



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

"Anyone who walks with Jesus will have to learn not to be put off by the cries of those who suffer, but to work with Him to alleviate their suffering."
(from "grupos de Jesus" The Groups of Jesus)
— 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.



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

27th of September 2026

26th 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



Fr. Marcos Gonçalves



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Today the Catholic church celebrates the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time. This morning's Mass is being offered for the repose of the soul of **Rui Alberto Pestana de Freitas**, 63 years old, beloved uncle of Helena and Cátia, our Chapel's organist. Our condolences go out to all his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace. 🙏

During the month of September, the Sunday morning English Mass has been 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 has been away.

● TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 24(25) Philipians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32)

The priest **Ezekiel** appears to have been among the first Israelites taken to Babylon in captivity in 598 BC. He had strongly urged Israel's leaders to be faithful to God and his covenant, instead of resisting their enemies. But in vain: Israel's further rebellion led to the final destruction of Jerusalem in 586. Ezekiel insists that children are not punished for the sins of their fathers. Each generation and each person must accept responsibility for their own behaviour. Why choose sin and death: "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God, so turn, and live". **The Psalm** is a personal prayer for guidance and pardon, while meditating on God's goodness to the just. Paul urges the Gentile Christians in **Philippi** to strive for unity, putting their own interests behind those of the Christian community. The hymn glorifies the way the already existing Christ obediently humbled himself to become man so that "every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord" – the basic definition of a Christian. In **Matthew's gospel** Jesus has entered Jerusalem and cleansed the Temple. Now, challenged by the Jewish leaders, Jesus asks which is better – to refuse a command and then do it, or to say 'yes' but disobey? Israel frequently broke their Covenant with God, so sinners will enter God's kingdom before the Jews.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Remember your mercy, Lord.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Laudate Dominum – Sing praise..."
- [2] **Responsorial Psalm:** "Remember, remember your mercy, O Lord ..."
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..."
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "Veni lumen cordium..."
- [5] **Communion Hymn:** "Amazing Grace..."
- [6] **Thanksgiving:** "Ave Maria gratia plena – As I kneel before you..."
- [7] **Final Hymn:** "The Spirit lives to set us free – Walk in the light..."



By: Fátima Cátia Marques

Fr Tony's Homilies

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

www.frtonyshomilies.com

In today's Gospel parable, a man with two sons tells both to go out to work in the vineyard. The first son says he will not go, but later he regrets his refusal and goes to work. The second son says that he will go but does not.

Life messages:

(1) We need to do God's will every day.

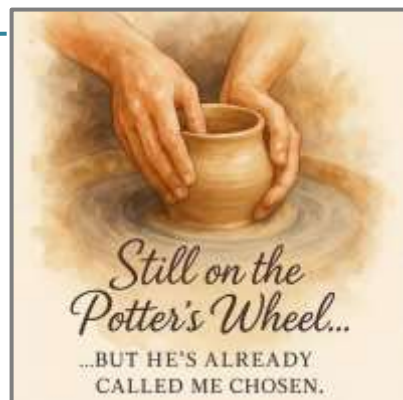
(2) It is never too late for us to repent, be converted, and allow the Holy Spirit to renew our life.

Trouble under obedience: "A companion of Francis of Assisi, Brother Juniper is remembered as a 'fool for Christ,' and there are all sorts of wild stories about his antics. He was notorious for constantly giving his possessions away and living with a winsomeness that sometimes got him in trouble. At one point he was ordered by a superior not to give away his outer garment to the beggars anymore. But it wasn't long before he met someone in need who asked him for some clothing. He said, "My superior has told me under obedience not to give my clothing to anyone. But if you pull it off my back, I certainly will not prevent you."



Straight is straight: A Non-Catholic Minister recently quit the ministry after more than 20 years of faithful, dedicated service and became a funeral director. When asked why he had changed vocations, he said: "I spent 10 years trying to straighten out John and he's still an alcoholic. Then I spent three and one-half years trying to straighten out Harold and Susan's marriage problems and they ended up getting a divorce. Later I tried for two years to help Bob kick his drug habit and he is still an addict. Now, at the funeral home, when I straighten them out, they stay straight! Perfect obedience!"

~ Fr. Tony Kadavil



CELEBRATING FAITH, COMMUNITY, AND MUSIC – At the English Mass

It has been an absolute privilege and a profound honour to participate in the liturgical celebrations at our majestic Funchal Cathedral (Sé Catedral).

The Masses have been celebrated in English and presided by our Most Reverend Bishop, D. Nuno Brás, and The Reverend Canon, Marcos Gonçalves. An experience of deep communion, gratitude, and spiritual elevation! 🙏🎵🌟

I am the organist at Capela da Penha de França for about 20 years - where the English Mass has been celebrated since 2007 – and these moments at the Cathedral have held an immensely special meaning for me.

I have had the joy of simultaneously singing and playing the magnificent Choir Organ.

It is a true honour and joy for me to play and sing at the English Masses.

I would like to thank the entire community for your warmth and for appreciating my music.



Thank you 🙏🎵

Some special moments over the years....



With Fr. Bernardino



- Fátima Cátia Marques
(fatimacatiamusica@gmail.com)

In 2026 – At the Cathedral