

## 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.**

"How often am I like Jesus? In the midst of suffering, am I able to forget myself and think of others and their pain and afflictions? Do I remember those who asked me not to forget them? Do I then fulfil their request? Am I capable of forgiving those who offend me? What do I give to those who ask me for little? To what extent am I capable of giving myself and suffering for those I love?" – ((in the book: "Perguntas a Deus" by José Luís Nunes Martins).

"What is asked of us is simple: that we take a step back, that we look and listen to others, that we ease their pain... Making them feel as unique as they are close to us!" (in the book: "Perguntas a Deus" by José Luís Nunes Martins).



"You should reach each other's heart" (John 13:35)

### >> 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 Quitéria 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

**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. ☺



Receive this newsletter by email every week. Ask to be added to the newsletter distribution list by sending an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or alternatively, you can download them from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org/newsletter-downloads/](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org/newsletter-downloads/)

## JOYFUL GIFT

**31st August 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday Mass**  
**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C**



Vol. 3, nr. 482

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

**Email:** [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



### THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

**Good morning!** Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Our priest this morning is **Father Joseph Arun**. We are also blessed to have **Deacon Craig Aburn** (who is on holiday from the UK) join Father Joseph in celebrating Mass for us today. Deacon Craig was also with us last Sunday. Today the church celebrates the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

(*Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29; Psalm 67(68):4-11; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24; Luke 14:1, 7-14*)

Part of Wisdom literature, the **Book of Sirach**, or Ecclesiasticus, was written by Ben Sira about 200 BC. Based on deep experience, it is full of traditional Jewish and worldly wisdom and morals. After describing our duties towards God and our parents, today's reading emphasises the need for humility in face of God's greatness and the wisdom that comes from listening carefully. The omitted verses advise us not to seek what is beyond our power nor tasks beyond what has been assigned to us. This triumphal **Psalm** celebrating God's goodness was sung as David led the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. Our final reading from **Hebrews** describes the exciting delights of the heavenly city we have now entered, after our baptism. Instead of fearsome Sinai, Zion – the new "Temple Mount" where God resides – is full of angels in tumultuous joyful festival, with believers and saints made perfect being welcomed by Jesus and our God. What a welcome! But God is still judge: as we have been given the privilege of Jesus as covenant-mediator, we have the responsibility of offering thanksgiving to God. In **Luke's gospel** we hear about Jesus having dinner with a Pharisee. Two parables illustrate the themes from the first reading of humility and not giving ourselves airs.

- By: Chris Oliver ([www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info))

### PSALM RESPONSE: In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

#### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Let there be love..." – n.º 317
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Aleluia..."
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Jesus, the Lord said: "I am the Bread..." – n.º 288
- [4] **Communion Hymn:** "Make way, make way..." – n.º 360
- [5] **Thanksgiving:** Portuguese Hymn
- [6] **Final Hymn:** "Veni, lumen cordium..." – n.º 593



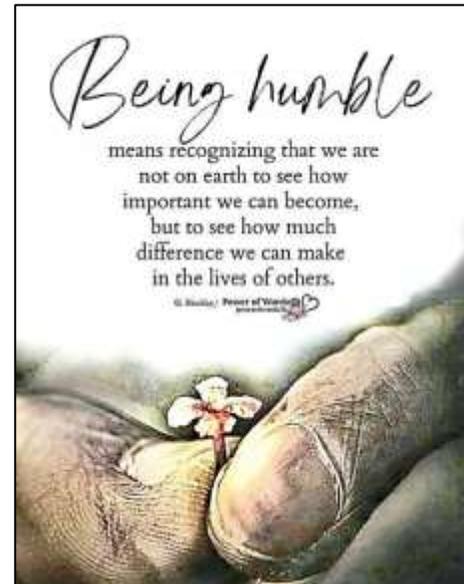


**THE FRENCH CONNECTION**

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that in God's eyes, true greatness is found in humility. Jesus speaks of choosing the lower place and of welcoming those who cannot repay us. This points us directly to what we celebrate each time we gather for Mass.

The Mass is the feast of all feasts. Around the altar, everyone is invited — rich and poor, strong and weak, joyful and burdened. It is Christ himself who calls us and feeds us with his own life. Each part of the liturgy is not only prayer but also a lesson for daily living: in the penitential rite, we discover again our need for mercy and are called to show mercy in turn; in the Eucharist we receive Jesus, who humbled himself so that we might be raised up.

Herein our chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Penha de França, Mary stands above the tabernacle pointing us always to her Son. The statue is from another French shrine, Lourdes. This place of pilgrimage in France, to my mind vividly reflects today's Gospel message. At Lourdes, the poor, the sick, the lame, and the weak are given pride of place. Processions are led by those in wheelchairs, and pilgrims discover that in God's kingdom, those considered least are in fact dearest to Him.



This "French connection" reminds us that what happens at Lourdes is already present at every Mass: the humble are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and all are welcomed to the banquet of the Lord. And when we receive Holy Communion, our hearts themselves become a banquet hall where Christ dwells. The question is: *who are we inviting into that banquet of the heart?* Do we welcome others with the same mercy and love that Christ shows to us?

May our celebration each Sunday strengthen us to go out and live the feast we share — welcoming all, especially the poor and the humble, into the banquet of God's love.

- Deacon Tito

**THE LEGEND OF OUR LADY OF PENHA DE FRANÇA**

At the entrance door of the Chapel, if you look upwards, just above your head you will see a **painting of a sleeping man, with an alligator waiting to attack him.**

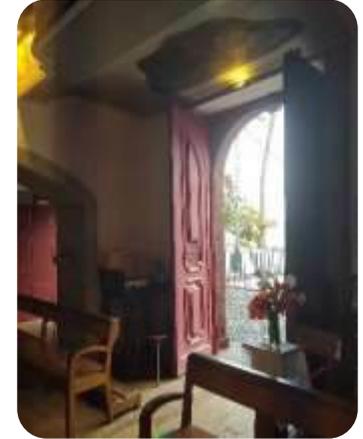
This has to do with a legend, which tradition has it that a pilgrim, on the road to the shrine of Our Lady of Penha de França in Lisbon, stopped by the way and fell into a deep sleep of exhaustion. Whilst he slept, a fearsome reptile was about to devour him, when Our Lady, surrounded by an aura of light, appeared upon the hilltop and awakened the pilgrim, warning him of the danger.



The beast was slain, and the hide carried to the church in Lisbon. Without the head, it measured 14 hands, and was covered in thick greenish black scales. Stuffed with straw, it was on view in the church there until 1739, when it had to be removed owing to its dilapidated condition.



At the foot of the statue of our Lady of Penha de França (at the front of the the Chapel) you can see a sleeping man and an alligator to represent this legend. You will find this on all statues of Our Lady of Penha de França.



**NEW STATUE OF CARLO ACUTIS**

**Ahead of his canonization on September 7th**, a new statue of Blessed Carlo Acutis has been unveiled outside the Shrine of the Renunciation at the Church of St. Mary Major in Assisi.

"I know that Carlo Acutis mentioned that he wanted to be buried in Assisi. I'm sure he would be delighted to know that not only is his tomb there, but now there is a sculpture that celebrates him, cast in bronze, that will be there for more than a thousand years," the Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz said in an interview



Read more about it here:

**Source:**  
<https://iobserve.org/2025/08/23/ahead-of-canonization-new-statue-of-blessed-carlo-acutis-unveiled-in-assisi/>



Every year during the month of August, a Deacon and his family come to Madeira on holiday. Many of you already know Deacon Craig. He has been coming to our Chapel for many years. Last Sunday, and today, Deacon Craig will be assisting Father Joseph at mass. Dcn Craig is from the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth in the UK. 😊