



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

"Those who offer support are asked to provide companionship in times of suffering. Even if we can't offer solutions to what can't be put right, we can still make things better..." - (It's OK That You're Not OK – Megan Devine)
 "God is a hard worker, but He also likes a helping hand..." - (Viver (por) Inteiro «Living (to the) Fullest» – Paulo Costa).

>> 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!



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

2nd of August 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday

18th 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/>

www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



Capela de Nossa Senhora da Penha de França

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today the Catholic church celebrates the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Our community is blessed to have Father Joseph Arun celebrate Mass for us every Sunday morning. His homilies are always inspiring as he connects the scripture to daily life in a way that is easy to understand. Father Joseph is a Carmelite priest originally from Kerala, India, who now lives in Madeira.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

(Isaiah 55:1-3; Psalm 144(145); Romans 8:35,37-39; Matthew 14:13-21)

Second Isaiah encourages the Israelites exiled in Babylon by reminding them that God had not forgotten his everlasting covenant with them. They are still invited to turn to him and to enjoy the heavenly banquet in the end days. But they must "listen, and your soul will live".

The Psalm praises the Lord's care for creation: God – of his nature – must be "just in all his ways", but he is also "kind and full of compassion".

Paul has now arrived at the tremendous conclusion he has been working towards through these four chapters of his letter to the **Romans**: "nothing can come between us and the love of Christ". We have been justified by our faith in the gospel. God is on our side. Jesus himself prays on our behalf. We can be certain that, no matter who we are, nor what we do, God never stops loving us. How difficult it can be to accept this! This is what God's covenant means: we will never cease to be his people.

The Gospel shows how readily God provides for our needs, just as he provided the manna in the desert. The feedings of the multitudes give us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come. Foreshadowing the Eucharist, the disciples begin to take on some of Christ's work.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC



By: Fátima Cátia Marques

[1] **Entry Hymn:** "A new commandment..." – n.º 2

[2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..." – n.º 679

[3] **Offertory Hymn:** "How lovely on the mountains – Our God reigns..." – n.º 235

[4] **Communion Hymn:** "Healer of the sick ..." – n.º 217

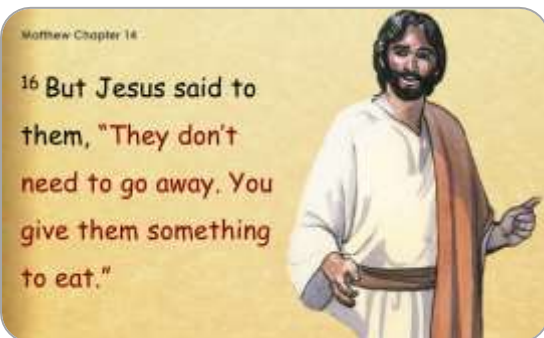
[5] **Thanksgiving:** "Veni, lumen cordium..." – n.º 593

[6] **Final Hymn:** "The Spirit lives to set us free..." – n.º 561



REFLECTION FOR THIS SUNDAY - By Sr. Nuala Gannon

This morning's reflection is written by Sr. Nuala Gannon. It has been sent to us by Deacon Tito Pereira of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Acton, London.



"Give them something to eat" **- Matthew 14: 16**

In today's Readings, we see the lavishness of God's love, shown by his deep longing to feed the hungry, physically and spiritually.

Isaiah invites all who are thirsty and hungry, and who have no money, to avail of God's abundance at no cost, symbolising God's salvation for all people.

The Psalm expresses the compassion and justice of God who is close to all who call on him, and St Paul writing to the Romans, assures us of God's enduring love, *'Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus'*.

As the Gospel from Matthew unfolds, we can imagine ourselves in the presence of Jesus seeking a quiet place as he grieves the death of his cousin, John the Baptist. In his humanity we see his grief, and his compassion when the crowds seek him out. Seeing their needs, he heals the sick.

What follows is the miraculous feeding of the hungry multitude. We watch Jesus take the small offering of five loaves and two fish, raise his eyes to heaven, say a blessing, break the loaves and give them to the disciples to share with the crowd who ate and were satisfied.



The early Church saw in this miracle an anticipation of the Eucharist when at the Last Supper Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it, saying: ***'Take this, all of you, and eat of it.'***

At every Mass, these same words and gestures of Jesus make Him present to us, as he becomes the Bread of Life, food for our spiritual hunger.



- We pray this week for the hungry multitudes who survive physically on the 'leftovers'.
-

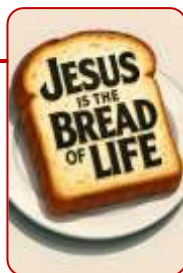
~ Sr. Nuala Gannon



"Prayer is the best weapon we have; it is the key to God's heart. You must speak to Jesus not only with your lips but with your heart.

In fact, on certain occasions, you should only speak to Him with your heart."

- Saint Padre Pio.



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE - Feeding a baby

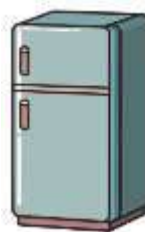
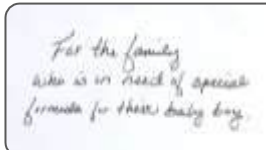
In last week's newsletter we made a special appeal for help for a young family with a two-month-old baby boy unable to afford special milk (formula) for their baby. A big thank you to everyone who helped with donating towards the cost of the formula. We were able to buy 4 tins!! 😊



We would also like to help this young family with **diapers (size 3)**.

If you would like to buy a pack and bring it to church next week, this would be wonderful, or if you would like to donate towards buying this would also be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for caring. 😊❤️



Also a HUGE thank you to the family who have Offered to donate a fridge towards one of the families in need.

Thank you very much. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! ❤️

- Carla Rodrigues: (fcarla.mrodrigues@gmail.com)

