



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.**

"Mercy is the very heart of God! A merciful heart knows how to share bread with those who are hungry; a merciful heart opens itself to welcome refugees and migrants. To speak of mercy is to speak of opportunity, of tomorrow, of commitment, of trust, of openness, of hospitality, of compassion, of dreams. And when the heart is open and capable of dreaming, there is room for mercy. There is room to cherish, either they lack the necessities of life, or they lack the most beautiful thing: faith. Mercy! (in the book "Deus quer que sejas feliz [God wants you to be happy] - Pope Francis).



>> 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: sineadmoynihan7@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!)

Church is not a place. It's a body — a family with blood ties through Jesus Christ.



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/

JOYFUL GIFT

12th October 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday
28th 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/

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Photo of the Chapel seen from Funchal's Port. **Source:** Vicentes Photographic Museum – date unknown



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This is the only Catholic Mass celebrated in English on the whole island of Madeira. We are blessed to have **Fr. Joseph Arun** celebrating Mass here 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 intention of this morning's Holy Mass** will be for the soul of **Karen Matthews** on the 3rd anniversary of her passing.✝

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(2 Kings 5:14-17; Psalm 97(98); 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19)

Naaman, a leper, commanded an Aramaean army which was victorious over Israel. An Israeli girl, the servant of Naaman's wife, said the prophet in Samaria could cure Naaman's leprosy. Elisha told Naaman to bathe seven times in the Jordan. Initially Naaman refuses to do something so humble, but he is persuaded by his servant and he is cured. When Elisha refuses reward, Naaman takes soil home so that he may continue worshipping the God of Israel. **The Psalm** praises the Lord for he has given salvation to all peoples and all creation. Paul urges **Timothy** to pass on the gospel he has received, summed up in only six Greek words: Jesus, the Christ, anointed by God; descended from David, risen from the dead. Thus pointing to our bodily resurrection. In what sounds like a hymn from a very early baptismal liturgy we are told that "if we persevere we shall reign with him". Not just be with Christ, but joining him in his work of caring for the renewed creation. In **Luke's Gospel** Jesus is coming closer to Jerusalem and his death, while revealing more about his kingdom. Last week Jesus told his disciples to serve without expecting thanks. Now ten lepers are healed, like Naaman, through simple actions. Only the non-Jew returns to thank him. - **By: Chris Oliver** - www.bible-groups.info

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Larysa Makarova

Entry: "O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder..." - 419

Offertory: "Take our bread, we ask you..." - 528

Communion: "O bread of heaven beneath this veil..." - 392

Final: "Colours of day dawn into the mind..." - 93



Here at **Penha de França**, we are blessed to be part of a truly international community. People from many nations, cultures, and backgrounds come together here, drawn by one thing that unites us all: **Jesus Christ**. Our Catholic faith is truly universal, and in our parish, the word “*catholic*” - meaning *universal* - comes to life in the people around us. Whether we speak different languages, celebrate different traditions, or come from different continents, what brings us together is far greater than what separates us: our shared faith in the Lord.

This Sunday’s readings remind us why this is so important. Naaman the Syrian and the Samaritan leper both experienced God’s mercy, showing that **faith and gratitude know no borders**. God’s saving love is offered to everyone, regardless of nationality, culture, or background, and He calls all people into the joy of His life. In the Gospel, we see that it is often those outside the familiar or the expected who recognise and give thanks for His grace.



Our parish mirrors this truth. Around the altar, we gather as one family in Christ, united in worship, service, and love. Each Mass, each prayer, and each act of kindness we share is a sign of God’s universal mercy. The Church, as the new Israel, is not just a gathering of a single people; it is a family for all nations, languages, and cultures.



What unites us at Penha de França is not where we come from, but **who we belong to** - Jesus Christ, who calls all people into one family. In a world that can often feel divided, our parish shines as a place of hope, witness, and welcome.

Let us rejoice in the gift of our diversity, and give thanks that through our shared faith, we are one in heart, one in spirit, and one in the Lord who saves us all. May we continue to live as a parish where everyone feels at home, and where Christ’s love is visible to all who come through our doors.



thankful grateful blessed

- Deacon Tito

CANDLE LIGHT PROCESSION – In Funchal tonight at 9pm



Capela do Corpo Santo

If you’d like to experience, or take part in a candlelight procession while you are here on holiday in Madeira, there will be one this evening at 9pm in the *Capela do Corpo Santo* - a small chapel in *Zona Velha* (the Old Town).

This will be preceded by the Rosary at 7:30pm, led by men, and then Holy Mass at 8:00pm (the Rosary and Mass will be in Portuguese). The candlelight procession will then go from there (at 9:00pm) up to the *Igreja do Socorro* church, a short distance away. Everyone is invited to take part. Come and experience this beautiful moment of faith, prayer, and love for Our Lady.

THE HOLY ROSARY – Good for your heart and your soul - Pope Francis

Source: <https://www.catholicfaithstore.com/a/daily-bread/post/feast-lady-rosary/>



The month of **October** is dedicated to the **Holy Rosary**.

On November 17, 2013, Pope Francis gave some sage medical advice to the thousands in attendance at the Vatican, «*I want to recommend some medicine for all of you.*»

Holding up a box that looked like a prescription packet of pills, he urged the people, «*Don’t forget to take it,*» he said. «*It’s good for your heart, for your soul, for your whole life.*» What was it? It was a box containing rosary beads and is what the pope described as being, “*spiritual medicine.*”

This simple string of 58 beads joined together with a cross has been the weapon of choice of many saints, popes, and religious figures in the fight against sin, temptation, war, and evil.

Pope Francis gave some examples of when the “*medicine*” should be taken: «*When we want sinners to convert, when we feel we need help in making a difficult decision, or when we do not feel strong enough to resist temptation, when we are not able to forgive someone or we want to ask for mercy for a dying person.*».



A VERY rare photograph of John Paul II with two men who would succeed him as Pope, Cardinal Ratzinger, who became Benedict XVI, and Cardinal Bergoglio (Pope Francis).
What a wonderful photo