

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 poor give themselves entirely, without wanting anything in return! The poor are welcoming, kind and generous. They know that everything they have is a gift from God and therefore share it with joy. In the poor, the Word of the Lord is fulfilled. Give, and it will be given to you" - (Canção Nova).

"People are mainly looking for someone to listen to them. Someone willing to give their time to listen to their dramas and difficulties. This is what I call the "apostolate of listening", and it is important. Very important. I have to say to confessors: talk, listen patiently and, above all, tell people that God wants their good" - (Pope Francis in The Name of God is Mercy).



>> 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. 481

24th August 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday Mass

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This morning we are blessed to have **Deacon Craig Aburn** (who is on holiday from the UK) join **Father Joseph** in celebrating Mass for us. Father Joseph is originally from Kerala, India, and now lives and serves the community here in Madeira. Today we celebrate the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

(*Isaiah 66:18-21; Psalm 116(117); Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30*)

After lamenting the disasters God has sent on the Israelites because of their sins, third **Isaiah** sees hope in God's renewal of his covenant promise and in the "new heavens and the new earth" which God is creating. Jerusalem will prosper and all nations will be invited to God's holy mountain Jerusalem. God's glory will be seen by all, and all nations will worship him. This shortest of all the **Psalms** calls on all mankind to praise the Lord for his kindness to us and for his faithfulness to his promises. **Hebrews** quotes from the Book of Proverbs that a son should expect to be disciplined by his Father. So we should not be discouraged when God disciplines us: rather we should rejoice that God shows in this way that we are his beloved sons. We must persevere, enduring our sufferings, turning away from sin and accepting the works God calls us to do. Chapter 13 of **Luke's gospel** emphasises the need to repent, to change our mind-set about God. After Jesus healed a crippled woman on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler was outraged to be told his understanding of the Sabbath was hypocrisy. But we also have great difficulty in accepting God's ways. Today's reading insists that entering the kingdom is difficult.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "A new commandment..." – n.º 2
- [2] **Offertory Hymn:** "Healer of the sick..." – n.º 217
- [3] **Communion Hymn:** "Spirit of God..." – n.º 514
- [4] **Thanksgiving:** "Jubilate, everybody..." – n.º 296
- [5] **Final Hymn:** "The Spirit lives to set us free..." – n.º 561



(This morning we are happy to welcome Cátia back to the Chapel to lead our hymn singing. ☺ Cátia has been away for almost 2 months after undergoing back surgery.

We thank the Lord for her successful surgery and ongoing recovery). 🙏❤️

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In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the *narrow gate*. At first, His words can sound a little daunting - as though few will make it through. But Jesus isn't trying to frighten us. He's reminding us that following Him isn't just about words or appearances. It's about the daily choices we make, and the love we show in the ordinary moments of life.

A "narrow gate" means we can't carry everything with us. Pride, grudges, selfishness - they won't

fit through. What does pass easily is love, kindness, humility, and trust in God. That's what opens the way into His Kingdom.



There's a helpful picture of this in Funchal, Madeira. In the old days, the **Portão dos Varadouros**, the main city gate in the *Largo dos Varadouros*, was part of the defensive walls. It was built to control who could enter the town and to keep danger out. Back then, gates meant limits and protection.

But today, the reconstructed Portão dos Varadouros no longer keeps people away. Instead, it stands as a symbol of welcome, a reminder of the city's history, and an open invitation to pass through freely.



Portão dos Varadouros
(Former entrance to the city of Funchal)

THEN :

← .. In 1906

AND NOW: In 2025 ... →



That change in meaning is very close to what Jesus is telling us. He calls Himself the Gate (John 10:9). His wish is not to turn anyone away but to welcome us in. The only thing that can stop us entering is what we cling to and refuse to let go of.

Living the Christian life is sometimes demanding: forgiving when it hurts, loving when it costs us something, helping when we'd rather take it easy. But as the saints remind us, the road that feels narrow at first widens into joy. In truth, the narrow way is the way of love, and love always leads to freedom.

So this week, let's ask ourselves: what extra "baggage" am I trying to push through the gate? And what could I lay down, so that I can walk more lightly with Christ? The gate is open, the invitation is there. All we need is the courage to step through.

- Deacon Tito

#ChurchTrivia

WHAT DOES IHS MEAN?



- ✔ Saint Bernardino of Siena advocated it as a symbol of peace.
- ✔ Sigma (S) was added in the Second century.
- ✔ Often Christograms were used to secretly mark early Christian tombs.
- ✔ The Greek letters iota (I) and eta (H) are the first two letters in Jesus.

Note: contrary to popular belief, the monogram does not stand for "I have suffered," "Jesus Hominum Salvator" or even "In Hoc Signo." IHS is more appropriately called a "Christogram," and is an ancient way of writing the word "Jesus Christ."

JESUS said:

I am the gate; whoever enters through me WILL BE SAVED. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

John 10:9-10



Last Sunday we were blessed to have **Mrs Irene de Sousa** on the organ. Mrs de Sousa has been coming to Madeira for many years on holiday, and often volunteers to play during our Mass while she is here. She joined Larysa, who played the violin. 😊