

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...**

"I pose a question that each of us can ask ourselves: Do I deprive myself of something to give to the poor?"

– 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 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

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

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



26th January 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

(Bible Sunday)

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/penhafranchachapel

ig www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

✉ penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning. Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França, which was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. The Chapel was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they founded the Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. In 2015 the Franciscans moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos, and the Chapel reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

(*Nehemiah* 8: 2-10; *Psalms* 18(19); *1 Corinthians* 12: 12-30; *Luke* 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21)

In 538 BC King Cyrus of Persia helped the Israelites to return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. There Ezra and **Nehemiah** shared the tasks of re-establishing the Jewish state and religion. Nehemiah rebuilt the city's walls and administration. In today's reading we hear about Ezra's formal reading of the Jewish Law, and the people's joyous celebration of God's gift of the Law. **The Psalm** praises God's moral law - and asks forgiveness for our transgressions. In Paul's letter to the **Corinthians** he compares a community to the human body. Every Christian becomes part of Christ's body by baptism. So all gifts come from the spirit; all gifts are necessary; all contribute to the good of the whole community. All Christians are equally valuable and wanted by God. Our reading of **Luke's Gospel** over the ordinary Sundays of Year C now resumes, to be interrupted only for Eastertide. First we are reminded of Luke's reason for writing a gospel: he is carefully putting into an orderly sequence what he has heard from eye-witnesses, so that his hearers may "realise the certainty of the teachings" they have received. Today's reading then continues from the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, including his self-proclamation in his home town. Next week we hear his neighbours' reactions.
- **Brought to you by:** Chris Oliver. (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larysa Makarova

Entry: Bind us together, Lord - 65

Offertory: Father, I place into your hands – 134

Communion: Let there be love shared among us - 317

Final: Go, the Mass is ended - 175



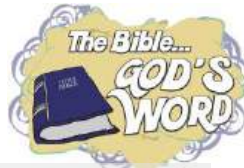


(dcn.tito@gmail.com)

As we celebrate Bible Sunday today, we are invited to reflect on the incredible gift that the Word of God is to us. The Bible is not just a collection of old writings - it is the living Word of God, continually speaking to us, guiding us, and revealing God's plan for our lives

Here in Madeira, the Bible has had a complicated history. For many years, it was not a common sight in Catholic homes. We didn't have Bibles on our shelves as many of us do today. Instead, the stories of Jesus were passed down orally - around the table, at bedtime, and in family conversations. These stories were alive in the way they were shared, and they made Jesus a reality to us.

I recall how, as a child, I didn't have a Bible in the house. But the stories told to me - stories of Jesus' love, His compassion, His teachings - became the way I encountered the Word of God. Those words were more than just narratives; they were windows into the life of Christ, who became real through the stories passed down. This is the truth we celebrate today: Jesus is not just a figure in a book, but the **living Word**, speaking to us in both written and spoken forms. Historically, there were moments in Madeira's past when Protestant influences sought to encourage the faithful to read the Bible for themselves. But sadly, this often led to confusion and division, as in those days it was seen as a challenge to the authority of the Church. It is important to remember that the Bible is not **just** for private reading; it is for the community of the Church, where we hear and understand it together, under the guidance of the Church's teaching. As Catholics, we know that the Scriptures point us to Christ, who is the fulfilment of all God's promises.



Today, we are blessed to have more access to the Bible than ever before. Thankfully, more Catholics now possess a Bible in their homes, and that is something to celebrate. However, we must remember that the Bible is not just a book we read - it is the living Word of God. As Jesus says in today's Gospel, *"The Scriptures are fulfilled in your hearing"* (Luke 4:21). Jesus, the Word made flesh, is the ultimate fulfilment of all that the Scriptures point to. The Bible is not simply about words on a page; it is about encountering the living Word in our lives even when we fail to live up to this calling.

Deus escreve direito por linhas tortas "God writes straight with crooked lines." - This Portuguese saying reminds us that, even in the messiness and imperfections of life, God's plan unfolds. Just as I encountered Jesus through the stories shared around the table, even without a Bible in the house, so too does God continue to speak to us today. His Word is not confined to a book or to perfect circumstances. It is alive and active, speaking through the Church, through the sacraments, through the lives of believers, and yes, even through the difficulties and struggles we face. Yes, even in the difficult times, God speaks to us. Think about this for a moment.

As we listen to the Scriptures today, let us recognise that the Bible is not just a collection of ancient writings; it is the **living Word** of God, speaking to us today through Jesus Christ. As Catholics, we do not simply read the Bible - we encounter the living Word in the liturgy, in the Eucharist, and in the community of the faithful. The Scriptures are fulfilled in our hearing because, through the Word made flesh, God continues to write His story in our lives, even through the crooked lines of our imperfect paths. **Let us give thanks for the blessing of having the Bible in our homes and hearts today.** May we continue to open our hearts to the living Word, who speaks to us in ways both profound and simple, guiding us towards His Kingdom.

Amen.

- Revd. Tito Pereira



This morning at the Chapel there will be a special book sale straight after this regular 10am Sunday Mass in English. **Mrs Jane Caldwell** (aka *Agatha Frisky*), and her husband, Peter, have become frequent visitors to Madeira over the years, and after learning about the poverty on the island, Jane decided to write a novel to help the "People Helping People" project which was started here at the Chapel after the devastating floods in 2010 (more info about this project on the last page of the newsletter).



Peter and Jane Caldwell



Since her first novel, "Frozen Stiff", 2 more books have been written: **all light-hearted, slightly romantic detective stories**, with one of the books ("Deadly Drama") even featuring a character based on our own dear Father Bernardino!

Get yourself a copy to read while you are here on holiday, and at the same time you will be contributing to a worthy cause. The books cost **10 Euros** each and absolutely every cent will go directly to helping those in need.

Happy Reading!

Jane Caldwell (janecaldwell902@gmail.com)

THE VATICAN PHARMACY – The busiest pharmacy in the world

Source: <https://zenit.org/articles/the-vaticans-drugstore-between-tradition-and-innovation/>

There is only **one** pharmacy in the Vatican City. It is called Vatican Pharmacy and **according to Vatican sources, it is the busiest pharmacy in the world, with 2000 customers per day!**



The pharmacy was founded in 1874 by Eusebio Ludvig Fronmen, a Fatebenefratelli monk from the Hospitaller Order of the Brothers of Saint John of God. They are known commonly as the *Fatebenefratelli*, meaning "Do-Good Brothers" in Italian, the Brothers of Mercy, and the Merciful Brothers.



The Order carries out a wide range of health and social service activities in 389 centres and services in 46 countries. The pharmacy, run by the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God, offers a dazzling display of high-end perfumes and beauty-care products under a smiling portrait of the pope, as well as prescription medicines that are approved much faster than in the rest of Italy.