

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.**

"For there is no 'before' for Christians, but rather 'before the last'. The 'last ones' who cry out to the Lord every day, asking to be freed from the evils that afflict them. The 'last' of the existential peripheries of our cities." - (Pope Francis, in the book "Hope: The Autobiography")

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.

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

Vol. 3, nr. 457



9th March 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

1st Sunday of Lent - 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/penhafrancachapel
i www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
e penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França

THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

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

The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass will be for the **Dos Santos Family**, and in a special way for **Brigita Dos Santos** who is in the hospital, in the ICU.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 1st Sunday of Lent
(Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Psalm 90 (91); Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13)

Deuteronomy, the "second law", repeats the law given on Sinai. It describes events just before the Israelites crossed the Jordan from the desert into the promised land. In today's reading Moses uses an ancient formula to prescribe how the first fruits of the harvest are to be offered in gratitude for the gifts God has given to a landless people. As with our offerings during Mass, the priest's role is to begin the celebration by setting the offerings "before the Lord your God".

The Psalm describes benefits of trusting in God: protection from evils and terrors as God goes with us in our distress.

Paul has lamented to the **Romans** that the works and rituals of the Mosaic Law did not bring Israel righteousness, and they cannot justify us, that is make us right with God. Everyone can be saved, but only by confessing faith in God from their heart.

In **Luke's gospel** we hear how, after his baptism, Jesus was tempted in the desert. The devil's power is real. Perhaps Jesus was often tempted during his ministry to use lavish gifts, force or exhibitions of supernatural power to convince people. But Jesus remained faithful to his Father. The only way to God is by service and suffering. The devil is routed for now, but will return during Jesus' passion.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: *Fátima Cátia Marques*



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "A new commandment..." – n.º 2
- [2] **Penitential Act:** "Kyrie"
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Glory and praise to you..." – n.º 690
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "O Lord my God - How great thou art..." – n.º 419
- [5] **Sanctus - "Sanctus"**
- [6] **Agnus Dei - "Agnus Dei"**
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** "Jesus the Lord said: "I am the Bread..." – n.º 288
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental
- [9] **Final Hymn:** "The Spirit lives to set us free..." - n.º 561



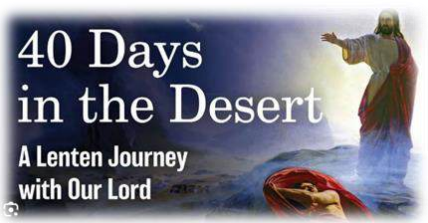
Many of you are aware that in Madeira, we are sometimes affected by the Sahara Desert, which brings the hot *Leste* weather our way. The winds and dust from this desert are closer to us than mainland Portugal. But there's another desert that is even closer and visible from Funchal: the Desertas Islands.



Desertas Islands

As we begin the season of Lent, we are invited to reflect and transform, much like the harsh, windswept Desertas Islands. These islands, once thought too barren to sustain life, have now become a sanctuary for rare species. This transformation reminds us that even the toughest environments can become places of new life and renewal. In the same way, Lent invites us to enter our own "desert" spaces, where, despite the challenges, transformation and growth can happen.

The Desertas Islands are a powerful symbol of how life can thrive in unexpected places. Similarly, Lent can be a season of spiritual renewal. Just as life slowly returns to the islands, Lent strips us of distractions, bringing us closer to God. During this time, we can allow ourselves to be renewed, just as the islands are being carefully nurtured to support new life.



This theme is echoed in the story of Jesus' 40 days in the desert. As we approach the 40 days of Lent, we're reminded that Jesus entered the wilderness not to be defeated, but to prepare for His mission. His time in the desert was about facing temptation, finding strength, and drawing closer to His Father. Far from being a place of emptiness, the desert became a space where He was refined and strengthened.

Lent, for us, is much the same. It's a time to enter our own spiritual desert, letting go of distractions and focusing on God. Like the Desertas Islands, which slowly bloom with life through care and attention, our spiritual lives can flourish during Lent if we make the time to nurture them. The desert may seem barren or difficult, but it is exactly where new growth can begin. It's a place where we can learn to depend more fully on God's grace.

Lent may feel like a time of emptiness, but it's also a time of preparation -a time to let go of old habits, be refined, and open ourselves to the new life God wants to bring. Just as the Desertas Islands have been given a second chance, we too can experience spiritual renewal. After the challenges of the desert, we can emerge with a stronger faith and a clearer sense of purpose.

As we begin this Lenten journey, let the Desertas Islands remind us that **even in the most barren places, new life can emerge**. May this season of Lent be a time when we encounter God's presence, allowing ourselves to be transformed and strengthened, ready for the new life that Easter promises.

- Revd. Tito Pereira



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

"Lent is the autumn of the spiritual life during which we gather fruit to keep us going for the rest of the year."

- St. Francis De Sales

LENT & HOLY WEEK 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY March 5, 2025	HOLY MONDAY April 14, 2025
1st SUNDAY OF LENT March 9, 2025	HOLY TUESDAY April 15, 2025
2nd SUNDAY OF LENT March 16, 2025	SPY WEDNESDAY April 16, 2025
3rd SUNDAY OF LENT March 23, 2025	MAUNDY THURSDAY April 17, 2025
LAETARE SUNDAY March 30, 2025	GOOD FRIDAY April 18, 2025
PASSIONTIDE SUNDAY April 6, 2025	BLACK SATURDAY April 19, 2025
PALM SUNDAY April 13, 2025	EASTER SUNDAY April 20, 2025

EASTER HAMPER COLLECTION

This year as usual we will be making up Easter hampers for the needy families we support with our charity, *People Helping People* (PHP).

We are collecting hygiene products (eg. lotions, toothpaste, shampoo, bodywash, etc.) and dried and tinned goods (tins of fruit, sardines, tuna, beans, dried nuts and fruit, rice and pasta, etc.) and Easter Eggs for the children. Please bring along your offerings to the 10am English Mass on Sundays and place in the basket at the entrance of the church. Thank you 😊



Any queries, contact Debbie at: deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk