

## 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.**

*"It is really difficult to admire and promote the good of our brother, our co-worker, our partner... But that's where you start to change the world. By creating real bonds with those close to us. Giving the best of our will to those who are within our reach." - (José Luis Nunes Martins, in his book:*



### 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.



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! ☺



Do Stay for  
Tea & Coffee

### 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. ☺



## JOYFUL GIFT

23rd March 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

**3rd Sunday of Lent – Year C**



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### 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](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

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

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



Father Thomas (from India) & Fr. Rafael (visiting Madeira from Poland) last Sunday during Mass

### THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

**Good morning.** Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Lent. Located in the heart of the city of Funchal, the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França was built in the 17th century by António Dantas, making it 403 years old this year. A Catholic Mass is held here in English at the Chapel every Sunday morning at 10am.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 3rd Sunday of Lent

(Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15; Psalm 102 (103); 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9)

The book of **Exodus** describes how a group of Hebrew slaves becomes a nation unified by faith in the one God, who made a covenant with them. After killing an Egyptian, Moses fled across the Red Sea. He was given refuge by Jethro, marrying his daughter, Zipporah. In today's reading Moses is called by God to his life's task of leading the Hebrews to the promised land. God reveals his name as "being": he exists and involves himself with us. All creation is invited to join in this **Psalm** - a tender hymn of thanksgiving for the Lord's mercy, which is so great because he knows man's frailty. Paul warns the **Corinthians** not to be over confident in their faith. Even with God's continual support and unifying nourishment, the Israelites many times fell away from the covenant and into idolatry. Paul goes on to urge respect for the Eucharist. The sacraments help us to live our lives of faith, but salvation is not automatic. In **Luke's Gospel** Jesus continues teaching his disciples on the journey to Jerusalem. He uses examples of sudden death that his hearers would be aware of, to urge repentance and keeping one's life oriented towards God at all times. With the parable of the fig tree Jesus says God is patient, but judgement will come.

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

### PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is compassion and love.

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Fátima Cátia Marques



- [1] Entry Hymn: "Colours of day..." – n.º 93
- [2] Penitential Act: "Lord, have mercy" – n.º 663
- [3] Gospel Acclamation: "Glory and praise to you..." – n.º 690
- [4] Offertory Hymn: "Lord Jesus, think on me..." – n.º 340
- [5] Sanctus - "Holy, holy, holy" – n.º 698
- [6] Agnus Dei – "Lamb of God" – n.º 737
- [7] Communion Hymn: "My God, accept my heart this day..." – n.º 372
- [8] Thanksgiving: St. Patrick's Hymn: "Hail, Glorious St. Patrick" – n.º 202
- [9] Final Hymn: "Word made flesh..." – n.º 635



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## REFLECTION FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT – By Deacon Tito Pereira

Email: (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



When I was staying in *Rochinha* last year (a small neighbourhood in Funchal), there was a *nespereira*, a loquat tree, in the garden. Year after year, it grew but never bore any fruit. One of my cousins suggested cutting it down, believing it was a waste of space. Yet another cousin gently objected, saying, "All it needs is a little love." After I returned to the UK, months passed, and then one day, my cousin sent me a

photo. There it was - the tree, covered in fruit. I am glad it got a second chance.



**In today's Gospel, we hear of the barren fig tree.** For three years, it has borne no fruit, and the logical response might be to cut it down. Yet, the gardener intercedes, pleading for one more year, offering to tend to it with care and patience. This image of mercy mirrors the heart of God - the great "I Am" who is not distant or indifferent but present, full of compassion and love. When Moses encounters God in the burning bush, the Lord reveals Himself as "I Am Who Am," the One who exists eternally and who is always with His people. This divine presence is not one of fear or condemnation but of steadfast love. Just as God heard the cries of His people in Egypt and responded with deliverance, so too does He hear our own cries and longs to set us free.



**Lent is a time of renewal**, a season when we are called to examine our hearts and seek conversion. But it is also a time to encounter the tenderness of God's love. Like the fig tree, we may sometimes feel barren, burdened by our failings or distant from God. Yet the Lord never gives up on us. He draws near, offering nourishment through the sacraments, strengthening us with His grace, and calling us to deeper intimacy with Him.

To stand before the cross is to witness the revelation of the **I Am** - the God who chooses to suffer for love of us. Christ's sacrifice, in His compassion and love, is the ultimate sign of God's enduring presence. Through His wounds, we are healed, and through His resurrection, we are given new life.

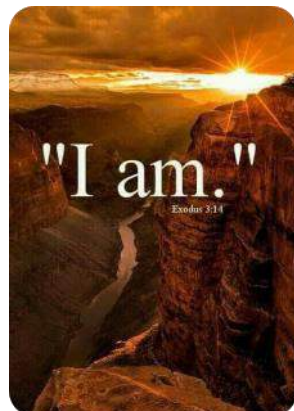
**Today, we are also reminded** of our call to mirror God's compassion in our own lives. The patience of the gardener challenges us to be patient with one another, to offer forgiveness, and to bear with each other's weaknesses. In a world often quick to judge and slow to understand, we are called to respond with kindness and mercy.

**May this Lent be a time of renewal for us all.** Let us draw closer to the **I Am** through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. And may the love we receive from Him overflow into our relationships, so that we may become instruments of His compassion in our families, communities, and the world.

And hopefully, when I return to Madeira, I will sample the fruits of the *nespereira*!

Have a blessed week.

*With prayers and love,  
Dcn Tito.*



## CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT – On Saturday evening



**People Helping People Charity Quiz night**  
**Coming-up on \*Saturday 29th March\* 2025**

**Where:** \*Moynihan's Irish Bar\*

**Time:** starting 18h30.

PHP leadership arrive from 18h00 (if need be)

**Pub dinner & drink served between 19h00 -19h30**

**Quiz entry, meal & drink only €20** (50% of the proceed as a donation to the charity).

### **Menu choice(s):-**

Beef burger & chips

Chicken burger & chips

Fish & chips

Beef & Guinness pie with mash

**Please let me know should you prefer a healthier option?**

### **Drink(s):-**

Choice of glass house wine (red or white),

Beer or

Ice tea / soft drink



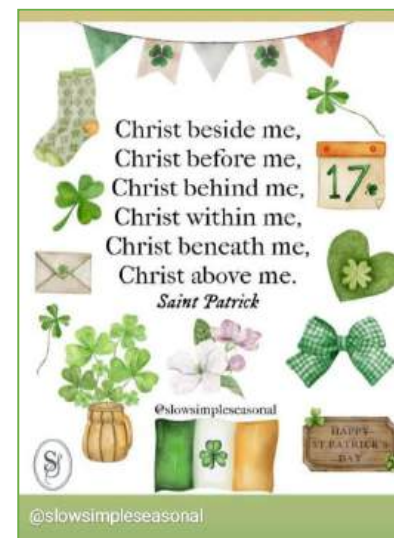
Thanks for confirming your attendance, please let **"Zac"** 968488890 or **"Jane"** 913713916 (e-mail: janelh1945@gmail.com) know your choice of meal by **Wed, 26 March**.

If anyone needs a further incentive the organisers have arranged a number of Quiz Prizes.

Don't be intimidated as the GAME is played in groups "power in unity" 😊

Lastly, we've organised some superb prizes that will be raffled on the evening at the cost of €5 per ticket for those feeling lucky or blessed and able to support the charity further. 🍀

\* All prizes are donated and are at no cost to the PHP Charity \*



### **SINGLE BED MATTRESS – Needed**

If you, or anyone you know, has a single bed mattress in good condition that is no longer need, an elderly gentleman is in need of one urgently.

Please get in touch with:

Carla Rodrigues if you are

able to help: 967 214 835

e-mail: fcarla.mrodrigues@gmail.com

Thank you in advance! ☺



### **EASTER HAMPER COLLECTION**

Please continue bringing in items to make up our **Easter hampers** for needy families. Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far!

**For further details, contact Debbie**  
**at: deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk**

