



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.**

*"Those whom no one cares about are the ones God cares about most. Those left behind by the empires that men build have a special place in His heart. Those who have no one to defend them have God as their Father. If the Kingdom of God is welcomed, if his compassion penetrates the world, everything will be transformed for the good of the least among us. This was Jesus' faith, his passion and his struggle." (in the book: Recuperar o Projecto de Jesus [Recovering Jesus' Project] - José António Pagola)*



**>> 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.

**COFFEE AND CAKE**



As many of you already know, our little social room down in the garden is temporarily closed for renovation work. Coffee and cakes will be offered up at **Moynihans Irish Pub** (which is located at the top of the road leading down to the Chapel). Many thanks to Sinead and Tadhg Moynihan (for the space and coffee), and to Susan and Steve Stone (for the delicious home-baked goodies!)

**ORANGE WALK**

Annual Orange Walk in Santa Catarina Park 😊

**When: Today!** 28 September  
**Time:** starts at 12:30.

**Sponsorship forms available - or just make a donation to PHP. Come walk with us!**  
More info during Mass today



**JOYFUL GIFT**

**28th September 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday**  
**26th 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 to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. We are blessed to have **Fr. Joseph Arun** celebrating Mass here in English for us every Sunday. In addition to this English Mass, Fr. Joseph also celebrates Mass in Portuguese at the Carmelite church in Funchal (*Igreja do Carmo*).

**The special intentions of this morning's Holy Mass** will be: (1) for the soul of **Anita Jorge-Helena** on the 1st anniversary of her passing; (2) for the soul of **Maria Alzira Dias Sebastião** who passed away 6 years ago, on 26/09/2019; (3) for the soul of **Robert Healy** who passed away two weeks ago, on the 15/09/2025... and (4) for the health of **André Florencio Vasconcelos Branco** who is in the hospital following heart surgery.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

(*Amos 6:1, 4-7, Ps 145(146):6-10, 1 Tim 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31*)

**Amos** warns both the northern kingdom, Israel, ie Samaria, and the southern kingdom, Judea, with its capital Zion or Jerusalem, that the idle rich in both kingdoms will be the first to go into exile. 40 years later, in 721 BC, Samaria was conquered, and later Judea followed into exile. **The Psalm**, echoed by Mary in Luke's Magnificat, confirms that God's justice will prevail: the hungry will be fed, the blind given sight, but the wicked will lose out. Instructing **Timothy** how to organise the early Christian church, Paul also insists the rich should use their wealth for good deeds. Christians should ideally aspire to show the Christian virtues as examples to all, and so witness to the truth, until our Lord Jesus Christ returns to appear in glory as King of kings. And Paul insists that only God "has immortality": we do not simply have souls that live on after death – our creed says we believe in "the resurrection of the body", a gift from God in which our whole person, body and soul, lives for ever. **The Gospel** graphically illustrates the dangers of riches: the rich man, who is not named, asks that the poor man – who is named – Lazarus – be sent to relieve his torments in hell. Abraham tells him the rich should listen to the prophets.

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

**PSALM RESPONSE: My soul, give praise to the Lord.**

**TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:**

By: Fátima Cátia Marques



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Let there be love..." – n.º 317
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..." – n.º 679
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Veni, lumen cordium..." – n.º 593
- [4] **Communion Hymn:** "Spirit of God..." – n.º 514
- [5] **Thanksgiving:** "Jubilate, everybody..." – n.º 296
- [6] **Final Hymn:** "The Spirit lives to set us free..." – n.º 561





**BRIDGING THE GAPS**

Madeira is famous for its steep valleys and deep gorges. For centuries, these natural barriers meant that villages could be cut off from one another. People relied on narrow tracks, mountain passes and the *levadas* to connect their homes and fields. Only in recent decades have new roads and long tunnels helped to knit the island together, bringing opportunities and making life easier for communities that were once isolated.



This Sunday's Gospel speaks of another kind of gap – not in the land, but in the human heart. It is the distance between greed and need. When we place comfort or wealth before compassion, we open up a gulf between ourselves and those who suffer. Like the ravines of our island, such gaps can seem impossible to cross.

But the story of Madeira also gives us hope. Just as tunnels, bridges and levadas were built with patience and care, so too can we build “roads of mercy” through prayer, generosity and small daily acts of kindness. A visit to someone lonely, a kind word, support for the hungry - these are the steady channels of love that close the empty spaces.



The parable of the rich man and Lazarus also reminds us that we are not always in the place of the rich man. At times, we are Lazarus: longing for love, weighed down by hidden struggles, or blocked from what we need because of the choices of others. In those moments the Gospel reassures us that God has not forgotten us. He has given us Jesus, who crosses every divide with His mercy and promises us a place at His table.

At funerals we hear a beautiful prayer: that the angels of God will lead our loved ones into paradise and carry them to the bosom of Abraham. It is a tender reminder that those who suffered most in life are held closest to God's heart. That promise is not only for the dead, but for the living too. Christ sees our need and offers us His hope.

The Church teaches us about the “preferential option for the poor” – the call to keep the needs of the vulnerable at the centre of our lives. Christ invites us to narrow the gap, not with concrete and steel, but with acts of charity and solidarity.

So let us look around our parish this week and ask: Who is isolated? Who needs a bridge of care? And let us also remember that when we are poor in spirit, Christ Himself lifts us up. The Gospel invites us not to leave a chasm unaddressed, but to fill it with love – and to trust in the Lord who has already built the greatest bridge of all in His cross and resurrection.



- Deacon Tito

**A SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - 55 YEARS TOGETHER**

Last Sunday, **John and Marie Welsh** received a **special blessing** from Father Joseph during Mass. They came to Madeira **on holiday to celebrate an important milestone together:** their 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!!



**Annual Orange Walk – 28th September**



The Orange Walk will be held this Sunday (28th September) at 12.30 in Santa Catarina Park.

This is an annual walk in remembrance of Father Bernardino, with all proceeds donated to the People Helping People charity. All welcome to join in.

You can get sponsors for laps around Santa Catarina Park or "sponsor" yourself. Please come and bring your family and friends.

More info: Jane House (janelh1945@gmail.com)

**THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS**

The Seven Sacraments are, "Efficient Signs of God's Grace, instituted by Christ for Man's Sanctification and Salvation."

BAPTISM

EUCCHARIST

CONFIRMATION

MATRIMONY

PENANCE

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

ORDINATION

1983 CODE OF CANON LAW

