



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.**



"You should reach each other's feet" (John 13:14)

"Those who matter least are those who matter most to God. Those who have no religion to defend them have God as their Father. No religion will be blessed by God if it lives with its back turned to these people. This means embracing God's plan: to make religions and cultures, peoples and policies look towards the dignity and liberation of the least among us." (in "Jesus e o dinheiro - uma leitura profética da crise" [Jesus and Money - A Prophetic Reading of the Crisis] - by José António Pagola)

>> **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: sineadmoynihnan7@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!



JOYFUL GIFT



15th of February 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday
6th 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/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. **Father Joseph Arun** will be celebrating Mass for us this morning. We are blessed to have him here with us at the Chapel.

The special intention of this morning's mass is for the soul of **Patricia Martins-Hawkins** who passed away just over a year ago. Our sincere condolences to her family who are present here at Mass this morning. †

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

(*Sirach/ Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; Psalm 118(119); 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37*)

Writing about 132 BC, Ben Sira was a learned and widely travelled Jerusalem scholar. Today's reading is one of the clearest statements in the whole Bible on free will. God created human beings and – as an essential part of our nature – gave us the ability to choose between right and wrong, life or death. God notes our actions, but "gives no one permission to sin".

The **Psalm** praises God's law, which should be followed because it is designed to help us become who we are meant to be. After saying he did not come using clever human oratory, Paul now tells the **Corinthians** something no human being could work out, namely God's wisdom – his plan from the beginning for our salvation. Because this knowledge comes to us only by revelation, we must be open and listen to the Spirit who reveals it.

Continuing the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus states clearly that He is not abolishing the Jewish Law. But He then goes on to clarify the Commandments – we must obey them in spirit, not just a literal minimum. Our free will should be exercised with wisdom, so that we help to build the kingdom of God here on earth.

(Matthew 5:32 is usually understood to refer to marrying within forbidden degrees of kindred.)

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

PSALM RESPONSE: They are happy who follow God's law!



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

Entry: "O Lord my God..." - 419

Offertory: "All that I am..." - 21

Communion: "On this day of joy..." - 447

Final: "Go, the mass is ended..." - 175



By: Larysa Makarova



If you walk around Funchal, you may stumble across **Rua Mary Jane Wilson**, just around the corner from Fr Joseph's Church in *Rua do Carmo*. Most visitors will probably wonder why a street in a Portuguese city carries an English name. Behind it is the story of a woman whose life was shaped by quiet courage, deep faith, and loving choices - a life that continues to inspire us today.



The Christian life is, at its heart, a life of choosing. God gives us free will not so that we follow our impulses, but so that we may learn, day by day, to choose what leads to love, truth, and life. Each day presents small crossroads. We choose between patience and irritation, generosity and selfishness, courage and comfort.

The Law of the Lord was given to guide these choices. It shows us what is right and what is wrong. Yet Jesus takes the Law even deeper. He teaches that faith is not only about what we do, but about the state of our hearts. It is not enough to follow rules; love must flow from within. The real question is not only, "What am I doing?" but, "Why am I doing it?"

Mary Jane Wilson's life is a striking example of this deeper call. Born in India to English parents, she felt a strong desire to seek God sincerely. This led her to a difficult choice. She left the faith she had grown up with and became a Catholic. It brought misunderstanding and loneliness, yet she chose Christ because she loved Him.



Mary Jane Wilson

In 1881, she came to Madeira to nurse someone who was ill. She could have returned home afterwards, but she chose to stay. She saw poverty, sickness, and children in need, and she allowed her heart to be moved. From that choice grew a lifetime of service and eventually a religious congregation dedicated to education and care for the poor.



During a smallpox epidemic, while many were afraid, Mary Jane and her sisters stepped forward. They chose presence over safety, compassion over fear, love over comfort. Her life shows that holiness grows through countless small, faithful choices, shaped by God in the heart, just as Jesus teaches.

Her story gently asks each of us, what kind of person am I becoming through the choices I make? God's way is always the way of love, and the right choice is always the one that reflects the heart of Jesus.

- Deacon Tito

“ASH WEDNESDAY” – No Mass at the Chapel

Wednesday February 18th is Ash Wednesday. There is no Mass at the Chapel, but you are welcome to attend Mass at the Cathedral.

Ash Wednesday
Masses at the Cathedral
- 18th February

Mass Times:
 8h; 8h30; 11h;
 17h30

How to Do
Ash Wednesday
as a Catholic

- Go to Mass / Receive Ashes
- Pray & Reflect / Take Time for Prayer
- Fast & Abstain / No Meat, Eat Less
- Do Acts of Penance / Offer Sacrifices
- Repent & Confess / Go to Confession
- Seek God's Mercy / Turn Your Heart to Jesus

LENT 2026
Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. The season of penance, reflection, and fasting prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

1 st Sunday of Lent February 22, 2026	Palm Sunday March 29, 2026
2 nd Sunday of Lent March 01, 2026	Maundy Thursday April 02, 2026
3 rd Sunday of Lent March 08, 2026	Good Friday April 03, 2026
Laetare Sunday March 15, 2026	Easter Sunday April 05, 2026
5 th Sunday of Lent March 22, 2026	Palm Sunday March 29, 2026
Maundy Thursday April 02, 2026	Holy Saturday April 04, 2026

Our Lady of Fatima ~ FB Page

A GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ♥♥♥♥♥

Ten years ago, while on holiday in Madeira, **Chris and Antonella (Toni) Rowe** received a special blessing from Father Bernardino during Mass to celebrate their **40th** wedding anniversary.



This year they came back to Madeira for 5 days to celebrate their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** (which was yesterday!) and will receive a special blessing from Father Joseph this morning. They have shared some special photos with us.

50 YEARS AGO: Saying “I do” on their wedding day 14 February 1976



NOW: Chris and Toni Rowe at a recent New Year's Eve celebration



On their 70th birthday celebrations with their whole family, including grandchildren now 19, 14, 12 and 11. 😊



Happy Anniversary!



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE NEWS – Furniture Distribution

Last Monday saw the final delivery of Christmas donations (furniture) which was donated by Mrs Irene Góis, Èlia Sousa, and Óscar Gois. The furniture was delivered to one of the families supported by the “People Helping People” project which was started here at the Chapel by the late Father Bernardino many years ago.



Among the items delivered (and gratefully received) were a kitchen table, chairs, kitchen utensils, a sofa, curtain railing, bed & mattress.



BOOK SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

Last Sunday's book sale was a huge success! All of the books written by Mrs. Jane Caldwell, and brought over from the UK by her and her husband, Peter, have been completely sold out! Many thanks to everyone who bought a book and helped raise funds for the “People Helping People” charity, enabling them to support those in need in the community.



A NEW SPRINKLER SYSTEM

A new automated sprinkler system has recently been installed in the garden of the chapel thanks to the efforts of Funchal's Vicar General, Canon Marcos Gonçalves.



Watering the plants and the trees in the garden will be a much easier task from now on!

