

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.**

"Indifference can kill. Love does not tolerate indifference. We can't remain with our arms crossed, indifferent, nor can we sit back and be fatalistic. The Christian extends his hand." - (Pope Francis, in the book: Hope - Autobiography)

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! ☺



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

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6th April 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

5th Sunday of Lent – Year C

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França

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THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning. Today we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Lent. Our priest this morning is Father Thomas Muzhuthett, a Carmelite priest, originally from Kerala, India. He has often celebrated Mass for us here at the Chapel over the last two years, and today is his last Mass here at the Chapel and we wish him well as he returns to India to continue his ministry there.

The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass is for the soul of Maria José Freitas. May she rest in peace. ☩



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 5th Sunday of Lent

(Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 125(126); Philippians 3: 8-14; John 8: 1-11)

Second Isaiah describes the new Exodus, the return from exile in Babylon. God shows who he is by his preparations and care for their return. These are so wonderful that his servant Israel, his chosen witnesses, will no longer need to remember their Exodus from Egypt. Exodus is a repeatable pattern. The Lord even forgives Israel's many sins, which led to their exile, and will continue to do so, because "I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine". **The Psalm** celebrates the Israelites' joy after their return from exile in Babylon. Writing from prison, Paul shares his hopes, fears and convictions with the **Philippians**. The great gift of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord makes his previous righteousness under the Law seem worthless. He is possessed by Christ but not yet arrived, keeping his eye on the final goal of living in God's new world. The story of the woman caught in adultery is found in different places in various manuscripts: it fits better with Luke's gospel, but here in **John's gospel** it matches the changing mood. This chapter opens with a woman about to be stoned, then freed from death. But it ends with people seeking to stone Jesus. Jesus has shown them God's wisdom, different from men's.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larysa and Anastacia

Entry: "Abba, Father..." - 05

Offertory: "Take our bread, we ask you..." - 528

Communion: "O Lord, my God..." - 419

Final: "The Spirit lives to set us free..." - 561



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REFLECTION FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

- By Deacon Tito Pereira

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When I was growing up, whenever people asked me where I was from, I would answer, "Rua de Santa Maria." And in that moment, I could see their whole demeanour change. I even heard people say, "Oh, he is from *Rua de Santa Maria*, but he is alright!" That street, in the heart of the Old Town of Funchal, carried a certain stigma, a reputation that clung to those of us who lived there.

Today, the Old Town is a vibrant place full of life, culture, and beauty. But not long ago, it was known as the "Red Light District." Those who lived there were often judged harshly, seen only for their past rather than for their dignity as human beings. Yet, the priests of the parish of *Santa Maria Maior* saw things differently. **They, like Christ, looked beyond appearances and into the hearts of the people.** They did not condemn but offered kindness, understanding, and hope. They loved the sinner while rejecting the sin, just as Jesus does.

As we move closer to the final days of Lent, the readings for this 5th Sunday invite us to pause and reflect more deeply on suffering, grace, and the way God's love transforms us. In today's Gospel (John 8:1-11), we find ourselves in the midst of a tense and dramatic scene - the well-known story of the woman caught in adultery. The scribes and Pharisees bring this woman before Jesus, using her as a pawn in their attempt to trap Him. "Teacher," they say, "this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" It is a moment heavy with judgment and expectation. The crowd is ready to condemn, but Jesus does something unexpected. He bends down, writes in the sand, and then speaks: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." Silence falls. One by one, the accusers drift away until only Jesus and the woman remain. And then comes the moment of grace: "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." In that instant, she is not just spared - she is given a fresh start.

This is what Lent is all about: renewal, reconciliation, and transformation. The woman, who was once condemned, now walks away with a new chance at life - not because of anything she has done, but because of Jesus' mercy. And this is the same mercy He offers to each of us, no matter how far we have fallen or how lost we may feel. **Jesus does not come to condemn us but to lift us up, to heal and restore us.** The first reading from Isaiah (43:16-21) reinforces this theme: "I am doing something new!" God promises to make a way through the wilderness, to bring rivers into the desert. Just as Jesus gives the woman a fresh start, God is constantly at work in our lives, calling us to leave behind the burdens of the past and embrace the new life He offers. In his letter to the Philippians (3:8-14), St. Paul echoes this message. He speaks of letting go of the past and pressing forward toward the goal - the ultimate prize of life with Christ. Lent is a time for us to focus on that goal, to let go of our sins and regrets, and to trust in God's mercy. **This Gospel story is not just about a woman from centuries ago; it is about all of us. We all have moments where we feel judged, unworthy, or burdened by our past. But Jesus sees beyond our mistakes.** He looks at us with love, offering us the same mercy He offered her. This Sunday, we are called to do the same. How often do we judge others based on their past, their struggles, or their mistakes? Do we, like Jesus, have the

courage to see beyond sin and extend mercy? Lent is an opportunity to cleanse our hearts - not just of our own sins, but of our harsh judgments of others. Jesus saw the woman, not just her failure.

The priests of Funchal saw the people, not just their reputations. We, too, are invited to see with the eyes of mercy. Let us pray for the grace to follow their example - to see others as Christ sees them, to offer healing instead of condemnation, and to trust that God is always doing something new, in our hearts and in the world. May this season of Lent not just be a time of reflection, but a time of transformation, where we learn to love as Christ loves, now and always.

- Dcn Tito.

