



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.**

*"What does the church owe its parishioners? Mercy, mercy, mercy."*  
- (Pope Francis)

*"Only those who have found mercy, who have been caressed by the tenderness of mercy, can be happy and comfortable with God"* - (Pope Francis)

*"A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just"*  
- (Pope Francis)



**>> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:**  
**ACCOUNT NAME:**  
 Associacao 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. ☺

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/)



7th September 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday  
**23rd 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](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
[penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



**THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH**

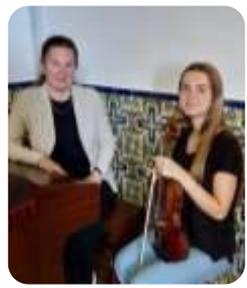
Good morning! Welcome. The Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França was founded over 400 years ago (in 1622) by Antonio Dantas who wanted to provide the garrison of soldiers close by in the port of Funchal a space for prayer. We have been blessed to have wonderful priests appointed to celebrate Mass in English over the years: **Fr. Rafael Andrade**, who started the first Mass in English in 1966; **Fr. Bernardino Andrade** who continued serving until his death last year on the 18/01/2024; **Fr. Thomas Muzhuthett** until his return home to India in April this year; and **Fr. Joseph Arun**, who continues celebrating Mass here in English every Sunday for us! Fr. Joseph is a Carmelite priest, originally from Kerala, India, who now lives in Madeira. Besides our Mass in English, Fr. Joseph also celebrates Mass in Portuguese at the Carmelite church in Funchal (*Igreja do Carmo*)!

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*(Wisdom 9:13-18; Psalm 89(90):3-17; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33)*

The **Book of Wisdom** was written in 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Greek and other pagan religions gave inadequate answers to life's questions, especially why the wicked prosper and the just suffer. How does a just God mete out justice? Wisdom's solution, distilled from all Jewish Scriptures, is that the just continue to live with God after their deaths: a developing Jewish belief in resurrection, though not of the body. Man's knowledge and powers of reasoning are inadequate compared with God's Wisdom. So we ask God to give us Wisdom for our guide. **The Psalm** contrasts God's eternity with our short lives, confident that God cares for us and that some good will come from our trials. In this moving letter Paul asks **Philemon** to accept back the slave Onesimus and forgive him. But Paul is pleading for something more: Onesimus means "profit", and Paul wants Philemon to see the "profit" of forgiving Onesimus out of Christian love, and not because Paul could "force this act of kindness". In this way Philemon can gain wisdom and spiritual benefit. In **Luke's gospel**, after a parable about "I'm too busy" excuses, Jesus insists we must "hate" our parents: not emotionally but in our actions. We must weigh our options carefully and willingly carry the Cross.

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

**PSALM RESPONSE:** O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.



**TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:**  
**By: Larysa and Anastacia**

**Entry:** "This is the day..." - 574  
**Offertory:** "Take our bread, we ask you ..." - 528  
**Communion:** "Sweet heart of Jesus..." - 521  
**Final:** "Colours of day..." - 93





**23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — Year C**

Have you ever been asked a question like this: “Who do you love more - me or him? Me or her?” It might come from a child, a spouse, or a friend. It’s the sort of question that can trip us up, because it seems to demand a choice.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus puts before us something that sounds even harder: “Anyone who does not give up all that they have cannot be my disciple.”

At first, that feels impossible. How can anyone give up everything for God? But the readings remind us that we are not left to manage this on our own. The Book of Wisdom asks: “Who has learned your counsel, unless you have given wisdom and sent your Holy Spirit from above?” God Himself gives us the courage and the wisdom to live as His disciples.

The Psalm reassures us: “O Lord, you have been our refuge, from one generation to the next.” God is our foundation. And because He has loved us first, we are free to love in return.



Sometimes we imagine that love for God and love for family compete with each other. A parent might say: “I love God, yes, but I love my children more.” But that isn’t how love works. Mary shows us the truth. She loved God with all her heart, and she loved Jesus - fully God and fully human - with the deepest tenderness of a mother. Her love for her Son magnified her love for God. That’s why she could say: “My soul magnifies the Lord.” And here lies the key. Our love for others is not separate from our love for God. It flows from it. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us: “As Christ loved with the heart of man, you are called to love with the heart of Christ.”

What does this look like in everyday life? A parishioner once shared that after a terrible week, she came home to find a casserole waiting on her doorstep with a simple note: “No need to return the dish.” It wasn’t the meal that moved her most, but the reminder that God hadn’t forgotten her. That small act of kindness was love in action - ordinary, yes, but extraordinary in what it meant.



Discipleship will always ask something of us: our time, our comfort, sometimes even our pride. But when Christ is at the centre, what we give is never wasted. Our ordinary lives become extraordinary.

So let us ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and courage. Like Mary, may our hearts magnify the Lord. And may our lives show the world that we love - because He has loved us first.

- Deacon Tito



## THE CANONIZATION PROCESS IN FOUR STEPS

CatholicLink

**01  
SERVANT  
OF  
GOD**

A cause is presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints and it is accepted.

**02  
VENE  
RA  
BLE**

After the cause is approved, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints declares that the person has lived the Christian virtues heroically.

**03  
BLE  
SSED**

The Congregation recognizes that the person is in Heaven. This requires that a miracle has taken place through the intercession of that person. In most cases, the miracle is a healing.

**04  
SA  
INT**

After beatification, a second miracle is needed to declare someone a saint. After this, the Pope summons all the Cardinals of the Church and the date for the Canonization Ceremony of the saint is determined.

**TODAY...**

**IF I COULD TELL YOU ONE THING, IT WOULD BE THIS:**

Not everyone needs to dazzle. Some of us are here to observe gently, to offer biscuits and warm smiles, to clap for others without needing the spotlight. There's beauty in not being the loudest voice in the room. There's a quiet power in showing up every day, being kind, and not needing to be noticed. - Elizabeth Warden

sanctafamiliamedia  
Ross Lara • Miracle (feat... Follow

**ON SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 POPE LEO WILL NAME CARLO ACUTIS AND PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI AS NEW SAINTS**

**CARLO ACUTIS**

**PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI**