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



"Let us care for those who suffer: let us not cast them aside. There is no love of God without love of neighbour, and there is no neighbour if I do not draw near."
- (Pope Leo XIV in **Knight of the Immaculate**)

>> 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. 536

Welcome

8th of November 2026
32nd 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

CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH IN MADEIRA

The Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França 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, a Discalced Carmelite priest** celebrate Mass for us every Sunday.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

(Wisdom 6:12-16; Psalm 62(63):2-8 r.2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13)

The Book of **Wisdom** was written in Greek, probably in Alexandria during the century before Christ. It seeks to strengthen faith by recalling the ways in which God rewards his people. But our just God also punishes individuals who act unjustly. We must learn wisdom to live justly in accord with God's justice, and so imitate and be drawn into the life of God. **The Psalm** expresses our homesickness for God's sanctuary, our true home, confident that God will help us overcome all our enemies. Good advice: when our minds are empty, as at night – fill them with thoughts of God. The parousia, when Christ will return – or be revealed in glory – was expected almost daily by the early Christians. But some believers had already died, so Paul reassures the **Thessalonians** that they will not "miss out" – they will join everyone else in the resurrection of the dead. Two thousand years later we may now see the parousia at the end of time being anticipated by Jesus revealed to us in every Mass. **Matthew's gospel** links the two readings together: we must live justly every moment of our lives so that we may be ready when the Lord calls us to him. We cannot rely on a last chance to repent.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:



Entry: "Awake from your slumber…" - **52**
Offertory: "Father I place into your hands…" – **134**
Communion: "Sweet heart of Jesus…" - **521**
Final: "Colours of day…" - **93**

By: **Larysa Makarova**

REFLECTION FOR THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

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



I remember my grandmother telling me about something she did when she was a young married woman here in Madeira. Her mother had become seriously ill, and my grandmother was very worried about her. She prayed for her mother's recovery and made a *promessa* to God. She promised that, if her mother got better, she would take a litre of olive oil to the priest.





In Madeira, a *promessa* was, and still is, a religious promise made to God, Our Lady or a saint, often in times of difficulty or when asking for help. In return for prayers being answered, people might promise to offer wax votives, make a pilgrimage or donate olive oil for the sanctuary lamps in the church.

You might think that this sounds a little like bargaining with God. But I think there was something more to it. It was an expression of faith, trust and gratitude. We must also remember that in the 1920s, when my grandmother married my grandfather, a litre of olive oil cost quite a lot of money. In the poorer communities of Madeira, it was a real sacrifice. It was something valuable being offered in response to God's goodness.



There is an interesting connection here with today's Gospel, where Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom. The wise ones brought oil for their lamps, while the foolish ones did not.

Perhaps the oil represents something of the love and devotion we carry in our hearts for God. It is something personal. We cannot borrow someone else's love for God, or ask another person to believe on our behalf. Each of us must develop our own relationship with Him.

But how does this love grow?



Our hearts are like lamps. Before a lamp can shine brightly, it needs oil. And so it is with our faith. We first need to receive the love of God before we can reflect that love in our lives. God nourishes us through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Confession. Through prayer and listening to His Word, we learn to remain close to Him.

Perhaps my grandmother's *promessa* reminds us that love for God is not just something we say. It is something we nurture, something that sometimes asks us to make sacrifices, and something that should shape the way we live.



May the Lord keep the oil of His love burning in our hearts, so that when He comes, we may be ready to welcome Him with joy.

~ Deacon Tito



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



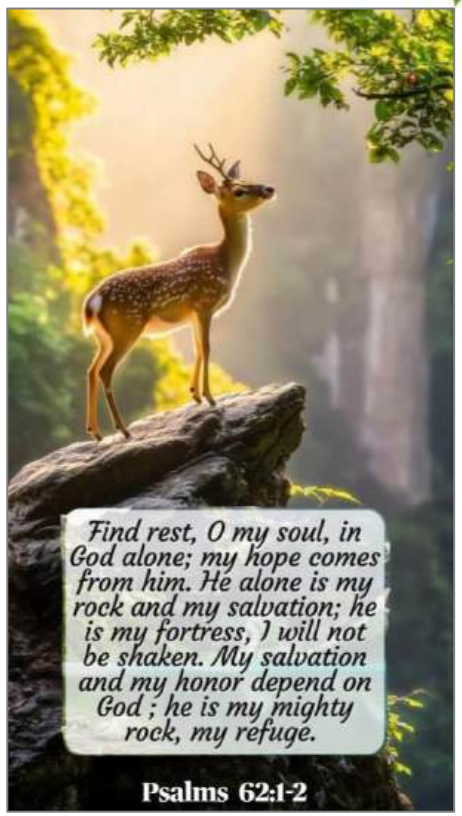
This year, as customary, we will be making up Christmas boxes for the needy families we support under the auspices of our **People Helping People** Charity.

We will be collecting hygiene products (e.g. lotions, shampoo, toothpaste, 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** 😊 ❤️



80 YEARS OF DISCALCED CARMELITE COMMUNITY IN MADEIRA !

On Friday, 6 November, the Carmelite Community in Funchal celebrated **80 years** of its presence and work in Madeira. They arrived on 4 November 1946 and took up residence on 6 November 1946.

A mass was celebrated to commemorate this historic date at the Carmo Church, a place of great significance for many Madeiran Christians who actively participate in the activities of this community.

