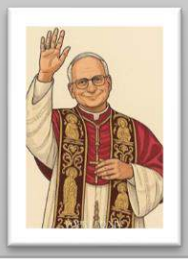
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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

"No vulnerability should be rejected'; 'Let us live out the spirit of compassion and mercy'
- (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.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH HOLY WATER



As you go inside the Chapel, just under the archways on either side of the door, you will find a small font on the wall with Holy water inside which you can use to bless yourself with, before and after Mass.

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. 537

Welcome

15th of November 2026
33rd 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

Good morning! Today the Catholic Church celebrates the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. This chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622. It was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the *Pontinha* Redoubt (stronghold) in the bay of Funchal, and soon became such a famous shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the island. Today, people come for Mass from many different countries around the world while on holiday in Madeira. Our visitor's book contains many messages from people just like you who have attended Mass here over the years. We are blessed to have **Fr. Joseph Arun, a Discalced Carmelite priest** from Kerala, India, celebrating Mass for us in English every Sunday. Father Joseph also celebrates Mass in Portuguese at the Carmelite church in Funchal.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

(Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; Psalm 127(128):1-5 r.1; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30)

The Book of **Proverbs** united ancient values and ideals with Israel's understanding of God. Written at the time of the exile, about 500 BC, it was intended for serious study in the effort to gain wisdom. Today's reading is more than a song praising both the housekeeping and commercial activities of a good wife – it is Wisdom in action. And it recognises that a wife should share in the benefits of her work. And the **Psalm** celebrates the blessings of family life, wishing such a family prosperity and long life. The reading from Paul's letter to the **Thessalonians** continues from last week's reading, reminding his hearers that the "Day of the Lord" will come when we least expect it. So we should learn wisdom and live every day in justice and integrity, as if it will be our last. **Matthew's** parable of the talents, like the gospel last week, also urges us to live wisely and justly while waiting for the day of judgement, which will certainly come. But we must do more than just use the resources we have been given for God's purposes: just as it needs effort to learn wisdom, so we must work at developing our faith, otherwise we may lose it.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

|1| **Entry Hymn**: "Jubilate, everybody…" – **n.º 296**
|2| **Gospel Acclamation**: "Celtic Alleluia…"– **n.º 679**
|3| **Offertory Hymn**: "Ubi Caritas…"
|4| **Communion**: "Spirit of God…"– **n.º 514**
|5| **Thanksgiving**: "Veni, lumen cordium…"– **n.º 593**
|6| **Final Hymn**: "Our God loves us…"– **n.º 454**



By: Fátima Cátia Marques
fatimacatiamusica@gmail.com

REFLECTION FOR THIS SUNDAY'S MASS

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





Until relatively recently, it was quite common in Madeira to see women dressed entirely in black, often from head to toe. Many were *viúvas* (widows) who, after losing their husbands, would wear traditional mourning clothes, sometimes for the rest of their lives. The black clothing was a visible sign of their grief and a way of honouring the memory of their husbands.

But it also served another purpose. People recognised these women as widows and often showed them particular kindness and consideration. Neighbours would look out for them, offer practical help and provide companionship. Their loss was something the community recognised and responded to.

Today, this tradition has largely disappeared. Women still wear black for funerals, but rarely for years afterwards. Perhaps, though, there is something worth asking ourselves. As we have moved away from these outward signs of mourning, have we also lost something of the care and attention that once accompanied them?

In today's first reading, we hear about a good wife, a woman who is faithful, generous and attentive to the needs of others. Scripture also reminds us repeatedly of our responsibility to care for widows, who were among the most vulnerable members of society.

The Church is often described as the Bride of Christ. She is called to remain faithful to him, not simply through prayer and worship, but through the way she cares for others.

Today's Gospel speaks of the servants entrusted with their master's talents. What we receive from God is not meant to be kept to ourselves. It is meant to be used for the good of others.

Perhaps we should think not only of the *viúvas*, but of **anyone** who has lost someone through bereavement or separation, lost their job or their health, or finds themselves lonely, struggling or without anyone to turn to.



We may not be able to change their circumstances, but we can offer kindness, time and companionship.

Sometimes, the greatest use of our gifts is simply to make sure that nobody feels forgotten.

~ Deacon Tito



DID YOU KNOW?
TODAY... SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2026

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CELEBRATES THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR



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** 😊 ❤️



