



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

"Jesus' call invites us, above all, to reach out to those who cannot count on help from friends, relatives or wealthy neighbours. Sick and helpless men and women, without a home or a family to protect them properly; people who do not belong to any family circle; human beings who will never be able to repay us, but who need our help."

(from the book "Ide e Cura" <Go and Heal> by – José António Pagola.)

>> 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

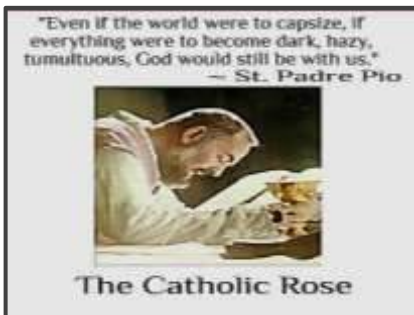
BIC: LOYDGB21035



The funds will then be transferred to Madeira.
Any questions or concerns about transferring to this account, please contact Sinead Moynihan at: sineadmoynehan7@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.



**Padre Pio
Feast Day**

**September
23RD**

"Pray, hope, and
don't worry.
Worry is useless.
God is merciful
and will hear
your prayer."

- Saint Padre Pio



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JOYFUL GIFT

20th of September 2026

25th 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/

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CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Today is the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

During the month of September, the Sunday morning English Mass is being held at the **Sé Cathedral** at **10:00 AM**. This is due to the temporary closure of the **Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França** while Father Joseph Arun is away in India visiting his family.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Most Reverend D. Nuno Brás, Bishop of Funchal, who has been celebrating these Masses for our community over the past two weeks.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Isaiah 55:6-9; Psalm 144(145):2-3. 8-9. 17-18 r.18; Philippians 1:20-24, 27; Matthew 20:1-16a)

Earlier in this chapter **Isaiah** invited us to the joyful banquet the Lord has prepared for us – "the supper of the Lamb". Today's reading urges us to "seek the Lord while he may be found": hidden and unimaginably different from us, yet he is near and wanting to give us his forgiveness.

The Psalm, a hymn of praise to God's mercy, recalls when the Israelites worshipped the golden calf: the Lord is "slow to anger and abounding in mercy".

For the next four weeks the second reading is from Paul's letter to the **Philippians**, probably written about 57 AD from Ephesus. Paul writes to thank the Philippians for the money they had sent him while he was in prison, and to encourage them to support each other in their pagan surroundings. Paul is very clear about his future life with Christ immediately after death. Sharing in Christ's suffering means also sharing in the joy of the union with Christ which such suffering brings. Paul is torn between wishing to be gone and so be with Christ, or staying alive suffering in the Lord's work. In **Matthew's gospel** even those rejected by others are swept up into the Lord's vineyard. Justice to those hired first is balanced by mercy to the latecomers.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is close to all who call him.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Bind us together..."
- [2] **Responsorial Psalm:** "The Lord is close to all who call Him..."
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..."
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "How lovely on the mountains – Our God reigns..."
- [5] **Communion Hymn:** "Jesus the Lord said: I am the Bread..."
- [6] **Thanksgiving:** "Make way, make way..."
- [7] **Final Hymn:** "Go, the Mass is ended..."



By: Fátima Cátia Marques

Fr Tony's Homilies

Sunday & Weekday Homily, RCIA, Faith Formation, & Bible Study Resources

www.frtonyshomilies.com

Today's readings are all about the human sense of justice contrasted with the extravagant grace of a merciful and compassionate God. God rewards us, not in the measure of what we do, but according to our need and His good will. We need to follow God's example and show loving generosity to our neighbour. When someone else is more successful than we are, God would have us rejoice with our brother or sister for making such good use of the gifts God has given him or her. Envy should have no place in our lives. We cannot control, and dare not pass judgment on, the way God blesses others, only rejoice that He does so, just as He blesses us.

Ten dollars or ten days in jail:

James N. McCutcheon tells a wonderful story about the sense of justice of Fiorello LaGuardia, based on God's mercy and generosity as expressed in today's Gospel.

Fiorello LaGuardia was Mayor of New York City during the worst days of the Great Depression and during all of World War II.

Devoted New Yorkers called him "the Little Flower" because (i) that is the English meaning of his Italian first name; (ii) he was only five-foot-four; and (iii) he always wore a carnation in his lapel.

He was a colourful character who used to ride the New York City fire trucks, raid speakeasies with the police department, and take entire orphanages to baseball games. Whenever the New York newspapers were on strike, he used to go on radio and read the Sunday "funnies" to the kids.

One bitterly cold night in January of 1935, the mayor turned up at a night court that served the poorest ward of the city. LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself. Within a few minutes, a tattered old woman was brought before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. She told LaGuardia that her daughter's husband had deserted her, her daughter was sick, and her grandchildren were starving - but the shopkeeper, from whom the bread was stolen, refused to drop the charges. *"It's a bad neighbourhood, your Honour,"* the shopkeeper told the mayor. *"She's got to be punished to teach other people around here a lesson."*



LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the woman and said, *"I've got to punish you...The law makes no exceptions - ten dollars or ten days in jail."* But even as he pronounced the sentence, the mayor was already reaching into his pocket. He extracted a bill and tossed it into his familiar hat, saying, *"Here's the ten-dollar fine which I now remit; and furthermore, I'm going to fine everyone in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant."*

- **The following day**, the New York City newspapers reported that forty-seven dollars and fifty cents was turned over to the old woman who had stolen a loaf of bread to feed her starving grandchildren. We wonder if that could happen today! Our Scripture for this Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time is about the surprising nature of God's grace, which many prefer to call "amazing grace."

~ Fr. Tony Kadavil (www.frtonyshomilies.com)



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP) CHARITY

Hello friends!

I've been meaning to say something more often, but between my job and the Charity, it's hard to even get home before dinner time... But today, I'll try to give you an update on what has been happening with "People Helping People". This year we have a few more families on our care.

Once again, impossible situations where in some cases, people are genuinely making an effort, and in other cases, it is clear that we are dealing with people whose deep psychological difficulties make it extremely hard for them to manage even the most basic responsibilities, despite their best efforts. **This reminds me of a time** when I was asking for sponsors for a charity event, and the owner of a company told me that he didn't give out money, but he had job positions to fill, so I could just send the people we help to him. I asked him then if I should send the schizophrenic guy who doesn't even have state help for his medication, and for obvious reasons couldn't hold a job for long, or maybe the 64-year-old widow who was fighting depression, had a stroke and the medical board refused to give her an early retirement. **The man stared at me speechless.** I thanked him for his time, and left.

It's true we sometimes help people that are having a temporary setback that we can help get them back on the right track, but unfortunately, the cases that we "can't get rid of", are families with deeper issues than money, food or bills.

Some time ago, a friend of mine had some personal issues. They were not very serious issues but were enough for him to lose sleep, and feel profoundly disturbed. When we talked about it, he looked at me, and said *"I can't even imagine how people who live in poverty can survive mentally"*. To me, the answer is obvious - **they don't.**

That is why one of the most important aspects of the charity for Father Bernardino, wasn't exactly the money part. Of course, money helps in dealing with the most urgent matters, but for him, the most important part was to make these families feel seen, supported, understood and not alone.

As Father Bernardino said, *"we want to teach them how to fish, but sometimes, before we begin, we need to fish for them, cook the fish, clean the bones, and feed them. When the journey to healing starts, then we teach them how to fish."*

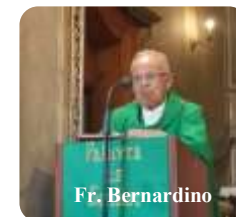
Either way, our Charity desperately needs conditions to be able to deal with whomever needs our help. And in that regard, all of you have been an amazing help in this heartfelt project. It would truly be impossible to continue the mission that Father Bernardino inspired us to pursue if it was not for you.

As you are aware, we have an amazing fund-raising team, and we have several events along the year to complement our funding, but one of the most important ways that we fund the charity, is the weekly English Mass donations. Of course, we prefer the monthly transfers that some of you do, but these weekly contributions make a huge difference...So, it was a bit unexpected when we lost that support for two months due to the Chapel being temporarily closed.

So please, if you can, check our bank information on the last page of this bulletin, and give us a hand. We are still fishing, cooking the fish, cleaning the bones, and feeding these families. And we are still helping them to learn how to fish for themselves.



- Alexandre Silva (alex.lupus@gmail.com)



YOUR LETTER TO CARLO ACUTIS - Placed at his tomb

Do you need a grace through the intercession of Saint Carlo Acutis? Would you like to send a letter with a request, a message, or a thank you to beloved Saint Carlo Acutis? Or a photo of someone who is ill – perhaps a member of your family – to ask for Carlo's intercession or blessing? Well, here is your chance!

In the town of Vagos, in Portugal, a pilgrimage group organized by Deacon António Machado is gathering letters to be placed at the tomb of Saint Carlo Acutis during their upcoming trip to Assisi, Italy. On the 12th October – the liturgical feast day of Carlo – the letters will be placed at the tomb of the beloved saint when the pilgrimage group attends the Holy Mass marking the 20th anniversary of his entry into heaven.



If you would like to write a letter to be placed at the tomb, you can still do so until the beginning of October, because on the 12th October, Carlo's feast day, all the letters received will be placed beneath Carlo's remains and entrusted to the prayers of the Franciscan sisters at the *Santuario della Spogliazione* in Assisi.

You can send your letter by post in an envelope addressed to:



"Carlo Acutis em Portugal"
Ao cuidado do diácono António Machado,
Centro Comercial Narciso Bloco B 4esq,
3840-413 Vagos
Portugal



The miracle of the rose petals on the tomb of Saint Carlo Acutis!

Many people who visited Carlo's grave in the Assisi cemetery brought with them rose petals that adorned the tomb, often left there by his mother, as the rose was Carlo's favourite flower. It turns out that petals brought from the tomb with great devotion did not lose their colour or fragrance, but maintained a fresh and subtly aromatic appearance!

This fact, witnessed by many devotees who kept these petals as relics, caused great curiosity, and some of these petals were analysed in a laboratory, leading to this phenomenon being considered scientifically inexplicable!

Today, after several years, these petals retain their perfect colour and fragrance intact, and are considered by many devotees to be true relics of Saint Carlo Acutis!

