

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.**

"The church needs everyone; every man, every woman, and we all need each other." - (Pope Francis).

The phrase that marked Pope Francis' church was: everyone, everyone, everyone.



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: sineadmoynih7@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. ☺



Want to have this newsletter sent to you by email every week? Ask to be added to the newsletter distribution list by sending emailing penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or alternatively, you can download them from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org

JOYFUL GIFT

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27th April 2025 – 10am Sunday Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Easter, 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



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Today is the 2nd Sunday of Easter (also known as Divine Mercy Sunday). We are thankful to Padre Simões who will be celebrating Mass for us this morning.

The special intentions of today's Mass is for 1) **Angela Pingo (RIP)** 2) **Manuel Teixeira (RIP)** and 3) **Irene Teixeira (RIP)**. May they all rest in peace ☩



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Divine Mercy Sunday

(Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 117(118); Revelation 1:9-19; John 20:19-31)

All the first readings of Eastertide are from the Acts of the Apostles describing the early years of the Church. The second readings are from the Book of Revelation, John's vision of the new life in heaven promised to all believers and in which we share at Mass. The readings from John's Gospel describe Jesus' resurrection appearances and claims of his unity with the Father. Today the risen Jesus identifies himself as the one crucified, before this Gospel's first ending. In **Acts**, Peter and John were arrested, then released. Then the growing Christian community lived in peace. Peter only once acted as judge of Israel, killing Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit. In today's reading the other disciples stand apart from the Apostles, apparently in awe after this display of Peter's power. More verses from the **Psalm** used for the Easter Masses, rejoicing at the coming of the king. John is exiled to the island of Patmos, south-west of Ephesus, for spreading the gospel. In this first chapter of **Revelation** a figure appears to John in his vision, identifying himself both as the risen "Son of Man", which Jesus called himself while on earth, and as "the First and the Last" – ie God. John is commanded to write down what is now to be revealed to him.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His love has no end.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larysa and Anastacia

Entry: "Crown him with many crowns..." - 119

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

Communion: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today..." - 279

Final: "The Day of Resurrection..." - 538





Christ Is Risen: Seeing Him in Mercy, in Mission, and in Each Other

Whenever the Church prepares for a new pope, something stirs in every Catholic country - "Could it be one of ours?" Here in Madeira, we quietly wonder too. After all, we have a Cardinal of our own - José Tolentino Mendonça - born and formed on this very island. A man of prayer and poetry, of deep thought and gentle witness. He, like Pope Francis, has shown us that **the heart of the Gospel is mercy** - God's mercy that never gives up on anyone.



Cardinal José
Tolentino
Mendonça

In these days, as we mourn the passing of Pope Francis, we remember his deep love for the poor, his bold call to reach the margins, and his constant message: **"God never tires of forgiving."** That message rings especially true today - on Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Gospel takes us into the Upper Room, where the disciples are afraid and locked in. But Jesus enters anyway, saying: **"Peace be with you."** He shows them His wounds - not to shock them, but to meet them in their own pain. He breathes the Holy Spirit on them and gives them a mission: **"Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven."**

This moment is the foundation of Divine Mercy - the Risen Christ coming to heal, to forgive, and to send us out with that same mercy.

Pope Francis lived this Gospel with honesty and courage. He reminded the Church that we are all in need of healing. He said the Church is not a place for the perfect, but a field hospital - where the broken can find hope again.

In the first reading from Acts, we see the Apostles full of courage. The same men who once hid in fear are now healing the sick, proclaiming Christ, and drawing people to the faith. What changed? They had met the Risen Jesus. They had experienced His mercy - and now they couldn't keep it to themselves. The same is true for us. **We are not perfect.** But we are witnesses - called to show the mercy of Christ in the way we live, speak, and treat others.

As Cardinal Tolentino has said, "God is not a concept; He is a presence." Faith is not just something we believe - it's something we live. A presence we carry.



And then there's Thomas. He wasn't there the first time Jesus appeared. He doubts. He wants to see the wounds. He wants something real.

So Jesus comes back, just for him. He doesn't scold him - He invites him: "Put your finger here... do not doubt, but believe." **That's the mercy of Christ - personal, patient, and full of love.**

Pope Francis helped people touch the wounds of Christ in today's world - those suffering from poverty, war, isolation, and even the wounds left by the Church itself. He reminded us that **Christ's wounds are still with us** - in the wounded people around us.

Today, the Church gives thanks for Pope Francis - a witness of mercy. And we pray for those who will now guide the Church, including voices like Cardinal Tolentino, who continues to show that faith and tenderness can walk hand in hand. But **the mission is not only theirs - it's ours too.**

Whether we are on an island like Madeira or in the heart of the Vatican, we are part of Christ's Body, sent to bring His mercy to a hurting world.

So let us go out - healed, forgiven, and full of joy - and let our lives quietly say what Thomas said that day: **"My Lord and my God."**

Happy Eastertide!

Dcn Tito



EASTER HAMPERS – How your generosity became a Blessing

On the morning of Good Friday, we delivered the last Easter hamper we had to Mrs. D and her family.

They are a humble family with several children, including a baby.

That morning, and the days before, we delivered a total of 9 hampers to families from Ribeira Brava to Santa Cruz.

Before that, three cheerful volunteers helped to catalog, separate and divide a beautiful pile of groceries for hours...

In the weeks before, dozens of you donated grocery goods in and around the Penha de França Chapel, so we could make those hampers, while our volunteers spread the word, and organized this initiative.

Actions have consequences. Good actions have good consequences!

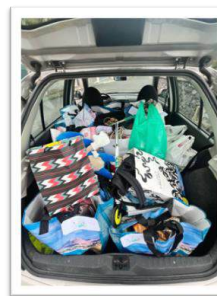
It is amazing the difference that an apparently small community with an apparently small team of volunteers, with a big heart, and attention to others, can achieve.

Mrs. D told me that when they received the hamper, the first thing her baby daughter did was to decapitate a rabbit! Don't be alarmed, it was a chocolate rabbit. One of her other daughters is going to have new braces soon thanks to PHP helping to pay using money that you donated.

Good actions, have good consequences.

We don't help hundreds of families. We can't even do the kind of help I wished we could for the dozens of families we do help. But there are good consequences on the actions we have all made. And the bunch of kids and their families that had a much brighter Easter because of you, can attest to that.

And all this reminds me that Pope Francis with his tireless work in alerting the world that we should tear down walls, pay attention to the needy, and always give a hand to the less fortunate, pretty much aligned with everything we believe in PHP. He was a true ally of our core foundation, and he will be missed. We lost a pillar of the kind of inspiration the world needs right now.



A car full of Easter hampers in distribution

- *Alexandre Silva* - PHP (People Helping People)
(alex.lupus@gmail.com)



