



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.**

"There is more joy in giving than in receiving. Service stands against this culture that destroys feelings. On the contrary, the culture of coexistence and fraternity is a culture of service, a culture that opens up and gets its hands dirty. Open yourself up: always keep your hand outstretched with a smile, never sitting down, always. Get your hands dirty. And you will be happy." - (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:

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: 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 lovely cake and biscuits!)

BLESS YOURSELF WITH HOLY WATER



As you enter the Chapel, just under the archways on either side, you will find a font with Holy water which you can use to bless yourself with before and after Mass.



JOYFUL GIFT

2nd November 2025 – 10:30 am Sunday
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
* All Souls' Day *

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França

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Welcome



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This morning, we are once again blessed with the presence of **Fr. Joseph Arun**, who is celebrating Mass for us today.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – (All Souls' Day)
(Wisdom 11:22-12:2; Psalm 144(145); 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2; Luke 19:1-10)

The **Book of Wisdom** has been describing ways in which Wisdom guided the patriarchs and took special care of Israel during their Exodus wanderings in the desert. God's mercy extends to all creation, even men's sins. The logic is impeccable: "you love all that exists", "for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it." Offenders are encouraged to trust in God by gentle reminders of their sins. The **Psalm** praises God's sovereign majesty and loving providence. For the next three weeks we have readings from Paul's second letter to the **Thessalonians**. After his opening greeting, Paul thanks God for the strength of the Thessalonians' faith, which he boasts about to other churches, and promises that those persecuting them will be punished. The Thessalonians are always in Paul's prayers, and should not be misled by false information about the second coming. Much has to happen before the end time. In the **Gospel**, **Luke** graphically describes the rich tax collector, Zacchaeus. Curious to see Jesus, Zacchaeus immediately follows Jesus and promises to give half his wealth to the poor. A contrast to the rich official who could not detach himself from his material possessions to follow Jesus. Though excluded from the Jewish community by his occupation, Zacchaeus receives salvation as a true son of Abraham.

- By: Chris Oliver (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

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

By: Larysa Makarova





FROM SINNER TO SAINT

Here in Madeira, the saints are part of our lives. Their names fill our streets. I was born in Rua de Santa Maria (*Saint Mary Street*), the oldest Portuguese street outside of the mainland. Our saints are also found in our parishes and chapels, their feasts brighten our streets throughout the year. We celebrate Santo António (*Saint Anthony*), São João (*Saint John*) and São Pedro (*Saint Peter*) with music, food, and community. We look to Our Lady of Monte (*Our Lady of the Mount*) and Blessed Karl, who rests here among us, as reminders of faith lived out close to home.

Yet behind the colour and festivity is something quieter and more challenging. Every saint we honour began life as an ordinary person. Each one carried weakness, doubt, or pride. What made them saints was not that they were perfect, but that they allowed God to change them. They said yes to grace.

The story of the saints is the story of mercy. St Peter denied Christ, but found courage again through forgiveness. St Paul persecuted Christians before becoming their greatest missionary. St Augustine spent years chasing pleasure before finding peace in God. These lives tell us that holiness is not about being flawless. It is about letting God meet us in our mistakes and lift us up.



That same invitation is given to us. The path from sinner to saint begins when we stop pretending and start trusting. It begins when we admit that we need God. Every time we pray honestly, every time we forgive or ask forgiveness, every time we help someone without reward, we take another step on that road.

The saints of Madeira, like the people who gather in these chapels week after week, remind us that holiness grows in ordinary soil. It grows in families who work hard, in fishermen who keep faith through storms, in the elderly who pray quietly for their children. The journey to sainthood is not about grand gestures. It is about faith lived with patience, courage and love.

So when you think of the saints we honour across this island, think also of what they teach us. God has not stopped making saints. He is still at work in each of us, turning weakness into strength and failure into hope.

May we have the *humility* to begin again each day, the *trust* to let God shape us, and the *courage* to walk the same road they walked: from sinner to saint. Amen.

- Deacon Tito



“PÃO POR DEUS” – A Portuguese tradition on All Saint’s Day (Nov. 1st)

“Pão por Deus” (or “Bread for God’s Sake”) is an old Portuguese tradition very similar to Halloween, where children knock at the door for trick-or-treat.

The tradition started after the Great Lisbon Earthquake on November 1st 1755. Lisbon was

hit by a very large earthquake that destroyed a large part of town, and many people lost everything they had. They had no choice but to beg for food, so they went from door to door and begged for bread in the name of God. “Pão por Deus” means “Bread for God’s Sake”. From then on, the children started doing this every year, early morning on the 1st of November, going from house to house carrying bags.



Here in Madeira, in the old days, the poorer children would go to the houses of the more well-off people to ask for goodies to fill their bags.

The tradition is still celebrated in schools on the island. In some schools, children are walked to elderly care homes where they will dance and sing, and come back with bags full of fruit, nuts and little cakes.

CHAPEL NEWS AND UPDATES :



We were blessed to have Fr. Juan Noite celebrate the English Mass last Sunday morning.

Even with a cast on his arm, Fr. Juan still came and filled in for Fr. Joseph who was away in Porto.

At the end of Mass, Father Juan continued a “tradition” that we have here at the Chapel of blessing all those who were celebrating a birthday or Wedding Anniversary, or any other special event during the month of October.



MASS INTENTIONS AND VISITOR’S BOOK

- Find these at the door of the Chapel 😊

