

## 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.**

*"Adversity begins to be overcome when it is accepted. It is in human frailty that divine omnipotence is most evident (cf. 2 Cor 12:10). Do not fail to smile, even if a torrent of tears wets your face. Believe. And don't lose your peace!"* – (in "Quer ser curado?" [Do you want to be healed?] essay on spiritual therapy – João António Pinheiro Teixeira).



### >> 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: 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.

### A SPECIAL REQUEST

People Helping People (PHP) is looking for a bathroom sink for the apartment which they are renovating for a needy mother and young daughter.

If you are able to help, please contact Jane House: (janelh1945@gmail.com)



### ORANGE WALK

Annual Orange Walk in Santa Catarina Park 😊

**When:** Sunday, 28 September  
**Time:** 12:30.

Sponsor Sheets will be available.  
More info: Jane House (janelh1945@gmail.com)



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

Vol. 3, nr. 484

14th September 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday

**Exaltation of the Cross – 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](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://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 are blessed to have **Fr. Joseph Arun** celebrating Mass here in English every Sunday for us. In addition to this English Mass, Fr. Joseph also celebrates Mass in Portuguese at the Carmelite church in Funchal (*Igreja do Carmo*).

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Exaltation of the Cross

(Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 77(78):1-2,34-38; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17)

**The Book of Numbers** carries Israel's story forward from the giving of the covenant to Moses on Mount Sinai, to the end of their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. God walked with them throughout, always caring for them, often in face of their grumblings. Today we hear how they were still grumbling even as they neared the Promised Land. The rebellious people are forgiven for the last time before leaving the wilderness. Moses raised up an image of a fiery serpent on a standard which cured the serpents' bites. Incense was later offered to a bronze serpent standing in the Temple. Serpents appeared to regenerate themselves by shedding their skins, so they were seen as symbolising life. **The Psalm** reinforces the need to remember the lessons of the past: Israelites were punished for giving mere lip service to God although they had seen his power in the plagues of Egypt. Paul is generally believed to have written this letter to the **Philippians** from Ephesus around 57 AD. The Christians in Philippi were suffering both internal divisions and antagonism from their neighbours. Paul is united with them through his own suffering, and together they are united with Christ in his suffering. He exhorts them to selflessness, encouraging them by quoting this early Christian hymn. These readings come together in **John's Gospel**: Jesus tells Nicodemus that "the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert". Through the Cross "everyone who believes" in Jesus as God's Son "may have eternal life".  
- By: Chris Oliver - [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

### PSALM RESPONSE: Do not forget the works of the Lord!



### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

**By:** Larysa and Anastacia

**Entry:** "Bind us together, Lord..." - 65

**Offertory:** "Father, I place into your hands..." - 134

**Communion:** "Let there be love shared among us..." - 317

**Final:** "Go, the Mass is ended..." - 175





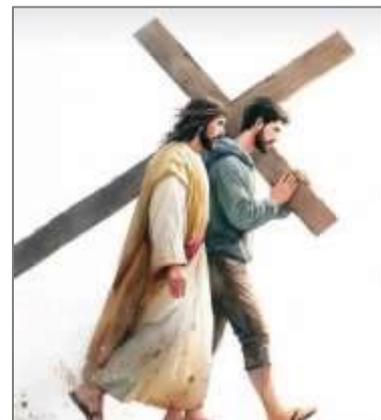
**FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

When we think about Madeira, the Cross is never far away. It crowns our churches, it is woven into our flags, and it even stands at the centre of the Madeiran flag itself with the red Cross of the Order of Christ - the same emblem carried on the sails of the

Portuguese discoverers. And of course, just a short drive from here, there is the town of Santa Cruz - the “Holy Cross” - named because one of the very first things the settlers did on arriving was to set up a cross made from the abundance of cedar trees they found there. Today it is also the place where so many visitors still first touch the island as they arrive through the airport.



It’s striking too that both ships and aeroplanes - the ways people have always come to and from Madeira - are marked with the cross. The first Portuguese ships that reached these shores bore the Cross of the Order of Christ on their sails. You could say that to arrive here, one always comes “through the cross.” And many, on reaching this island, describe Madeira as a kind of paradise - a place of beauty, of rest, of wonder, even though it has its struggles like anywhere else. That is exactly the point of the feast we celebrate today. The Exaltation of the Holy Cross proclaims that Paradise itself is reached only through the Cross of Christ. There is no Resurrection without Good Friday. There is no eternal joy without the sacrifice of Jesus, who loved us to the very end.

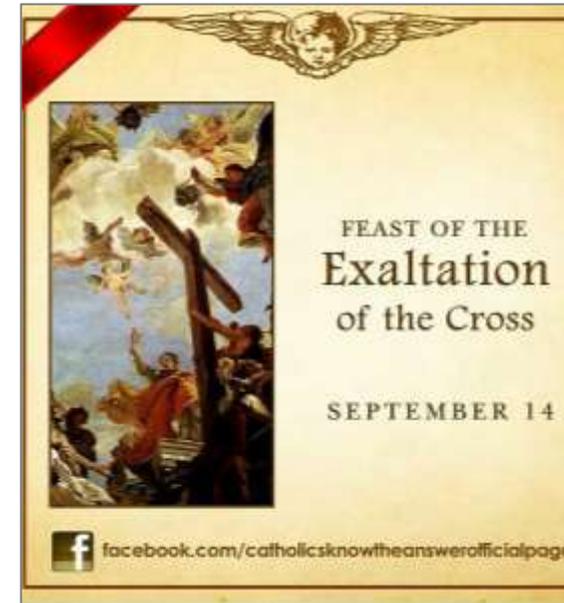


So when we lift our eyes to the Cross - whether on a church tower, a flag, or here in this chapel of Penha - we are not simply seeing a reminder of suffering. We are seeing the sign of God’s love, the doorway to life, the promise of Heaven.

As we honour the Cross today, let us not be afraid of our own crosses: the daily struggles, the burdens, the moments when life feels heavy. If we carry them with Christ, they do not end in despair but in hope. Just as travellers come through the cross to reach this island, so we come through the Cross of Jesus to enter the true Paradise He has promised us.

- Deacon Tito

**TODAY...**



*“We all have a vocation. We need to believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish.”*  
- St. Francis de Sales



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION...**



Our little Social Room where we usually serve coffee and cake on Sunday mornings after Mass will be closed for a while.

Part of the ceiling has fallen down and it is unsafe for us to be in there. Once repair work has been completed it will open once again. 😊

