

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.**

"But always one path, in closeness to others, as the Beatitudes and Matthew 25 teach us, and also with great dreams. And let us continue the celebration, now, of the Lord's memorial in the "small": a small piece of bread, a little wine... in the 'small". In this small thing, however, is everything. There is God's dream, there is his love, there is his peace, there is his reconciliation, there is Jesus: He is all of this." (Humility and Awe) – Homilies at Casa Santa Marta – Pope Francis



>> 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: sineadmoynihn7@icloud.com

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS: Alexandre Silva, Funchal. Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com
When making any donation, please send an email to penhafranca.php@gmail.com with the date, and name on the transfer so that we are 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

Vol. 3, nr. 480

17th August 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday Mass
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França

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THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today we celebrate the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are once again blessed to have Father Joseph Arun celebrating our English language Mass for us today. Father Joseph is a Carmelite priest, originally from Kerala, India, and now living in Madeira.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(*Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Psalm 39(40):2-4,18; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53*)

Writing during the turbulence just before the exile, **Jeremiah** was caught between the king, Zedekiah, and jealous nobles, who falsely imprisoned him. In 586 BC Judea again revolted against Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Jeremiah told the king he should surrender because Judea would be defeated anyway, as God's punishment for their infidelity, and resistance would lead to Jerusalem's destruction. But the nobles said Jeremiah's advice was undermining morale and threw him into a cistern. Jerusalem did not surrender, and was destroyed, and most survivors were deported to Babylon. Jeremiah might have used this **Psalm** to give thanks after being rescued from the well. And to ask God for help in the troubles to come. Last week we heard part of the discussion in **Hebrews** about the meaning of faith, "the conviction of things not seen", giving the example of Abraham. After further examples, Hebrews says yet all these "did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better". With so many witnesses confident of this unknown reward, we must persevere in our faith, enduring, like Jesus. The themes of turbulence and suffering continue in today's reading from **Luke's gospel**, which follows the insistence last week that unfaithful servants will be punished. Jesus' message brings division between believers and non-believers, whose evil deeds are thrown into relief by the gospel.

- By: Chris Oliver (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: Lord, come to my aid.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larysa and Anastacia

Entry: "My heart will sing to you..." - 376

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

Communion: "Sweet heart of Jesus..." - 521

Final: "Meekness and majesty..." - 367

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THE COMBOIO (TRAIN) OF FUNCHAL

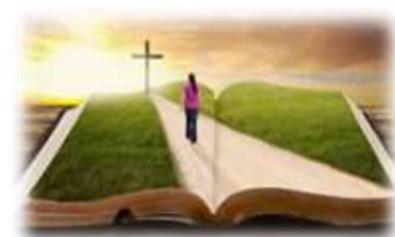
In Funchal there is a road called, *Rua do Comboio*, it is a strange name today because Madeira does not have any railways but I still remember the train tracks on that road. I lived there with my aunt for a while when I was a boy. Once,

I asked my grandmother about the train tracks and she said that she remembered as a child that they would walk up to *Monte* for the Festival. Once, she begged her mother to take the train up there. I don't think they had enough money for the fair as well as money for eating at the festival. Sadly, this train was closed after an accident. The *Monte* festival was something that I always looked forward to myself and we would join in the procession, make our way to the shrine, say prayers and make a "*promessa*". That is, we would ask Mary to intercede for us and for our loved ones.

Not long ago, I read that more and more young people are rediscovering the traditions of the *arraiais* - the religious feasts of our island. They're not just colourful celebrations; they're moments where faith can quietly take root again in hearts that have drifted to the edges of the Church.

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about bringing fire to the earth. He's not speaking about destruction, but about the fire of God's love - a love so strong it can unsettle and divide. Following Him isn't always easy. Sometimes it means walking a road others won't, or standing firm when others turn back.

Those old train tracks might be gone, but maybe we can be like tracks ourselves - steady, faithful, guiding others towards God. We're not the destination, but our prayers, our example, and our welcome can help people find the way to Christ.

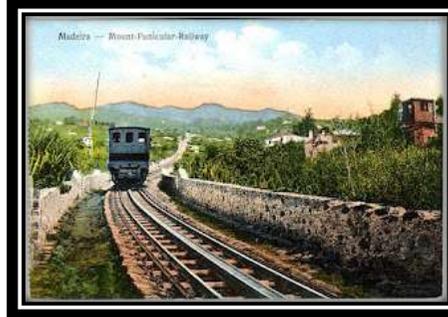


We may not have a train to *Monte* anymore, but we can still lead people to prayer, to the sacraments, to Our Lady, and ultimately to Jesus. Like the saints before us, may we lay down our lives in such a way that others can walk along them - not to stay with us, but to reach the One who waits for them at the end of the journey.

- Deacon Tito



The train of Funchal which functioned from 1893–1943



On the 14th and 15th of August, we celebrated the *Festa da Nossa Senhora do Monte* (Our Lady of the Mount Festival) here on the island of Madeira. It is the biggest religious festival on the island and attracts thousands of devotees. There was no shortage of food and beverage stalls, *espetada* (beef skewers), regional drinks, singing... and candles for the many "*promessas*" offered..

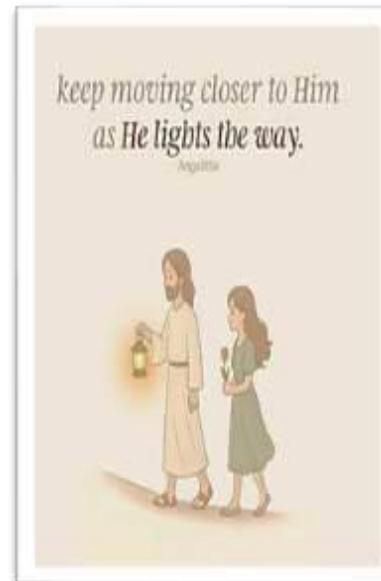


The festival of *Nossa Senhora do Monte* dates back to the early days of the island's colonisation and is considered the largest and most popular Christian festival in Madeira. The devotion of the Madeiran people is linked to a tragic moment in the island's history, when a flood in 1803



caused the death of approximately 1,000 people. To help cope with this calamity, the diocese of Funchal declared *Senhora do Monte* (Our Lady of the Mount) the patron saint of Madeira the following year. Every year a special Mass and procession honouring Our Lady of Monte takes place on this date, with many government officials present at Mass.

Source: www.dnoticias.pt/2025/8/15/459587-monte-cheio-de-festa-e-devocao/



A SPECIAL BLESSING FOR A GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Last Sunday, **Paul and Sue Woolley** received a **special blessing** from Father Joseph during Mass. They came to Madeira **on holiday to celebrate an important milestone together**: their 50th Wedding Anniversary!!

