



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.**

"When a person who loves is able to do good for another, or when they see that things are going well for the other person, they experience this with joy and, in this way, give glory to God, for "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7); our Lord has a special regard for those who rejoice in the happiness of others. If we do not nurture our ability to rejoice in the good fortune of others, and focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn ourselves to a life of little joy, for, as Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive!" (Acts 20:35). (You Are Unique – 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: sineadmoynihan7@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!



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/

JOYFUL GIFT



15th of March 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday
4th 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/>
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. Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday. Our priest this morning is **Fr. Joseph Arun**, who is originally from Kerala in India. This February he celebrated the 14th anniversary of his ordination as a priest. We are blessed to have him with us at the chapel every Sunday.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) - Year A
(1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13; Psalm 22(23); Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41)

Before our first reading King Saul had disobeyed God's instructions by allowing animals from his defeated enemy to be sacrificed to the Lord. He put more faith in ceremony and ritual than he did in the Lord. **Samuel** told Saul obedience is more important than holocausts, and that the Lord has rejected Saul as king of Israel. The Lord sends Samuel to Bethlehem to anoint one of the sons of Jesse as king.

The Psalm celebrates God's loving care for his people, like a shepherd guarding and guiding his flock, and looking forward to his generous end-time feast.

Paul's letter to the **Ephesians** is centred on the Church as Christ's body, with a mission to make God's plan of salvation known throughout the world. Christians must "be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in goodness, right living and truth".

John's dramatic gospel readings continue with the healing of the man born blind, who, at first, appears to take little interest. His parents distance themselves out of fear, echoing the growing separation between Jews and Christians by John's time. But for John, just seeing is not enough, the light of faith is essential. So Jesus seeks the man out and gradually leads him to full belief, and so to worship him.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

Entry: "Oh living water..." - 415

Offertory: "Take our bread..." - 528

Communion: "Abba, Abba, Father..." - 3

Final: "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven!..." - 464





Over a hundred years ago people gathered in the streets of Funchal. Electric lights were being switched on for the first time. The cathedral and the nearby streets shone in the night. Until then the streets had been dim, lit only by oil lamps and candles. People stopped and stared. What had



once been hidden was suddenly clear. The cathedral became a beacon in the darkness. It guided people and gave them hope.

Light is something we rarely notice until it is missing. A bright room feels normal. A sunny day feels ordinary. When the light fades, we quickly feel the difference. Darkness changes how we see everything. It can make even familiar places uncertain.

The Christian faith often uses light as an image for something deeper. Light allows us to see clearly. Faith does the same for the soul. Faith helps us recognise the presence of God and trust in him. The cathedral itself is a sign of that light. It is a place where darkness meets the clarity of God's presence.



In the story of the man born blind in the Gospel of John we see a similar truth. The man who could not see physically slowly begins to see spiritually. His encounter with Jesus changes him. Gradually he understands more. Finally, he recognises who Jesus truly is. Like the cathedral shining in the night, Christ brings light into what had been hidden.

Spiritual sight begins with humility. Faith rarely comes all at once. It grows slowly through prayer, through the sacraments, and through daily trust in God. Christ

draws us toward the light. Step by step he helps us see more clearly.

The question is simple. Will we allow him to open our eyes and lead us from darkness into light?

- Deacon Tito

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT – In English - with Father Joseph



Igreja do Carmo

During Lent, and leading up to Holy Week, Father Joseph will be available for confessions **in English**

WHERE: The Carmo Church (*Igreja do Carmo*) in Funchal (Rua do Carmo 1, Funchal, 9000-019)

WHEN: Wednesdays only

TIME: In the morning: 9H00 – 10H30
In the afternoon: 16H00 – 18H00



PINK VESTMENTS AT MASS – Only twice a year

Did you know that the colour pink is one of the rarest liturgical colours in the Catholic Church?

It is traditionally worn on only 2 Sundays:....on **Gaudete Sunday** (the 3rd Sunday of Advent) and on **Laetare Sunday** (the 4th Sunday of Lent).



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

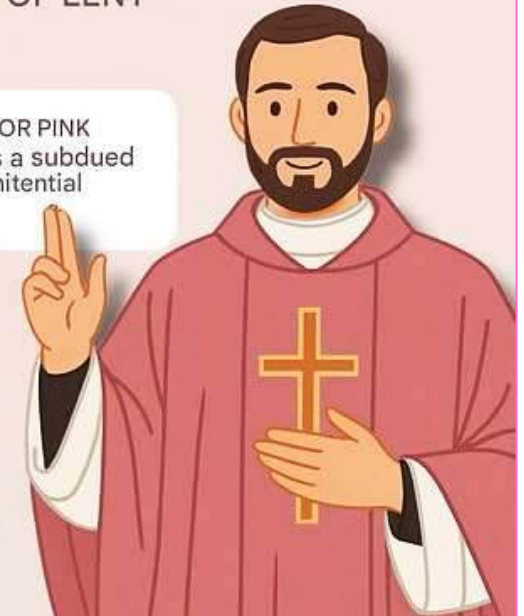
EXPLANATION OF THE COLOR PINK

The color pink symbolizes a subdued joy, a respite within the penitential season of Lent

Laetare Sunday introduces a note of hope and joy as Easter approaches.

Meaning of "Laetare"

The word "Laetare" comes from Latin and means "rejoice."



MOTHER'S DAY

Today is Mother's Day in the UK and Ireland. *Mother's Day, also known as Mothering Sunday, is always held on the fourth Sunday of Lent in these countries.*
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

EASTER HAMPER APPEAL

We are collecting items to make up Easter hampers for the needy families that we support through our **People Helping People** charity. A basket to collect the items is placed at the entrance of the chapel during the 10H30 English Mass. Please bring along your donations of tinned items, non-perishable food items and hygiene products. We are also collecting Easter Eggs for the children.

- Thank you 😊❤️

