



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. The Mission Statement of People Helping People is...** through social solidarity, to mobilize many people to help many people in a combat against poverty, hunger, illness, exclusion, indifference, intolerance, and social injustice, with a special preference for the last, the least and the lost, having as a model the person of Jesus, the «Good Shepherd» (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 15). Our wish is that it may always be an open door when all the other doors close, building in this way, different feelings and acts of Mercy

"The human soul doesn't want to be advised, repaired, or saved. It wants to be witnessed, seen, heard, and accompanied as it is. As mystics sometimes say, we are all part of the cloud of witnesses. We are called to witness the pain that cannot be repaired both in each other and in the world. To recognize the reality of how much it sometimes costs us to be here, of what life asks of us..." (It's OK That You're Not OK – Megan Devine)

>> 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: sineadmoyinhan7@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

Vol. 3, nr. 527

26th of July 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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 the Catholic church celebrates the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are blessed to have Father Joseph Arun celebrate Mass for us this morning. Father is a Carmelite priest from Kerala, India, now residing in Madeira.



Capela de Nossa Senhora da Penha de França

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

(1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Psalm 118(119); Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52)

After David's death his son, Solomon, became king. Until Solomon built the Temple, sacrificing to God in high places was acceptable. It was during one such sacrifice that God appeared in a dream asking Solomon what he most wanted. In humility Solomon asked for a discerning judgement, rightly earning God's praise. **The Psalm** praises God's law as the supreme rule for life because it is designed to help us become who we are meant to be. Paul continues describing life in the Spirit to the **Romans**. Christians should try to reproduce in themselves images of Christ by progressively sharing in his risen life. God prepares those called to do his work and cooperates with them. Each individual is called for some task in God's plan for salvation. Those who love him will share in his glory. This includes not only Christians and others of goodwill, but also the Jews, "the ones he chose specially long ago". **Matthew's Gospel** compares the Kingdom of Heaven to the greatest treasure found either accidentally or after a search, and then compares the Kingdom to a dragnet: the good fish will be kept and those of no use will be thrown in the furnace. There is a surprise ending: not all old treasures should be thrown away, some should be kept – like Israel's Scriptures, our Old Testament.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Lord, how I love your law!



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

Entry: "God forgave my sin..." - 181

Offertory: "All that I am..." - 21

Communion: "This is my body..." - 572

Final: "Go, the mass is ended..." - 175

By: Larysa Makarova



REFLECTION FOR THIS SUNDAY - By Sr. Enna Pineda, MMS



Today's reflection is written by Sister Enna Pineda, MMS (Medical Mission Sisters) kindly shared with us by Deacon Tito Pereira of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Acton, London.

The Kingdom of God in Today's World

Today's world is marked by rapid change, technological advancement, and virtual connection, yet individuals and communities still experience anxiety, division, isolation, and a deep hunger for meaning. These pressures often distract us, leading to unexamined choices and disordered priorities.

The Gospel's core message reminds us that the Kingdom of God is our **true treasure**, and encountering Christ reshapes our priorities with joyful freedom. Jesus presents the Kingdom not as a distant dream or abstract idea, but as God's living presence here and now.



In today's parables - the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price, and the net filled with fish - Jesus shows how priceless this presence is. He brings God's precious gifts of justice, peace, mercy, and love close to everyday life by using ordinary images familiar in his time.

We are reminded that when God's Kingdom becomes our true treasure, we choose compassion, fairness, truth, and unity as God's family. Making the Kingdom central requires reordering our priorities.

It may mean releasing unhealthy attachments, prejudices, or fears, and choosing kindness over anger, community over isolation, or honesty even when uncomfortable.

This may sound like heavy sacrifice, but Jesus includes one transformative word: **JOY**. Joy arises from clarity - recognising what leads us toward God and what distracts us.

In daily life, we can ask simple but courageous questions:
Does this choice reflect what I value most?
Does it make present God's justice, mercy, and peace?

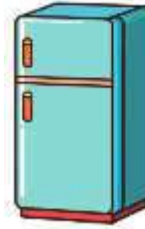
Whether deciding how to spend time, how to respond to conflict, or how to use resources, the Gospel invites us to Kingdom-centred living with intentionality.

- Sr. Rowena Pineda, MMS
(<https://www.medicalmissionsisters.org/medical-mission-sisters/>)



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE - Feeding a baby

This week a special request has come from a young family in need. They have a two-month-old baby boy who requires special milk, but they are struggling to buy it for their baby. If you would like to help by buying a tin of this special milk (pictured on the right) and bringing it to Mass next week, or by donating towards the cost, please let us know! Thank you for caring. 😊❤️



Also, if you or anyone you know has a second-hand fridge that is still in working condition, and not needed... one of the families that is being helped by *People Helping People*, urgently needs one and would be grateful to have it.

For more information, please contact Carla Rodrigues:
(fcarla.mrodrigues@gmail.com)



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



How cool is it that the same
God that created mountains
and oceans and galaxies looked
at you and thought the world
needed one of you too.

