



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.**



"Let us not limit ourselves to filling our mouths with fine words about the poor! We must learn to be with them. Let us meet them, look them in the eye, listen to them. The poor are, for us, a concrete opportunity to encounter Christ himself, to touch his suffering flesh." – (in "Deus quer que sejas feliz" [God Wants You to Be Happy] – 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.

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!



Receive this newsletter by email. 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/



1st of February 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday
 4th 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/>
www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
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THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today our Mass will be celebrated by **Fr. James Lewis**. Father James is visiting Madeira on holiday (from the UK!). We are blessed to have him here with us this morning. 😊

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
 (Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13; Psalm 145(146): 7-10; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12)

About 630 BC **Zephaniah** strongly denounced the idolatry that had developed during the reign of Josiah. He prophesied "A day of wrath, ... a day of darkness and gloom" – from which we have our hymn *Dies Irae*. But God would leave a remnant of humble and lowly people – from whom tradition believes Jesus' and John the Baptist's parents came, and also Simeon and Anna. **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. Continuing his letter to the **Corinthians**, Paul reminds them "the world did not know God through wisdom". God has made us members of Christ, who has become our wisdom. God's plan works in ways that seem foolish and weak to us. We have nothing to boast about except the Lord. About forty years after Jesus died, **Matthew** followed Mark in writing a gospel, which he arranged as five collections of sayings by Jesus, alternating with five collections describing what Jesus did. The first collection of sayings, the Sermon on the Mount, starts with the Beatitudes, which we hear today. Over the remaining Sundays before Lent we hear the rest of this Sermon, in which Jesus develops the Commandments given to Moses into positive ways of living. Although much of the promised happiness of the kingdom of God is in the future, it does extend to the present time in anticipation.
 - By: Chris Oliver - www.bible-groups.info

PSALM RESPONSE: How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- 1| **Entry Hymn:** "Jubilate, everybody..." – n.º 296
- 2| **Gospel Acclamation:** "Aleluia..."
- 3| **Offertory Hymn:** "Healer of the sick..." – n.º 217
- 4| **Communion Hymn:** "Our God loves us..." – n.º 454
- 5| **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental
- 6| **Final Hymn:** "The Spirit lives to set us free..." – n.º 561





When we hear the word *poor*, we often think first of those who lack the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, and security. That understanding is correct, and the Church has always taken this very real and painful poverty seriously. The Gospel repeatedly calls us to notice it and to respond with compassion and generosity.

In today's Gospel, however, Jesus speaks of another kind of poverty when he says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." This is not a poverty that belongs only to those who are materially poor. It is something that any person can experience, regardless of wealth, education, or social position.

Over the years, during my time as a teacher, I came across many forms of poverty, even in areas that appeared comfortable and affluent. Some families were struggling quietly, and helping them was not always easy. Pride often became a barrier. For many people, admitting the need for help is one of the hardest things they will ever do.

I remember one particular occasion when we were able to support families through the generosity of an Olivetan community of nuns in England. Some families never came forward, even though they were clearly in need. Others did. One moment, in particular, has stayed with me. We helped a mother with four young children, and she asked how this support had been made possible. When I explained that it came from the generosity of a Catholic community of nuns, she brought her hands together and said, "God bless the nuns. Thank you, God, for the nuns. Today I am blessed."



In that simple response, she showed what it truly means to be poor in spirit. She recognised her need, accepted help with humility, and acknowledged God at work through others.

This is the poverty of spirit that Jesus speaks about. Our fallen human nature resists admitting weakness. We prefer to rely on ourselves and convince ourselves that we are coping just fine. Spiritually, that attitude can close us off from grace. It is only when we acknowledge our need for God that we become able to receive what he longs to give.

All of the Beatitudes flow from this first one. The blessing begins when we stop pretending that we are self-sufficient and allow God to take his rightful place in our lives. To be poor in spirit is to stand before God with empty hands and an open heart.

The poor in spirit know they need God, and they are not afraid to admit it. Jesus assures us that such people are truly blessed, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Deacon Tito

The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:3-10

Blessed are the poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek:
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst
after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful:
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for
righteousness' sake: for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

"BOOK SALE"

Last Sunday we had a very successful book sale after Mass. **Mrs Jane Caldwell** (aka *Agatha Frisky*), an author from the UK decided to write a novel to help the "People Helping People" project, after she learnt about the poverty on the island from attending Mass here at the Chapel, and hearing Fr. Bernardino's sermons on the poor. Her first book called "Frozen Stiff" is a light-hearted, slightly romantic detective story. She has since written another **2 novels** after that one ("Deadly Drama", and "Deadly Planning"), which will be sold for **10 Euros each**, and the proceeds donated to the project to help the poor in the community.

Why not get yourself a book after Mass today, which you can read while you are here on holiday... and at the same time you will be contributing to a worthy cause. **Happy Reading!**



Jane Caldwell (janecaldwell902@gmail.com)



60 YEARS OF LOVE ♥

Last Sunday morning, Father Joseph blessed Peter and Jane Caldwell on their 60th Wedding Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee!)



HAPPY 60th WEDDING anniversary

A beautiful example of love, devotion and loyalty to us all !

February

The Month dedicated to The Holy Family

The example of the Holy Family embraces the perfection and completeness of all domestic virtues. Jesus, Mary and Joseph demonstrated obedience to God and the acceptance to do His will. In our family, the domestic church, we can learn how to develop a relationship with God and with one another. We learn to love, to pray and to practice the gift of charity.

This month as a family, we are encouraged to pray together, read Scriptures together, establish a home altar, and to consecrate our family to the Holy Family.



Consecration of the Family to the Holy Family

Lord Jesus Christ, Who, being made subject to Mary and Joseph, hallowed domestic life by Your ineffable virtues;

grant that we, with the assistance of both, may be taught by the example of Your holy Family and may attain to its everlasting fellowship; Who lives and reigns world without end. Amen

— Roman Missal

