PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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

"Small things done by small people in small places can change the world."
(A phrase that Fr. Bernardino liked to use.)



>> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

ACCOUNT NAME:
Associacao 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: sineadmoynihan7@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.



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

Vol. 3, nr. 533

18th of October 2026
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A



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www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH



Today the Catholic church celebrates the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

This morning's Mass will be celebrated by Father Joseph Arun, and is being offered for the repose of the soul of **Rui Alberto Pestana de Freitas**, who passed away one month ago, beloved uncle of Helena and Cátia, our Chapel's organist. Our condolences to his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace. 🙏

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

(Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Psalm 95(96):1. 3-5. 7-10 r.7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21)

Second **Isaiah** insists that every event, good or bad, is part of God's plan, including the conquest and exile of Israel by Babylon. And so does the freedom given them about 530 BC by Cyrus, King of Persia, whom God calls his 'anointed' or 'messiah', because he did God's work. Thus, all men, including Gentiles, though they do not know him, will know that there is only one God, the Lord.
The **Psalm** therefore calls on all men – and all creation – to worship and praise the one and just God. For the last 5 Sundays of Ordinary Time we read from Paul's first letter to the church in **Thessalonika**, which he founded about AD 50. Paul later sent Silvanus and Timothy back to support the new community. Written from Corinth, this letter is the earliest Christian writing we have. Centuries before the idea of the Trinity was formally defined, Paul distinguishes clearly between "God our Father", "our Lord Jesus Christ", and "the Holy Spirit". Over the next three weeks we hear the final three discussions in **Matthew's Gospel** between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. They ironically address Jesus as "Teacher", but he silences them: he does have full authority to interpret the Jewish Scriptures.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Give the Lord glory and power.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

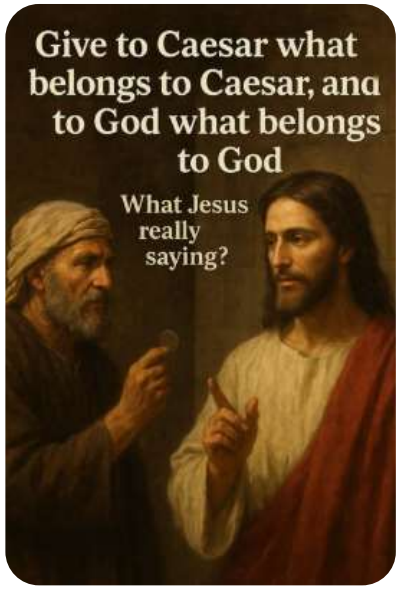
|1| **Entry Hymn**: "A new commandment…" – **n.º 2**
|2| **Gospel Acclamation**: "Alleluia…"– **n.º 683**
|3| **Offertory Hymn**: ""Healer of the sick" – **n.º 217**
|4| **Communion Hymn**: "Our God loves us…"– **n.º 454**
|5| **Thanksgiving**: Portuguese Hymn
|6| **Final Hymn**: "Make way, make way…"– **n.º 360**



By: Fátima Cátia Marques
fatimacatiamusica@gmail.com

REFLECTION FOR THIS SUNDAY

The following reflection was sent to us by Deacon Tito Pereira of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Acton, London, and is written by Andrew Bull, a Catholic Headteacher who is also a parishioner of that church.



WHAT BELONGS TO CAESAR… AND WHAT BELONGS TO GOD?

There are few things guaranteed to get people talking quite like money, politics and religion. Put all three together and you have the ingredients for a lively parish coffee morning!

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Pharisees try to catch Jesus out with a tricky question about paying taxes to Caesar. It is a bit like asking a priest whether the parish should spend more money on the heating or the flowers. Either answer could cause trouble!

Jesus, however, refuses to be drawn into their trap. Instead, he asks whose image is stamped on the coin. "Caesar's," they reply. "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." **It is a clever answer,** but it also leaves us with a question worth pondering: What belongs to God?

We might be tempted to say, "Well, Sunday mornings, obviously!" Perhaps we could add a few prayers before meals, a donation to the parish, and the occasional guilty glance at the collection basket. Job done! But Jesus is asking for something much bigger than a few hours on Sunday or whatever loose change we happen to have in our pockets.

If Caesar's image is on the coin, whose image is on us? We are made in the image of God. That means our lives, our gifts and our relationships are all opportunities to reflect his love. And that includes Monday morning traffic, awkward family WhatsApp groups, difficult colleagues, and the person who takes twelve items through the supermarket checkout marked "Ten items or fewer". Holiness, it seems, is not always achieved in peaceful surroundings!

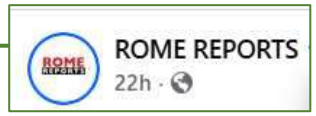
Giving God what belongs to him means trying to be patient when we are irritated, generous when it would be easier to be selfish, and forgiving when we would much rather have the last word. So, by all means, let Caesar have his taxes. *He will probably send a reminder if we forget!* But let us not forget what God asks of us: not merely our money or our Sunday attendance, but our hearts.

And the good news? God doesn't ask for exact change. He asks for a little more love, every day.

~ Andrew Bull



POPE LEO XIV – Recovering from lung surgery



On Friday, the first images of Pope Leo XIV celebrating Mass since his successful lung surgery on Tuesday were shared around the world.



Three days after his surgery, the pope celebrated Mass at Rome's Gemelli Hospital, joined by medical staff and members of the Vatican Gendarmerie (the official, elite militarized police and security force of Vatican City). The latest medical update confirms his condition continues to improve and that he can now carry out daily activities independently

Source: Vatican Media



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



This year, as customary, we will be making up Christmas boxes for the needy families we support under the auspices of our **People Helping People** Charity.

We will be collecting hygiene products (e.g. lotions, toothpaste, shampoo, body wash, etc.), and dried and tinned goods (tins of fruit, sardines, tuna, beans, dried nuts and fruit, rice and pasta, etc.)



Please bring along your offerings and place in the hamper at the entrance of the church).

Any queries, contact Jane House at janelh1945@gmail.com or Debbie Jesus at deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk 😊 ❤️



