts to embrace the presence of God wherever we find ourselves, **trusting** that He is always working to turn the ordinary into something extraordinary.

Prayers and blessings.  
*Rev.º Tito Pereira*

## FATHER THOMAS – 11 Years serving God as a priest



On January 17<sup>th</sup> 2013, Fr. Thomas Muzhuthett was ordained a priest in Kerala, South India. He has now completed 11 years as a priest! Father Thomas is a Carmelite priest and has been in Madeira since March 2023, celebrating Mass here at the Chapel together with Father Joseph Arun for many months while Father Bernardino was ill, and continuing after his death. We congratulate Fr. Thomas on his ordination anniversary and we pray that the love of God continues to bless everything that he does.

