



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.**

"Patience and an open heart to Jesus – that is the recipe for living well."
(in "És única" «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: 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!



22nd of March 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday
5th 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
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today we celebrate the fifth Sunday of Lent. Our priest this morning is **Fr. Joseph Arun**, who is originally from Kerala in India. Father Joseph has been a priest for 14 years, and we are very blessed to have him with us at the chapel every Sunday.

● **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 5th Sunday of Lent - Year A**
(Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 129(130); Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45)

For the Jews after 597 BC, exiled in Babylon without their king, land, Temple, all seemed lost as a nation. **Ezekiel's** encouraging messages gave them hope that the nation would rise and live again, like a field full of dry bones coming to life. But this will be the Lord's doing, for the sake of his name, which they have profaned by their idolatry.

In deep sorrow the **Psalm** cries to the Lord, begging pardon for our sins, trusting in God's mercy and awaiting redemption in hope.

Writing to the Jewish Christians in **Rome**, Paul has been puzzling over our human condition: "I do not do the good that I want, but I do the evil that I hate". Mortal flesh is weak. "But God sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh" so that the Son's Spirit might give us the strength to live according to His Spirit. Paul's conclusion: with Christ's Spirit in us we are given life reconciled with God both now and in bodily resurrection after death.

These foretastes of resurrection prepare us for **John's** description of the raising of Lazarus, the third of the three beautiful Lenten readings from John. Perhaps we should ponder how difficult it is to believe, and how difficult it was for Martha to open the tomb?

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

PSALM RESPONSE: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC: By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- |1| **Entry Hymn:** "Colours of day..." – n.º 93
- |2| **Gospel Acclamation:** "Glory and praise to you..." – n.º 690
- |3| **Offertory Hymn:** "How lovely on the mountains..." – n.º 235
- |4| **Communion Hymn:** "Lord Jesus, think on me..." – n.º 340
- |5| **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental
- |6| **Final Hymn:** "Word made flesh..." – n.º 635



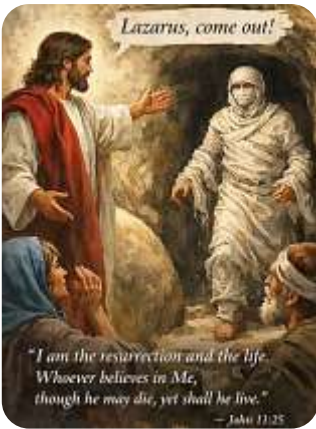


A few years ago I was in the Holy Land when a dear friend, Dennis, was being buried back in the UK. I could not be at his funeral. On that very day I was in Bethany, the place where Lazarus had died and was buried.

We entered the tomb of Lazarus and I was struck by its quiet beauty. From where his body had been laid, we could look up and see light shining in. We prayed for my friend there, and as we stepped out into the brightness of the day, I received a message from his wife to say that a reflection I had written had just been read at his funeral Mass and had brought comfort.

That moment helped me see more clearly that Lazarus points us beyond himself. His story reveals the call given to every baptised Christian. Christ calls each of us to come forth into life.

Here in Madeira, many visitors are surprised to learn that burial is often temporary. After some years, remains are removed from the grave and placed in an ossuary. It can seem unsettling at first. Yet it quietly reminds us of an important truth. Our final home is not the grave. Our hope is not in the tomb, but in God.



The Gospel today does not ignore grief. Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus. Loss is real and it touches every family. But the Gospel also speaks of hope. Christ is the resurrection and the life, and he calls us beyond death.

As we continue through Lent, those preparing for baptism celebrate the final scrutinies. They remind us that this promise is for all of us. Through baptism we are called to be unbound and set free, to leave behind sin and darkness and to live in the light of Christ.

The voice of Christ still calls. He calls each of us to come out of whatever holds us, and to step into life, now and forever.

- Deacon Tito

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT – In English - with Father Joseph

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



Igreja do Carmo



LAST WEEK SUNDAY – Flowers for Mother’s Day 🌸 🌸

Last Sunday was Mother’s Day in the UK and Ireland. As we have many tourists from these countries coming to our Mass, we decided to celebrate this special day with all the mothers at Mass. Manny called up the youngest mother, the oldest mother, the mother with the most children... **and** the grandmother with the most grandchildren!

They received a flower and a blessing from Fr. Joseph 🌻 🌻 🌻 🌻



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 to everyone who have donated so far. 😊❤️



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

The "People Helping People" Association is asking for your help finding work for one of the individuals we serve. This person is 70 years old, but desperately wants and needs to work.

He is currently in a vulnerable situation in his life and does not want to depend on institutions or anyone. He has completed 12th grade and has experience in treasury and accounting.

He emigrated to America for 4 years but had to return to Madeira where he has family. He is able to speak some English.

He is open to working in any capacity. As you may know, it is felt by many in our society that he is considered too old to work. As a result, he has said that he has difficulty finding employment. He is currently eating meals at an institution.

No one is immune to adversity in life; we have to put ourselves in our brother's shoes. Please, let's help this gentleman find work. Surely someone can find work for him. ❤️

Submitted by Carla Rodrigues

