



"You should wash each other's feet"
(John 13:14)

People Helping People (PHP) is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França to help those in need. Our 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 (Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6 and Matthew chapter 25).

>> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

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>> BANK INFO:

BANK: Banco Santander Totta **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0008 0130 1547020

NIB: 0018 0008 01301547020 17 **IBAN:** PT50 0018 0008 01301547020 17

SWIFT: TOTAPTPL

Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Bible Group:

Joint Anglican - Roman Catholic Bible Group:
Meetings adjourned – will resume next year on
4th of January 2018.

Please sign our Visitor's book in the Social Hallleave us your

comments, or suggestions, let us know where you're from! ☺
We also have a **map** where you can place a pin on your home town!
You'll find the Social Hall across the garden from the Chapel



Tea and Coffee After Mass

Please join us in the Social Hall across the garden.



Remember to leave your yellow *Hymn Book* and *Order of the Mass* sheets on the table at the Chapel entrance after mass ☺



Newsletter from Madeira. Keep in touch! This newsletter is brought to you every week by a team of volunteers: Father Bernardino (who writes our Weekly Column: *From my Heart to your Heart*); Chris (*Scripture Readings*); Prof. Cátia and Prof. Helena (*Hymns*); Tracy and Jennifer (*stories of interest, newsletter layout*). We also have contributions / stories sent in by visitors and local members in the community. **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. To subscribe to this newsletter please send an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org



10th December 2017 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

2nd Sunday of Advent - Year B

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,

Rua Penha de França nr. 3, Funchal, Madeira

Website and Blog: <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/



THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Welcome! Today we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

We are happy to welcome Father Bernardino back this morning! He has returned from his well-deserved holiday and will be celebrating Mass for us today! For those who may be wondering about the history of this small Chapel... it was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622, almost 400 years ago, built on a "penha" or peak, by the sea. Today's Mass Collection will again go towards the repair and restoration of the chancel ceiling (above the altar) which is in danger of falling. Please join us after Mass in the Social Hall across the garden for a cup of tea or coffee, and cake.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Isa 40:1-5, 9-11 ; Ps 84(85):9-10, 11-12, 13-14 ; 2 Pet 3:8-14 ; Mark 1:1-8)

Second Isaiah celebrates with fulsome praise their God who has enabled the Israelites to return from exile in Babylon. **God has cleared the way for their return**, just as He led his people during the Exodus from Egypt. Then God **was visible in a small area as a pillar of cloud or fire. Now God's work should be shouted throughout the whole world.** In the psalm a prophet, after the return from exile, first listens to hear what the Lord has to say, and then reports the joyful happiness revealed to him. The second letter of Peter, written probably towards the end of the first century, addressed doubts about when Christ would return in majesty. **God patiently guides mankind to the promised land of his kingdom, giving everyone plenty of time to turn to him. But the Day of the Lord will come, and it will come to all creation, and when we least expect it.** Mark's gospel omits any mention of Jesus' early life. It starts with Jesus' coming proclaimed by Isaiah and the Baptist. God was revealed to the Jews during the Exodus and in their return from exile. Now He is revealed to the whole world through his Christ, Jesus, confirmed as God's son at his baptism.

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver) www.bible-groups.info

PSALM RESPONSE: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

HYMN NUMBERS:

Organ / Voice – Professor Fátima Cátia Marques **Cello** – Professor Helena Paula Marques

[1] **Entry Hymn: Advent Hymn:**

Kumbayah – No. 302

[2] **Penitential Act: Lord, have mercy** – No. 659

[3] **Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia**

[4] **Offertory: Advent Hymn:**

O worship the King – No. 438

[5] **Sanctus: Holy** – No. 704

[6] **Agnus Dei: Dona nobis pacem** – No. 126

[7] **Communion Hymn: Portuguese Hymn**

[8] **Thanksgiving: Instrumental**

[9] **Final Hymn: Advent Hymn:**

Colours of day – No. 93



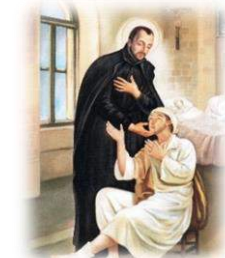


FROM FATHER GAMEIRO'S DESK

We have been blessed this last month to have Father Aires Gameiro contributing with his column in the newsletter, and in celebrating Mass for us here at the chapel during Father Bernardino's absence. Thank you Fr. Gameiro! ☺

SAINT JOHN OF GOD AND HIS FUNDRAISING NETWORK... (continued from last week's newsletter)

John was alone and was poor, too. How could he help other poor people? Yet, he cared for hundreds of patients in his hospital and of needy people outside. So he had to organize a network of volunteers and benefactors. At the same time he started his letters with these words: « *In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of Our Lady the Ever-Virgin Mary; God before all and above everything in the world. God save you, my brother my sister, in Jesus Christ...* ». So he put God and Jesus Christ before everything, and called Our Lady Ever-Virgin. In Spanish it is more meaningful: "always whole"; that is, with no stain or sin, in the sense of the Immaculate Conception to whom he was very devoted. To a young boy called *Luis Baptista*, he wrote, at the end of his letter: « *I shall stop now, although I shall not stop praying to God for you and for everybody. I must tell you that I have been getting on very well with the Rosary, and I hope in God that I shall recite it as often as I can and as he wishes* ». He called all his benefactors, volunteers and patients his brothers and sisters. From one letter we can have an idea of the people he cared for. To his benefactor *Gutierrez Lasso*, he says: « *this letter will let you know in what dire straits and*



in what very great need I am... my most beloved and dear brother in Jesus Christ, so many poor people flock here... many poor people come here... - the sick, the healthy, servers, and pilgrims - there are more than one hundred and ten ». And he goes on, specifying the categories: « *there are cripples, the maimed, lepers, mutes, the insane, paralytics, people with ringworm, and also very old people and many children - and... pilgrims and wayfarers who come here and to whom we give fire, water, salt, and pots, so that they can cook* ». He describes a touching story to the Duchess of Sesa about the needy whom he helps in their homes. « *My sister, I must tell you that while I was walking through the city of Cordoba the other day I came across a household in very dire need: two girls whose parents had both been sick and bedridden for ten years... So poor and in such distress that it broke my heart.*

They were half-naked and totally lice-ridden, and their bed consisted simply of bundles of straw. I gave them what little assistance I could, since I was in a hurry to go and talk with Master Avila; however, I did not give them as much as I should have... They have written me a letter and what they tell me in it is heartbreaking... » And he proposes a kind of a strange deal. « *Thus, good Duchess, if it so pleases God I should like you to gain these alms which the others have lost. They consist of four ducats: three for those poor girls, so that they may buy two blankets and two skirts* ». And to persuade the Duchess, he put the values of people above everything. « *Because a soul is worth more than all the treasures of the world and those girls should be saved from sinning for such a small thing* ». And he adds that « *the other (ducat is) for Angulo, my companion, for his journey to and from Zafra, because I am expecting him to come back with some assistance* ». (I DS). In the II letter to the same Duchess of Sesa, he pictures a realistic scenario of his work of hospitality. « *This letter is to let you know... my needs and troubles... The debts and the poor increase by the day, and many of the latter arrive naked, barefoot, and covered in sores and lice, so that one or two men need to be employed (with their cloths) just to kill the lice in a cauldron of boiling water. This work will continue throughout the whole winter, from now on until next May. Thus, my sister in Jesus Christ, my work grows each day* ». (2nd DS). So were the merciful saints. And what about us? ... (To be continued)

Fr. Aires Gameiro, OH,
(Brother of Saint John of God)



- **Brought to you by**
Fr. Aires Gameiro
(aires.gameiro@isjd.pt)



Fr. Aires Gameiro

PRAYING IN A CAVE, UNDER ICE – The Antarctic Chapel

The southernmost place of worship in the whole world, of any religion, is a Catholic church. **800 miles away from the South Pole**, braving winter temperatures of over a hundred degrees Fahrenheit below zero, **a few thousand people live** in the Antarctica at any given time. And because, like most people, **they have spiritual needs**, there are a number of chapels at various government bases. **At the Argentinian Belgrano II Base there is a Catholic chapel with a unique attribute: it is carved out of pure ice!** That's right, it's in a permanent ice cave. The first Belgrano base was built in the 1950s, but had to be abandoned since the ice on which it was built wasn't stable enough. Finding good places for permanent bases is tough since 98% of Antarctica is covered in ice. Fortunately, the Argentine government found about a hectare of ice-free land close by, and Belgrano II Base was opened in 1979. Nonetheless, **in some ice nearby, people dug out a system of tunnels, and built a Catholic chapel inside.** It is still apparently used by scientists working on the base today. Isn't this amazing?



ADVENT CALENDARS – Where did they originate?

- **Source:** <https://aleteia.org/2017/12/07/where-did-advent-calendars-originate/>



Around this time of year, stores are full of Advent calendars. What has now become a commercial necessity during the pre-Christmas season **started out humbly in a printing shop in Germany.** – In 1908 **Gerhard Lang**, who worked at a printing office in Germany, **had an idea based on a tradition from his childhood.** His mother would make him an Advent calendar by attaching 24 little candies to a cardboard. He decided to design his own version and created coloured pictures that were fixed to a cardboard. This was soon followed by a calendar that had little doors to open every day in preparation for Christmas and the

novelty became very popular in Germany. By the 1950s these calendars became more complex and held chocolates for each day of December. From there the yearly tradition spread throughout Europe and the United States and is now one of the most popular traditions, after the Christmas tree. The reason why the "Advent" calendars start on December 1 and not when the liturgical season begins is because of the wide variation in dates when Advent begins. It is a simple way to prepare for the joyous day of Christmas and builds up the excitement when the day finally arrives!

A HUGE THANK YOU FOR MOBILE PHONES ... & 2ND-HAND TV APPEAL

After the mobile phone appeals in our October and November newsletters, the *People Helping People* project received four 2nd-hand phones! **Thank you, they were gratefully received!**

Another request has come in for a **2nd-hand TV**. If anyone is able to help please let us know. An **email can be sent to penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com** marked for the attention of **Carla**. Thank you in advance! ☺

