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

"Never regret being kind' - (Nicole Shepherd);

"Therefore, helping to heal a human being is not merely a gesture of compassion or an act of solidarity aimed at healing their body; it is an act of evangelisation that can help the other person to have an experience which brings them closer to, and opens them up to, the God of life."
- (José António Pagola in the book: "*Ide e Curai" <Go and Heal>)*

>> 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!



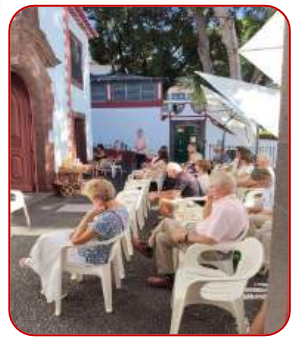
Receive this newsletter by email. Ask to be added to the newsletter distribution list by sending an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or alternatively, you can download them from the Chapel's website/blog: **www.rcmassmadeira.org/newsletter-downloads/**

JOYFUL GIFT

Welcome
We're Glad You're Here!

Vol. 3, nr. 535

1st of November 2026
All Saints Day – 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

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH IN MADEIRA

Today the Catholic Church celebrates **All Saint's Day**. Penha de França Chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. It was built on a "penha" or peak, by the sea, originally to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the Pontinha Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. In 1721 the chapel was restored and enlarged. When the Diocese of Funchal took possession of the chapel it was used as the Bishop's Summer Residence for many years. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they founded the Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. In 2015 the Franciscans moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos, and the Chapel has reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal. We are blessed to have **Father Joseph Arun** celebrate Mass for us every Sunday.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – All Saint's Day - Year A

(Revelations 7:2-4,9-14; Psalm 23(24):1-6; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12)

Films about "apocalypses" can lead us to misunderstand the book of Revelation. "Apocalypse" really means "revealing". Cosmic battles are raging all about us: evil seems to triumph in our world, yet this revelation of Christ gives us confidence (hope) that He will save us. The previous chapter ended by describing the coming terrible day of judgement (Dies irae). But in this chapter, there is a pause while the elect – the chosen ones – are sealed with God's mark to show they will be protected. Not only many from Israel but numberless people from all nations. Our liturgies on earth have an effect in heaven. The chapter ends with the hope faith gives those who repent: "The Lamb ... will lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes". This liturgical **Psalm** gives the moral requirements for assisting at divine worship, while confirming the hope the just may have in God. The reading from **John's first letter** emphasises that we are already God's children, but we must try to prepare for the greater more joy still to come. In **Matthew's** Gospel the beatitudes bring the Commandments up to date: positive actions, not just avoiding doing wrong, are necessary for us to be counted among the elect. **By: Chris Oliver - www.bible-groups.info**

PSALM RESPONSE: **Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.**

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

|1| **Entry Hymn**: "Let there be love…" – **n.º 317**
|2| **Gospel Acclamation**: "Celtic Alleluia…"– **n.º 679**
|3| **Offertory Hymn**: "How lovely on the mountains – Our God reigns…" – **n.º 235**
|4| **Communion**: "Jesus, the Lord said: "I am the Bread "– **n.º 288**
|5| **Thanksgiving**: Portuguese Hymn
|6| **Final Hymn**: "The Spirit lives to set us free…"– **n.º 561**



By: Fátima Cátia Marques
fatimacatiamusica@gmail.com

REFLECTION FOR FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

- Rev. Dcn Tito Pereira
(dcn.tito@gmail.com)



I remember being a little boy at school here in Madeira and celebrating *Pão por Deus*. The nuns would make little paper cones, some people would have little cloth bags, and fill them with treats for us. For many of us, it was one of the few times we got sweets, so we really looked forward to it. I can still remember the excitement of receiving those little cones. It felt as though the treats had come from God himself.

As I look back on those childhood memories, I wonder whether *Pão por Deus* can help us understand something about today's Feast of All Saints.

Many of you will know the traditional rhyme:
Pão por Deus,
Fiel de Deus,
Bolinho no saco,
Andai com Deus.





These are simple words, but perhaps they have something to say to us about our faith.

Pão por Deus. Bread for God. We think of Jesus, who gives himself to us in the Eucharist. He feeds us with the bread of life and draws us closer to him. But I have often thought that those little treats we received as children can also remind us of something much greater. They give us a glimpse of the joy that awaits us in heaven, when we will be gathered around God's table, sharing his presence with Mary and all the saints. What we receive now is only a small taste of what God has prepared for us.

Fiel de Deus. Faithful to God. Today we celebrate all the saints. Some were well known, but many lived very ordinary lives. They were parents, teachers, workers and people who quietly cared for others. They had their struggles and their weaknesses, just as we do, but they kept trying to follow Jesus. Their lives remind us that holiness is not just for a chosen few. We are all called to be saints.

Bolinho no saco. A little cake in the bag. I remember how happy those little cones made us. It was a simple gift, but it meant a lot. Perhaps that is something we can learn from this tradition. God gives us so much, often through the kindness of other people. And we are called to pass that kindness on to others.

Andai com Deus. Go with God. I think these are lovely words to finish with. The saints did not become holy in a single moment. They learnt to walk with God through the ups and downs of everyday life. That is what we are called to do as well.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the Beatitudes. He tells us that the poor in spirit, the merciful and the peacemakers are blessed. He is showing us what it means to live as God's people. So, when we think of *Pão por Deus* today, perhaps we can remember those little paper cones and the happiness they brought us as children. But we can also look beyond them to the wonderful gift God promises us: the joy of being with him for ever, together with all the saints.



Until that day comes, we keep walking with God, doing our best to follow Jesus and to love those he places in our lives.

Andai com Deus. **Walk with God, until we share together in the joy of heaven.**

~ Deacon Tito

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** 😊 ❤️

WASHING MACHINE APPEAL



One of the families being helped by our "People Helping People" charity is in need of a washing machine. The one they had is broken, and they are washing all their clothes by hand. If you have a 2nd hand one that you no longer need and would be willing to donate, please get in touch with Carla Rodrigues:

fcarla.mrodrigues@gmail.com Thank you 😊 ❤️

ALL SAINTS DAY TRADITION



Did you know that in Madeira we have a tradition on All Saints Day called **"Pão por Deus"?** In English it means "Bread for God's Sake", and the tradition started after the Great Lisbon Earthquake of November 1st 1755 which destroyed a large part of town and many people lost everything they had. They had no choice but to beg for food, so they went from door to door and begged for bread in the name of God. **The tradition is still celebrated in schools on the island**. In some schools, children are walked to elderly care homes where **they will dance and sing**, and come back with **bags full of fruit, nuts and little cakes**.

