



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.**

"Blessed are the hands that open to welcome the poor and help them; they are hands that bring hope. Blessed are the hands that overcome any barrier of culture, religion, and nationality, pouring the oil of consolation on the wounds of humanity. Blessed are the hands that open without asking for anything in return, without 'ifs,' 'buts,' or 'maybes': they are hands that bring God's blessing upon men." (in the book 'Deus quer que sejas feliz' <God wants you to be happy> by 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.

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 Maury and Jane (for the delicious cake and biscuits!)

I CAN DO THINGS
 YOU CANNOT, YOU
 CAN DO THINGS I
 CANNOT; TOGETHER
 WE CAN DO GREAT
 THINGS.
 MOTHER TERESA



JOYFUL GIFT

26th October 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday
30th 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/
 penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This morning, we welcome **Fr. Juan Noite**, who will be celebrating Mass for us. Father Juan is from the Catholic Religious order Priests of the Sacred Heart (normally known as Dehonian priests) and is currently serving the community of the Colégio Missionário (Missionary College) in Madeira. Father Juan was ordained a priest in 2001. Welcome Fr. Juan!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 (Sirach/Eccle/us 35:12-14,16-19; Psalm 32(33); 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18; Luke 18:9-14)

Sirach was a Jerusalem sage writing about 180 BC. His wise maxims are much used by the Church. God does not approve "the gifts of the godless, nor for their many sacrifices does he forgive their sins". God is just, "he hears the cry of the oppressed". God's justice will be seen, he will wreak "vengeance upon the proud". **The Psalm** urges us to praise the Lord, especially for his rescue of us. We should therefore keep his commandments. Paul tells Timothy to expect a time to come "when people will not tolerate sound doctrine" "and will stop listening to the truth". In every age Christians have experienced this happening. Paul is facing death alone. But God has not deserted him, enabling him to speak out at his trial, sending the gospel message to yet more Gentiles, even at this late hour. In Luke's gospel Jesus continues his teachings on prayer. After last week's parable about the persistent widow comes this strong condemnation of insincere prayer. We should not imagine that the Pharisee was bad: he is a good man, conscientiously observing his religion. Yet Jesus says the tax collector went home justified "**rather than**" the Pharisee. Not "more than"! Why? Because the tax collector was humble enough to admit his need of God and of his mercy. - By: Chris Oliver (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: This poor man called; the Lord heard him.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry: "Bind us together Lord..." - 65
Offertory: "Father I place into your hands..." - 134
Communion: "Let there be love..." - 317
Final: "Go, the mass is ended..." - 175



By: Larysa Makarova



Many people in Funchal used to say, and still do, that all the parish churches in the capital once faced the Sé, the cathedral. Whether that is strictly true or not, it's a beautiful thought. It reminds us that our chapels and communities all point towards something greater: towards the Mother Church, the heart of the diocese, and ultimately towards God Himself.



The Sé Cathedral in Funchal

It reminds us that faith is never about drawing attention to ourselves, but about directing our gaze, and that of others, towards the One who is greater.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. At first glance, humility seems to be about lowering oneself, about being small or self-effacing. Perhaps that's why we sometimes find the idea uncomfortable. Charles Dickens gives us a good example in *David Copperfield* with Uriah Heep, that very slimy character who keeps insisting that he's "umble, very 'umble." Yet his false humility only draws attention to himself. It is pride dressed up as modesty.

The tax collector in Jesus' story shows us something very different. He humbles himself by going up to the temple, not to boast, not to compare, but to stand before God in truth. His focus is not on his own worth but on God's mercy. His simple prayer, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner," is enough. In that moment he exalts God's goodness, and in return, God lifts him up.



When Jesus tells us that the tax collector "went down to his house justified," it means more than a change of place. It's a change of heart. He goes down because he has been lifted high by grace. The Pharisee, on the other hand, already stood in a high place, both literally and in his own mind. He was proud of his good deeds and looked down on others. In doing so, he even looked down on God.

Perhaps, like the old churches of Funchal, we too need to learn where to point. The life of faith is not about facing ourselves, our achievements, our goodness, or even our failures; it is about turning towards the One who is at the centre. True humility is not about making ourselves small for its own sake, but about seeing clearly: God above all, and ourselves held in His mercy.

May our prayer today be that of the tax collector, simple, honest, and open, so that we too may go down to our homes justified, our hearts lifted by the grace of God.

- Deacon Tito

HUMILITY
IS NOT THINKING
LESS OF YOURSELF,
IT IS THINKING
OF YOURSELF LESS.
-C.S. Lewis

HOLY WATER IN THE CHAPEL - To bless yourself



As you enter the Chapel, just under the archways on either side, there is Holy water where you can bless yourself before and after Mass.



MARY JANE WILSON – The English nurse and Sister - honoured in Funchal

Source: <http://en.calameo.com/read/00108238394a118236bf4>



Sister Mary Jane Wilson, also known as Maria of Saint Francis, **was an English woman who was born in India** on 3rd of October 1840, and who died in Madeira, aged 76, on the 18th October 1916. She was declared Venerable on 9th October 2013 by Pope Francis. When she was 40 years old, she moved to Madeira to **nurse** an English woman. She settled in Funchal and lived the rest of her life in Madeira.



In 1884 she co-founded, together with *Amélia Amaro de Sá*, **the religious order of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Victory** (*Irmãs Franciscanas de Nossa Senhora das Vitórias*). In 1907 she nursed patients throughout a smallpox epidemic on the island, and was awarded the honour of "Tower and Sword" (*Torre e Espada*). She dedicated her life to caring for children, founding an orphanage (*Orfandade de Santa Isabel*), and caring for the sick. The revolution of October 1910 forced her to leave Madeira, but she returned a year later.



There is a small museum in Funchal dedicated to her life and work; two sculptures of her: one by *Largo Severiano Ferraz* (by the roundabout in front of the Red Cross), and another in the municipal gardens in Santa Cruz; and a book on her life (*«The invincible Victorian, the life of Mary Jane Wilson»* by Terry Dunphy) published by the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Victories.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Humility is the mother of all virtues; purity, charity and obedience. It is in being humble that our love becomes real, devoted and ardent. If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are. If you are blamed you will not be discouraged. If they call you a saint you will not put yourself on a pedestal.

Mother Teresa

PICTUREQUOTES.COM



"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