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.

"May our humble and open hearts recognise the presence of Jesus in the weaknesses and wounds of the world." -(Pope Francis)

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:

Associacao 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 Ouiteria 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: sineadmovnihan7@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

30th March 2025 - 10am Sunday Mass 4th 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/

www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel [6] www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning. Today we celebrate the 4th 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.



Vol. 3. nr. 460



Father Joseph (from India) and Deacon Peter (visiting Madeira from the UK) last Sunday during Mass



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - 4th Sunday of Lent

(Joshua 5: 9, 10-12; Psalm 26(27); 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21; Luke 15:1-3,11-32)

In the book of Joshua Israel's conquest of Canaan, the promised land, starts with the miraculous crossing of the Jordan. The river waters were held back until all the people had crossed on dry ground. Then, before celebrating the Passover, all the men who had been born during the Exodus were circumcised to mark them now as Israelites, so removing the "shame of Egypt". The place where they crossed was named Gilgal, a pun on the word meaning "remove". The Psalm offers grateful praise to God for rescuing us from danger, and encourages fear of the Lord, keeping our tongues from evil. Paul insists to the Corinthians that as new creations in Christ they must forget their old ways of seeing the world. We have been given work to do, that of showing visibly in our lives that God has reconciled us to himself, just as Christ did by dying on the Cross. Although Luke's unique parable in today's gospel is usually called "The Prodigal Son", the behaviour of the other two people in the story is important. The father rushes out to meet his returning son - a marvellous image of God the Father. But are we sometimes tempted to imitate the other son's reactions to his father's reconciliation with "this son of yours"?

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Taste and see that the Lord is good.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larvsa Makarova

Entry: "Awake, awake: fling off the night!..." - 51 Offertory: "Take our bread, we ask you..." - 528

Communion: "Amazing grace..." - 32

Final: "Colours of Day..." - 93



Email: (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



Anyone who has spent time in Madeira knows that the island offers far more than just beautiful views and rugged landscapes. The food is at the heart of the island's culture. Sharing food here isn't just about eating; it's about gathering, welcoming, and savouring life together. It's a reminder that food has a way of connecting us to a place and its people. For visitors and locals alike, these moments around the table become cherished memories.

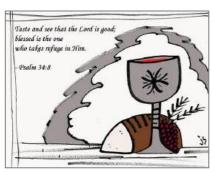
In the Gospel, we hear a story that also revolves around a meal — the parable of the Prodigal Son. The younger son leaves home in search of a more exciting life, believing freedom and indulgence will bring him happiness. But he soon discovers that the world's pleasures leave him empty. Starving and desperate, he recalls the goodness of his father's house, where even the servants have more than enough. That memory stirs a longing within him - not just for food, but for the comfort and security he had abandoned.

When he returns, expecting anger and rejection, he is instead embraced by his father. The response isn't one of condemnation, but iov. The father orders a feast, not simply to provide food but to celebrate the son's return. It is an expression of mercy, love, and complete restoration. The son, once lost and starving, now tastes the goodness of his father's love. Yet the story doesn't end there. The elder son, who has stayed behind,

refuses to join the feast. Despite living in his father's house, he has grown distant in spirit. Resentful and bitter, he is unable to rejoice in his brother's return. He has missed the true joy of living in his father's presence, blinded by his own sense of entitlement and self-righteousness.

How often do we find ourselves in a similar place? Sometimes we seek fulfilment in things that leave us empty, thinking we'll find happiness apart from God. Other times, we may stay close physically but keep our hearts distant, going through the motions without truly tasting the joy of God's love. But the Father never stops waiting, longing for us to come home.

Lent is an opportunity to accept that invitation. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, we are called to step away from what leaves us hollow and return to the One who nourishes us. Here in Madeira, we know that a shared meal is about more than satisfying hunger - it is about community, celebration, and belonging. And so it is with God. The Eucharist, the greatest feast of all, invites us to taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Each time we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, we are welcomed into the Father's embrace, reminded of His endless mercy and love.



So wherever we find ourselves on our spiritual journey whether we relate more to the lost son or the elder brother - the Father invites us to the table. Let us set aside our pride and fears, enter the celebration, and truly taste the joy of belonging to God.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8)

With prayers and love, Den Tito.

SURGERY APPEAL – An update!

Two week's ago there was a special appeal in our newsletter, asking for help to make a life-saving surgery possible. Today we have an update!

- Brought to you by Alexandre Silva

Dear members of the Penha de França Community (and visitors to our Chapel),

I will start with the big news: Mrs. C had her life saving surgery on Wednesday!

After the appeal we made two weeks ago, we gathered enough money to start preparations really early, so she scheduled her trip to Barcelona for last Monday. She went alone.

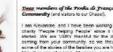
They were able to schedule all her pre-surgery exams for Tuesday, and late in the day on Wednesday, she had her surgery!

The doctors even discovered additional masses that had gone undetected, but they were able to remove those as well.

She will still need to stay under observation for some more time, but she is stable, and with good prospects.



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP) - A special appeal



startly "People Helping People" since it was first started. We are VERV thankful for the donations oming from your community, so we thought we could share with you some of the stories of the families you are helping to take care of. Not. C is one of a kind. Of course, everyone is one of a kind, but some people seem to be more unique than others

spiritual and compressionals. The is a lowly 42-year-old somme, with a pinalize, therefor spiritual and compressionals. The is also a hard-ordering with and mother of 1 flot with an every light budget. These is so much positivity in her, that you acculd move from that she has Liquis and forcerpoing he with constraining her. So much here her by our word in wome existing and old ordering her with constraining her. So much here her by our word wome existing and old ordering her with contrast the contrast that is a final positive. In the second of the contrast that the

amount needed to have the surgery, plus expanses. They always lived in a tight budget where savings are impossible. So her oldest son asked for a loan from his boss, to make the operation possible. Although she has a good insurance. Mrs. C still had to pay 7.500¢ for the surgery, traval and accommodation to one of the most expensive cities in

host by by yours his are supery, which is supery she suffered a heart disks, so they had to be read to be superior to the supery she suffered a heart disks, so they had to the energieting, end reactable her without froming the procedure. Doe was annually dead to concer time. Sale intrough they impressed to delen up once of the turner of it in one regrounding in the name of the superior of the superior. And of pourse, which they her controllers will give become superior of the superior. By the superior of the superio

these inspects less sample openies and we copied and not solve when the extra the first place of the part of the first place of the part o

that he cook. Helick if a worth it. I really want to make the happen. Can we halp? If you wish to donate to help the family, please include any mention to "surgery" or "Mins. C" or anything related to the bank treated notes to PHP. We will be waithing out for that and cathing it each for them. Your donations at the end of Mass make it possible for us to help familiae the this.

Then's you for taking the time to read this through to the end, and for caring, 18/03/2025 – Alexandre Silva (siex tupus@gmail.com)



So now, a mother of seven children, a wife, a friend of so many people, and a pillar of her extended family, is going to come back home, resume working, and more importantly, have a long life surrounded by loved ones, filled with love and purpose, because of you!

I've been thinking about Angels. We relate them with protection - "our guardian Angel". We ask them for help, protection from terrible events. They even help us just by making us know we are not alone in the world. And sometimes, when things work out, we wink at the sky and thank them for our good fortune. That is what you've done, when you answered Mrs. C's prayers with your generosity. You protected her. You made her know she was not alone. You lifted her and gave her hope. You won't believe the depth of gratitude she, and her family have for this gesture. I can tell you that these last few weeks involved a lot of tears. Not mine of course, it was just something that got into my eyes. But seriously, it was ridiculous the amount of crying and hugging involved in the preparation for her life-saving trip. Well, not ridiculous, but there was certainly a copious amount of emotions. Not all Angels have blinding white wings, and piercing blue eyes (well, some do), so really, really, really thank you for being your Sister's Guardian Angel.

We gathered 7.462€ to help Mrs. C. We have paid all the expenses up to now, so if there are no setbacks with her stay in the Hospital, we should be able to help her son with the debt he has from the first surgery. So, I guess he has a few more guardian Angels too! Thank you with all my heart.

- Alexandre Sílva (alex.lupus@gmail.com)

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 by email: deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk

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! ©