



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.**



"To suffer with others means both to suffer alongside the victims of the inhumanity so prevalent in the world, and to share in the suffering of those who commit errors and injustices – not by judging them, but by showing them humanity. When we adopt a mindset of conflict, it creates division amongst us, breeds ill will towards one another, and we lose our humanity. And yet we often think that we need humanity, that we need to be more human. This is the lesson Saint Bakhita teaches us: to "humanise" is, to humanise oneself and to humanise others." (in "Es única" «You Are Unique» – Pope Francis).

29th of March 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday  
**Palm Sunday/Passion of the Lord** – Year A

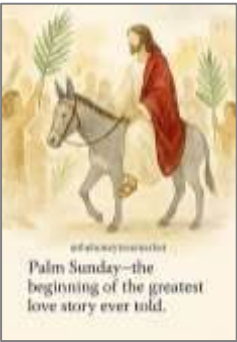
Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,  
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira.  
Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>  
[www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
[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 we celebrate Palm Sunday, the last Sunday of Lent, and the beginning of Holy Week. Our priest this morning is **Father 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 – Palm Sunday/Passion of the Lord - Year A  
(Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 21(22); Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14 – 27:66)




In exile in Babylon, after Jerusalem was destroyed in 597 BC, the despairing people are tempted to give up their faith in God. In the 'servant-song' **Isaiah** offers consolation, recommending trust in the Lord. Today **Isaiah's** words express both our horror at the way Our Lord was treated, and our admiration for his example of patient non-retaliation. Trusting confidently in his Father, he "sets his face like flint", even though it is covered with spittle. On the Cross Jesus uttered the first words of this **Psalm** which reflects his suffering. Not a cry of despair, but expressing Jesus' complete confidence in his Father and praising the redemption bought by his Cross. The hymn in **Philippians** rejoices: unlike Adam, Jesus did not seek to be equal to God. But God raised him to glory and gave him the name 'Lord'. Jesus on the Cross invites us to imitate his humility. **Matthew's Passion**, with its lively dialogue, shows Jesus aware and in control. Writing after the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, Matthew blamed the Jewish leaders for Jesus' death. Jesus died just before Passover, when Jews celebrated their freedom from slavery. Soldiers, Jewish leaders, the inscription on the Cross, all ironically give Jesus his true title of 'King of the Jews', the Messiah. Jesus' obedience to God's plan gives the Cross meaning.  
- By: Chris Oliver - [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

>> **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](mailto:sineadmoynihnan7@icloud.com)

**PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:** Alexandre Silva, Funchal. Email: [alex.lupus@gmail.com](mailto:alex.lupus@gmail.com)  
When making any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.php@gmail.com](mailto: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. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

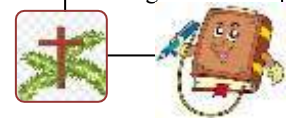
**Tea and Coffee After Mass**

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!



**TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:**

**Entry:** "Give me joy in my heart..." - 161  
**Offertory:** "Father, I place into your hands..." - 134  
**Communion:** "Let there be love shared..." - 317  
**Final:** "Make way, make way..." - 360



By: Larysa Makarova

# REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

By Deacon Tito Pereira

- (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion draws us into a moment full of hope and tension. In Madeira, we know this well through the carrying of the *palmitos*, beautifully decorated palm branches, often woven and adorned with flowers and small symbols of faith. We walk together holding them, taking part in something that feels both joyful and solemn. It is a shared act, rich in meaning, touching something deep within us, a sense of belonging,

a desire for unity, and a quiet hope that God will save us.

The people in Jerusalem were not so different from us. They also carried branches and welcomed Jesus with hope in their hearts. They lived under Roman rule and longed for freedom and change. When they cried "Hosanna", they were saying "save us", and many hoped for a political rescue. They expected a strong leader who would defeat their enemies.

But Jesus does not meet those expectations. He enters the city in humility, not as a warrior, and he refuses to take sides. He does not divide people into us and them. Instead, he reveals a different way, one rooted in peace, humility, and love.



It is striking how quickly things can change. The same voices that cry "Hosanna" can later cry "Crucify him". When Jesus does not act as expected, people turn away. This challenges us, because we too can struggle when God does not act according to our plans.

Now, after the Resurrection, we know that Jesus is the Saviour, but his way is not what people imagined. The world often uses power to control and divide, but Jesus

chooses another path. He enters into suffering and accepts it fully, even death on a cross. In doing so, he transforms suffering, giving it meaning and leading us through it.

As people carry their *palmitos*, we are reminded that we are part of this story. Jesus shows us that his kingdom is for everyone. It is not built on division, but on love and trust. Our cry is not about defeating others, but about trusting God, who has already overcome suffering and leads us towards peace, towards joy, and towards life with the Father.

- Deacon Tito



Easter *palmitos*



## Guide to Holy Week



### Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



### Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



### Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



### Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



### Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



### HAMPERS FOR EASTER 2026

**A big Thank You to everyone who has supported our Easter Hamper collection by bringing items to the Chapel on Sunday mornings.**

Today is the last Sunday that we will be collecting items.

These will all be distributed amongst families who need our help.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**PLEASE NOTE:** Here at our Chapel, there will be **no Masses** during Holy Week, and also **no English Mass for the following 2 Sundays** (April 5th and April 12th) as Father Joseph will not be in Madeira, and there are no other English-speaking priests available. You are welcome to attend Mass at the Cathedral at 11am on these Sundays. Mass will be in Portuguese. Our next Mass in English at the Chapel will be on **Sunday April 19th at 10:30AM**

