



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.

"For those who truly love, it is clear that charity does not absolve the competent authorities of their responsibilities, nor does it eliminate the organizational commitment required of their institutions, much less does it replace the legitimate struggle for justice. It does, however, invite us to pause and look the poor person in the eye, to reach out to them and share with them something of what we have. In any case, almsgiving, however small, instils compassion in a society where everyone is concerned only with their own personal interests. The Book of Proverbs says: 'The generous man will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor' (Pr 22:9)". - In the book: *Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te. On love for the poor.* (Pope Leo XIV)



>> 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: TOTAPTL

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: sineadmoynihn7@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/

26th of April 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday

4th Sunday of Easter (Sunday of the Good Shepherd) – Year A

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,

Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira.

Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

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CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Today, we celebrate the Sunday of the Good Shepherd. Last Sunday we came back to the Chapel for Mass after it had been closed for 2 weeks. We welcomed back **Father Joseph Arun**, who was joined by Deacon Peter Brown. Deacon Peter is visiting Madeira on holiday from the UK. He assisted Father Joseph during Mass. (picture shown above) 😊

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 4th Sunday of Easter – Sunday of the Good Shepherd
(Acts 2:14,36-41; Psalm 22(23); 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10) ☉ Year A

Last Sunday we heard the middle section of Peter's speech at Pentecost, saying the Resurrection shows Jesus was the Holy One expected by King David. Today the consequences: many of his hearers accept this and are told they must repent and be baptised. "Repent" in the sense of radically changing their life and directing it towards God. Even though Jesus does not appear to baptise during his lifetime, baptism is immediately the mark of membership of the new Christian community, at which they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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

Peter's letter continues: God's approval comes not from justifiable punishment but from suffering patiently even when we have done right. Christ patiently bore for us unjustified insults and hurts without retaliating, trusting completely in his Father. We must imitate the Lord our shepherd in every way, placing all our trust in him. He will "give us comfort" and "repose".

In the Gospel, John also sees Jesus as the Good Shepherd. He knows each one of us and leads us. We follow him because we know his voice. He is also the gate, through which we can enter and find safety.

- 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: "Crown him with many crowns..." - 119

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

Communion: "Jesus Christ is in my heart..." - 279

Final: "The day of resurrection..." - 538



By: Larysa Makarova

REFLECTION FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

By Deacon Tito Pereira

- (dcn.tito@gmail.com)



Not long ago, someone approached me after Mass and told me that I had once taught her son. She said that as soon as she heard the Gospel being proclaimed, she recognised my voice immediately. Time had passed and much had changed, yet something familiar remained. It stayed with me because it echoes what Jesus says in today's Gospel. The sheep know the voice of the shepherd.

That raises a simple but searching question. Do we recognise the voice of Christ in our own lives?

We live surrounded by noise. There are constant demands on our attention, endless opinions, and many voices offering direction. Some are harmless, but others can quietly draw us away from what is good and true.

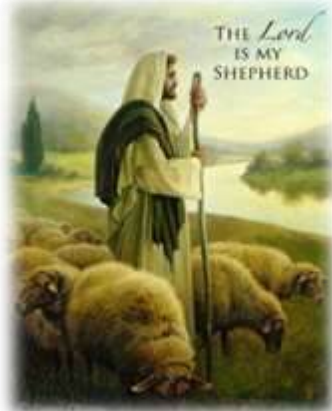
In the middle of all this, Christ continues to speak. The difficulty is not

that he is silent, but that we are often distracted.

We come to recognise his voice in the same way we recognise any voice. It happens through familiarity, through time spent listening. We hear him in the Scriptures, in the sacraments, and in the quiet movements of the heart. His voice is consistent. It calls us towards love, patience, mercy, and self-giving. It never leads us towards hatred or division.

The more we stay close to him, the clearer his voice becomes. Gradually, we begin to notice the difference between what draws us closer to God and what pulls us away.

Perhaps this week we might pause and consider what voices we are allowing to shape us. Then, with intention, we can turn again to the Good Shepherd, listening for the voice that calls us by name and leads us gently towards fullness of life.



- Deacon Tito

QUIZ NIGHT HELD ON 22ND APRIL – PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE – By: Jane House

Quiz Night 22nd April, was held at Mezza Grill. Many thanks to Sinead and Tadhg Moynihan! A great success and a good time had by all.



Skip & Jane read the winning ticket



Zoë had fun too!



Our Carla also entertained with her accordion, playing traditional Madeiran music.



Carlos made the evening even more fun!

We thank all those who attended and those who contributed to the auction prizes with especially Albert de Nobrega who contributed a beautiful handcrafted pen and Manolo Borrero, who contributed 2 half-price vouchers for cruises on his 40ft sailboat. 😊

WHAT DOES PSALM 23 "LORD, MY SHEPHERD" MEAN?

A Psalm of Trust, drawn from the story of God's rescue, guidance, and eternal love.

GOD IS OUR SHEPHERD-KING

God is both a gentle Shepherd who cares for us and a powerful King who protects and leads. We can fully trust Him.

PSALM 23 FOLLOWS THE EXODUS JOURNEY

Like Israel's story, our lives follow a pattern:

OUT → THROUGH → INTO

God rescues → God guides → God brings into rest

Psalm 23 speaks to God's faithfulness, through life's wilderness and into His peace.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not lack."

PSALM 23:1

HE PROVIDES

"Green pastures & still waters"

God gives us rest, strength, and renewal—just as He provided manna and water for Israel.

→ We will not lack what we truly need.

HE PROTECTS

"Valley of the shadow of death"

Even in dark, dangerous seasons, God's presence removes fear. His rod and staff defend and guide us.

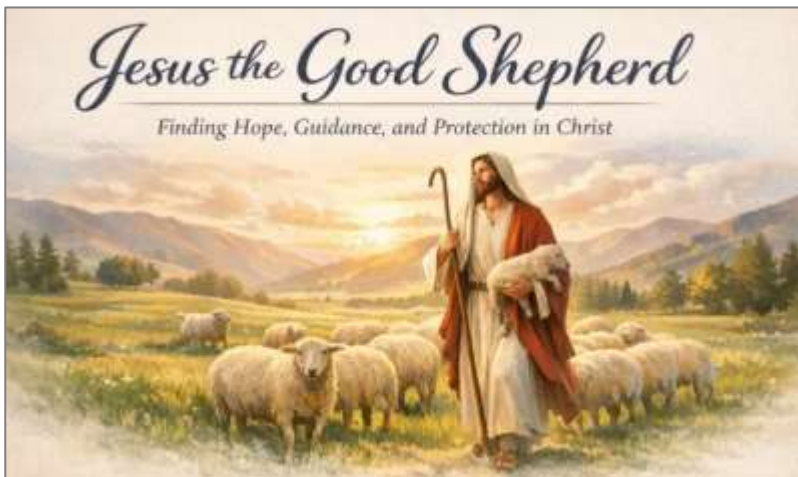
→ We will not fear evil.

HE HONORS & BLESSES

God as our Host

Before our enemies, God prepares a table, anoints with oil, and overflows our cup with blessings, peace, and victory—

→ We are deeply loved and honored.



EASTER HAMPERS – A wonderful success!

A big thank you to all those who contributed money donations, Easter eggs and other items towards our Easter hamper drive. The hampers were gratefully accepted by the thirteen families who received the ample bags we were able to make up!

- Thank you 😊❤️

- Debbie de Jesus



WALKING SHOES

Last Sunday Father Joseph received an unusual blessing request at Mass: a blessing for 2 pairs of walking shoes! They were the shoes of Dino and Anne-Lise Gomes, who will be going on the *Camino de Santiago* walk this week. We wish them a “*Buen Camino*” (a good path) and safe journey! 😊

