

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.**

"When we give ourselves to someone, in a word or gesture, we are building happiness in that person"- (José Luís Nunes Martins, in his book "Amor: Silencios e Tempestades... [Love, Silences and Storms]").

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: sineadmoynehan7@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. ☺



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

13th April 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

Palm/Passion Sunday – Year C

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



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THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning. Today we celebrate Palm Sunday.

Our priest this morning is **Father Thomas Muzhuthett**,

who celebrates one more Mass here at our Chapel before he returns home tomorrow to his province in India, to serve his community there.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Palm/Passion Sunday

(Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21(22); Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56)

In this suffering servant song **Isaiah** expresses the despondency of an exiled people apparently deserted by their God. But it is they who have fallen away. God has not gone back on his promise to them, and he will come to their help. But first they must turn back to him and put all their trust in him, in spite of their sufferings. On the Cross Jesus uttered the first words of **Psalm 22**, which goes on to reflect his suffering. But rather than a cry of despair, the Psalm expresses Jesus' complete confidence in his Father and praises the redemption bought by his Cross. Paul pleaded for unity among the **Philippians**, divided by rivalry and personal vanity. He urged them to "do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather humbly regard others as more important than yourselves". Unlike Adam, Jesus did not try to be equal to God. Instead, his crucifixion gives us the supreme example of unselfish love. Therefore, he was raised to new life, as also will be those who follow his example. **Luke** says that at the Last Supper Jesus declares he will "not drink wine until the kingdom of God comes". Mark and John say that immediately before he died Jesus was given wine to drink from a sponge, then saying "It is finished".

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

PSALM RESPONSE: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Fátima Cátia Marques



[1] **Entry Hymn:** "Colours of day..." – n.º 93

[2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Glory and praise to you..." – n.º 690

[3] **Offertory Hymn:** "How lovely on the mountains – Our God reigns..." – n.º 235

[4] **Communion Hymn:** "Our God loves us..." – n.º 454

[5] **Final Hymn:** "The Spirit lives to set us free..." – n.º 561

REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY



Today we reprint a column written by Father Bernardino for our newsletter on Palm Sunday: 25/03/2018:

I don't know in other places but, in the USA, it is common to advertise in the newspapers that there are seminaries, convents and opportunities for those who feel the call to become priests, nuns or to join the religious life that we also call «Consecrated Life».

Of course, most of those of advertisements try to impress and attract young people by giving attractive reasons why they can consider joining those communities and that lifestyle. And it works because most of the young people have no proper information about this alternative for their lives. Unfortunately, most of the information they hear is negative, and also through jokes that denigrate a way of life that can be the best answer for their living, which is their love for God transformed into service for

others.

I believe that most of us are aware of Mother Teresa and the thousands of young girls who decided to follow her and also of so many priests and nuns who have lived their lives passionately in love with Jesus and his project. And most of them have lived a very happy life.

But ironically, there was a special religious order that had a very unattractive advertisement with a very high rate of success. The advertisement went like this:

«IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A NOBODY, JOIN US».

Join Us!

Holy Week is the best picture of what a «NOBODY» can be in a Christian life. And those who want to follow him must be open to become a *nobody* like Him. In the second reading of Palm Sunday Mass, St. Paul (Philippians 2: 6-11) says: «*His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave*». A slave was a «nobody» with no rights and no dignity. An animal would have more rights than a slave. Is this attractive?

The prophet Isaiah, in reference to the Messiah, says something very unattractive and in a way almost repugnant. Who wants to be like this? «*He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases*». (Isaiah 53).

JESUS BECAME A NOBODY. If you want to become a *nobody*, follow him. I have tried and I don't know if I have been a good priest but I know that, for almost 53 years, I have been a very happy priest. If I could go back in life I would follow the same road.

Happy Holy Week

Fr. Bernardino Andrade (25/03/2018)



Today is Palm Sunday & the beginning of Holy Week

Today is Palm Sunday, the final Sunday of Lent, and the beginning of Holy Week. We commemorate the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday always falls on the Sunday before Easter. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey (*which is an animal of peace, versus the horse, which is the animal of war*), and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of Him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.



The unexpected meeting between Pope Francis and a 94-year-old nun



Last Sunday April 6th, on pilgrimage with a group from Naples, Sister Francisca Battiloro, who has lived in a cloister for 75 years, was in St. Peter's Basilica praying when she suddenly met the Pope on the way to the Square: "I had asked God to meet him, but it seemed impossible. Instead, He sent him to meet me." In a wheelchair, and with a sight problem, Sister Frances

wanted to go through the Holy Door of the Basilica. Due to her fragile condition, she was allowed to experience the moment in private while Mass was being celebrated in the square with 20,000 faithful. She was praying in front of the Apostle's tomb when she suddenly saw a group of men in suits arrive. In the middle was another wheelchair with Pope Francis, on his first trip out of Casa Santa Marta after being admitted to Gemelli hospital for bilateral pneumonia. He had gone to confession, prayed and passed through the Holy Door. He was in the Basilica to go out and give a surprise greeting to those taking part in the Jubilee celebration. He probably didn't expect to find the small group kneeling in the central nave; much less did she, Sister Francesca, expect it, although something stirred in her heart. "I had asked God," she told the Vatican media. "The two wheelchairs met. How beautiful, how beautiful," said Sister Francesca. And she smiled as she told how she held the Pope's hand and couldn't shake off the emotion. "I had asked God: 'I want to meet the Pope'. And only for him, huh! No one else... I thought it was impossible, but it was **the Pope who came to meet me**. It seems that when I ask God for something, he always gives it to me. I'm happy".



HOLY WEEK MASS SERVICES



Holy Week Mass services here at the Chapel of Penha de França:

- **Palm Sunday** - April 13th - 10h00 (Mass in English). No Portuguese Mass.
- **Holy Thursday** - No Masses at the Chapel.
- **Good Friday** - No Masses at the Chapel.
- **Holy Saturday** - No Masses at the Chapel.
- **Easter Sunday** - April 20th - 10h00 (in English). No Portuguese Mass.

Holy week Mass services at the Sé Cathedral (only in Portuguese):



- **Holy Thursday** - 11h00 and 17h30
- **Good Friday** - 9h30, 17h30 and 19h00
- **Holy Saturday** - 9h30 and 21h30
- **Easter Sunday** - 9h00, 11h00, 17h00, 18h00