



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.**

*"Finding our place alongside the victims of the crisis is not just about giving a donation now and then. It means getting to know those who are marginalized, establishing bonds of friendship with them, supporting them in their search for work or solutions to their situation, responding with material aid — money, basic necessities — to their needs. We must open our eyes and, above all, our hearts. They are among us, they are part of our family circle, they are our neighbours and they are within the boundaries of our parish." (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:** 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: 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 (while our tearoom is closed for fixing of the roof)



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

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



**JOYFUL GIFT**



22nd of February 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday  
 1st Sunday of Lent – 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](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
[penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



**CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH**

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today's Mass is being offered for a special intention: a 3-year-old boy named **Patrick Jennings**, who has cerebral palsy and will be soon be undergoing stem cell treatment. This morning's Mass will be celebrated by **Father Joseph Arun**. He recently celebrated his 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest. We are blessed to have him with us here at the chapel.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 1st Sunday of Lent - Year A**  
*(Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Psalm 50(51); Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11)*

From Genesis we have the second and probably older description of the creation of humanity. This expresses the truth that God made us as "living beings". By eating the forbidden fruit, man does "become like God", able to make choices, but without the wisdom needed to choose well. Perhaps like a child's growing self-awareness. The mischievous serpent later came to be interpreted as Satan. This penitential Psalm begs pardon for our sins, asking to be restored to grace and purity, and promising to make God's mercy known to others. Paul has been arguing to the Romans that righteousness comes only through faith. Human beings are unable to become righteous by following the Law given to Moses, which identifies – but does not help to avoid – sin. God offers righteousness as gift, through Jesus' obedience to his Father. In Matthew's gospel the devil introduces each temptation with the words: "If you are the Son of God", exploring what can it mean for Jesus to be "Son of God"? Is he a miracle-worker, able to satisfy all desires without effort? Is it about showy displays of power or trying to make God do what we want, in return for belief in him? Jesus dismisses Satan, showing his real power. Jesus will rule over all creation, but only through the Cross.

- By: Chris Oliver - [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

**PSALM RESPONSE: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:**

**Entry:** "This day God gives me strength..." - 571  
**Offertory:** "Fill My House unto the fullest..." - 141  
**Communion:** "One bread, one body..." - 449  
**Final:** "Walk with me, O my Lord..." - 600





I was born in *Rua de Santa Maria* and right opposite our house there is a Station of the Cross which you can still see today. It is marked by a simple cross and when the little doors are open you can see the image inside. As a child I passed it every day. It was an ordinary part of life, yet it quietly reminded me that faith is a journey and that the road with Christ is not always easy.

Today at 5pm the tradition of the *Senhor dos Passos* will take place in the little chapel of *Corpo Santo*, followed by the procession through the streets. We walk with the Lord in his suffering. It reminds us that life is a journey towards the resurrection, but that journey can lead through difficult moments.



That is what Lent is about. It is like pressing a reset button. Sometimes we try again and again to make things work in our lives and nothing changes. We need to stop and begin afresh. The Church gives us this season as a time of renewal and growth, a time to reset our relationship with the God who loves us unconditionally.

In the garden Adam and Eve believed the lie that they could be like gods and that God could not be trusted. Shame followed and they hid. Yet God did not abandon them. He covered their shame. His mercy was already at work. The same is true for us. Sin does not have the final word. God's mercy is always greater.

Fasting and abstinence are not punishments. They help us refocus. Instead of seeking comfort in things that do not last, we turn to what does last. Our first parents ate from a tree and brought death. We receive life from the tree of the Cross, Jesus Christ himself in Holy Communion.

Let us embrace Lent with joy and not be afraid to let God reset our hearts.

- Deacon Tito



Chapel of Corpo Santo in Funchal

“SENHOR DOS PASSOS” – A Madeiran tradition during Lent

The tradition of “*Senhor dos Passos*” is one of Madeira’s most profound Lenten and Easter celebrations, marked by solemn processions re-enacting Jesus’ journey to Calvary with the cross on his back. Representing the **Passion of Christ**, the tradition is a **time for reflection and faith**, attracting many faithful. These processions take place during Lent, in the lead-up to Easter, with a particular focus on the Sundays of Lent.

The celebration begins with Mass at 5pm in the **Chapel of Corpo Santo**, followed by the Sermon of the Encounter, a particularly symbolic moment that recalls Jesus’ encounter with His Mother on the way to Calvary. After the sermon, the procession continues to the parish church along a route marked by prayer, contemplation, and meditation on the mysteries of Christ’s Passion. The “*Procissão dos Passos*” (Procession of the Steps) is a tradition deeply rooted in the religious life of the community, bringing together faithful of various generations and providing a public testimony of faith. Anyone is welcome to participate in the Mass and procession, and experience moments of spirituality and reflection, typical of the Lenten journey.



**WHY DON'T WE SING ALLELUIA DURING LENT?**

**WHY THOUGH?**

"ALLELUIA" IS A HEBREW WORD THAT MEANS "PRAISE YAHWEH". IT IS A JOYFUL WORD, AND AS WE SING, WE JOIN THE HEAVENLY WORSHIP OF THE CHOIR OF ANGELS.

**MY LORD AND MY GOD**

"ALLELUIA" REMINDS US THAT AS WE PARTICIPATE IN MASS, WE ALSO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S KINGDOM ESTABLISHED ON EARTH.

**DURING LENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE FOCUS ON THE KINGDOM COMING, NOT THE KINGDOM COME.**

**GOD WAITS FOR YOU!**

FOR THIS REASON, WE DON'T SING THE ALLELUIA, BUT INSTEAD ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SINS AND REPENT SO THAT WE MAY ONE DAY WORSHIP GOD IN HEAVEN AS THE ANGELS DO.

**CatholicLink** SOURCE: ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO - WWW.ACHTORONTO.ORG

EASTER HAMPER APPEAL

We are collecting items to make up Easter hampers for the needy families we support through our People Helping People charity. A basket to collect the items is placed at the entrance of the chapel during the 10.30 Mass in English.



Please bring along your donations of tinned items, non-perishable food items and hygiene products.

- Thank you 😊❤️

**LENT** is a **JOURNEY** that moves us towards **THE CROSS**

*Sisterlingocatholic.com*