

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.**



"You should wash each other's feet" (John 13:14).

"The best of me is not for me. Love leads us to others and allows us to fulfill ourselves."

- (from the book "Céu" (Heaven) – by José Luís Nunes Martins)



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 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! ☺



After Mass

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

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. ☺



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

23rd February 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass
7th 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/>
 www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel
 www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
 penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

Welcome

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Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning. Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Our small Chapel is 403 years old this year (it was founded in June 1622) and is the only Catholic church on the island of Madeira where an English-language Mass is celebrated (every Sunday at 10H00). On Saturday evenings at 18H30 a Mass is celebrated here in Portuguese.

*The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass will be for the soul of **Patricia Hawkins** who passed away 5 months ago. We extend our condolences to her family, and all who loved her. **May she rest in peace** ☩*



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; Psalm 102(103); 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49; Luke 6: 27-38)

In the first book of **Samuel**, Saul, Israel's first king, became unreasonably jealous of David, his anointed successor, and tried to kill him. Saul entered a cave where David and his men were hiding, but David merely cut off a piece of Saul's cloak. Then David crept into Saul's camp but only took away his spear. David believed it wrong to kill an anointed king, preferring to put his trust in God. **The Psalm** offers grateful thanks and praise to God that his mercy is so great because of our frailty. In last Sunday's reading, Paul had insisted to the **Corinthians** that Christ's resurrection is essential to our faith. In today's reading, Paul quotes Genesis saying that the first Adam became a living soul. But the last Adam, Christ, became a life-giving spirit. Therefore, after the earthly man, there must be a heavenly man, whose body is animated by the Holy Spirit. Now we are modelled on the earthly man, subject to natural death. After the resurrection of the body, we will be modelled on the heavenly man. In **Luke's Gospel**, Jesus takes David's restraint further: do good to your enemies, do not judge or condemn lest you suffer the same. In the Lord's Prayer we ask for forgiveness, but the pre-condition is that we forgive others.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is compassion and love.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: *Fátima Cátia Marques*



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Father, we adore you..." – n.º 136
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..." – n.º 679
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "How lovely on the mountains – Our God reigns..." – n.º 235
- [4] **Communion Hymn:** "As I kneel before you – Ave Maria gratia plena..." – n.º 39
- [5] **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental
- [6] **Final Hymn:** "Go, the Mass is ended..." – n.º 175



- (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



Today's readings invite us to reflect on God's compassion and our call to be life-giving, just as He is.

Here on Madeira, the island's name – meaning 'wood' – reminds us of the dense forests that once covered this land. When the first settlers arrived, they set fire to the vast laurisilva forest to clear the land for farming and building. Some say that fire burned for seven years. Today, knowing what we do about the environment, we'd be horrified by such destruction. We understand how trees give us the oxygen we need,

while we provide the carbon dioxide they need. It's a beautiful exchange – a cycle that sustains life.

This exchange reminds us of how God gives life. In Genesis, God breathes life into Adam, and he becomes a living being. It's a powerful image of God's Spirit – His breath – sustaining us. Just as we need air to live, we need God's Spirit to truly live.

I once heard someone say that when they sit quietly with the Lord, they like to breathe in His peace and breathe out all their worries. But a wise priest suggested, "Why not breathe out love instead?" That small change in perspective is powerful. Imagine if, every time we prayed, we took in God's life-giving Spirit and breathed out love into the world.

Jesus challenges us to do just that in today's Gospel. He asks us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who mistreat us. It's incredibly difficult because it goes against our instinct for fairness and self-preservation. But Jesus isn't asking us to be passive. He's showing us how to break the cycle of anger and revenge.

It's about choosing to respond with love and compassion, even when it's undeserved. Just as the trees give us life by releasing oxygen, we're called to give life by releasing love. God's compassion is simply another way of loving – a love that forgives and heals.



So, let's take in God's Spirit and breathe out love. Let's be life-giving, even in difficult situations. And let's remember that, just as we're sustained by the breath of life, we're also called to sustain others through love and compassion.

God bless,
Dcn Tito

But I tell you, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you (Luke 6:27-28)



THE CARNIVAL SEASON – A Madeiran Tradition before Lent

Soon we will be in the middle of the Carnival season here in Madeira. This is celebrated just before the beginning of Lent. During this time there is always a constant festive atmosphere on the island, with cheerfulness prevailing in the streets.



"Sonhos" with honey

Some traditional gastronomic delicacies which are meant to be eaten on Shrove Tuesday are "Sonhos" (a fried dough, literally translated as "dreams" because they are fluffy and are eaten with black sugar-cane honey) and "Malassadas" (literally translated as "under-cooked") are egg-sized balls of yeast dough that are more compact and are also deep-fried in oil and coated with granulated sugar.



"Malassadas" with sugar



This coming Friday, February 28th, the 'Children's Carnival' will start at 10H30, gathering around 1,000 little revellers at the Sé Cathedral, who in turn will parade with their costumes up to the Central Square. So if you are in Funchal, pass at the Cathedral and go have a look. The Children's excitement is certainly something to experience.

The main attraction of the Carnival season on the island is the vibrant Carnival Float Parade which will take place on Saturday, March 1st, at 20H00, in the centre of Funchal, with participants dressed in eye-catching Carnival costumes.

