



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.**



Photo: 26 Feb. 2017

"God does not ask us for success, he asks us for faithfulness." - (Father Bernardino Andrade)



25th January 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França

Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

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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. Father Joseph is a Carmelite priest, living in Madeira, and originally from Kerala in India. He also celebrates Mass in Portuguese at the Carmelite church (*Igreja do Carmo*) in Funchal.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

(*Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 26(27); 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17; Matthew 4:12-23*)

The first reading from **First Isaiah**. About 725 BC, Ahaz, weak king of Judah, asked Assyria for help, in spite of Isaiah's advice to wait because "God is with us". God would send a saviour, idealistically described with words probably used to hail the new king Hezekiah. Assyria attacked northern Palestine, but Isaiah looked forward to the Messiah bringing freedom to the "Way of the sea" ie Galilee. **The Psalm** expresses total confidence in rescue by the Lord, hoping to dwell in safety in the Lord's house.

In our second reading, Paul is shocked at the self-glorifying divisions, or "rents", in the church at Corinth. Whoever baptised us, we were baptised into Christ. With our common baptism we should therefore "be united in belief and practice". Unity, but not uniformity. Our task is to preach the Good News of Christ's crucifixion, without following particular teachers or allowing the meaning of the Cross to be obscured by clever oratory.

In **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus has rejected the devil's temptations and so identified himself as the "Son of God", capable of not sinning. Hearing of the arrest of the Baptist, Jesus withdraws to Galilee, the "Way of the sea". He then quotes the verses of Isaiah from our first reading, before starting his mission in Galilee by calling his first disciples.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is my light and my help.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry: "Walk in the Light..." - 561

Offertory: "All that I am, all that I do..." - 21

Communion: "The Light of Christ..." - 548

Final: "Follow me, follow me..." - 144

By: Larysa Makarova

>> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT

IN MADEIRA:

ACCOUNT NAME:

Associaçao 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.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH HOLY WATER



As you go inside the Chapel just under the archways on either side of the door, you will find a small font on the wall with Holy water inside which you can use to bless yourself with, before and after Mass. 🙏🙏🙏

Tea and Coffee

After Mass

at Moynihans
Irish Pub... up
the road from the
Chapel.



**Please sign our
Visitor's book or
leave a message**

We'd love to know
which country you
are visiting us
from!





The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, which the Church also celebrates as the **Sunday of the Word of God**, invites us to pause and reflect not only on what God says, but on how God chooses to speak. The readings remind us that God's word is never distant or abstract. God speaks by drawing close.



The prophet Isaiah speaks to people who know darkness well. These are not people with vague worries, but men and women worn down by fear, uncertainty, and long-carried burdens. Into that reality God speaks a promise. **A light will shine.** And when God speaks, he acts.

Here in Funchal, the name **Boa Nova** means **Good News**. The area is home to the parish church of Boa Nova and also to the older chapel of the Quinta da Boa Nova, which is dedicated to **Nossa Senhora da Boa Nova**, Our Lady of the Good News. Mary is honoured with this title because she brings the Good News into the world by giving birth to Jesus himself. The Good News is not first of all a book or a text. **The Good News is a person.**

Through Mary's yes, God's word becomes flesh and enters ordinary human life. Jesus Christ is God's promise made visible and touchable. God does not stand at a distance. He comes close and shares our life.



I was once on a bus with some non-Catholic friends from England when, as we passed through Funchal, several people quietly made the sign of the cross. My friends asked why. I explained that we had just passed the parish church of Boa Nova. What stayed with me was how natural it was. No words were spoken. It was a simple act of faith in the middle of an ordinary journey.

That small gesture tells us something important. **God's Word does not stay inside church walls.** Like Mary, who carried Christ into the world, faith slips gently into everyday life.

Isaiah speaks of burdens being lifted and yokes being broken. We know these burdens well. Anxiety, grief, guilt, tiredness, and uncertainty all shape our days. The Good News does not deny these realities. It enters them and begins to change them from within.

In the Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry where Isaiah foretold. He proclaims that the kingdom of God is near. People respond immediately. Fishermen leave their nets. Ordinary lives are redirected. The Word is not only heard. It is followed.

This is why the Sunday of the Word of God matters for us too. Each time Scripture is proclaimed, Christ speaks to us now, living and present. We honour the Bible because it leads us to him, but **he himself is the Word**, the Good News walking among us.

For many people living in darkness, Jesus the Good News will not be encountered first in a church or in a book. **He will be encountered through us.** In our kindness, our patience, our honesty, and our mercy, Christ becomes present. Like Mary, we are called to carry him into ordinary places, so that through our lives the light promised by God can reach those who need it most.



“BOOK SALE” TODAY

This morning after Mass there will be a special book sale. 😊

Mrs Jane Caldwell (aka *Agatha Frisky*), and her husband, Peter, have become frequent visitors to Madeira over the years, and after learning about the poverty on the island, Jane decided to write a novel to help the “People Helping People” project which was started here at the Chapel after the devastating floods in 2010. Since her first novel, “Frozen Stiff”, 2 more books have been written: **all light-hearted, slightly romantic detective stories**, with one of the books (“Deadly Drama”) even featuring a character based on our own dear Father Bernardino!

Get yourself a copy to read while you are here on holiday, and at the same time you will be contributing to a worthy cause. The books cost **10 Euros** each and absolutely every cent will go directly to helping those in need.

Happy Reading!

Jane Caldwell (janecaldwell902@gmail.com)



REMEMBERING FATHER BERNARDINO

Last Sunday morning we remembered Father Bernardino on the 2nd anniversary of his passing.



(Father Bernardino passed away on the 18th of January 2024).

INFANT JESUS EXHIBITION

At the *Museu de Arte Sacra Funchal* (Museum of Sacred Art) in Funchal, there is currently a temporary exhibition on display, bringing together various representations of the Infant Jesus, some of them from private collections.



On display at the museum until 2nd of February!

