

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)

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

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

>> PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

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>> BANK INFO:

ACCOUNT NAME: Associacao Gente Ajudando Gente/PHP

BANK: Banco Santander Totta **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0003 4938 1759020

IBAN: PT50 0018 0003 49381759020 94 **SWIFT:** TOTAPTPL **NIB:** 0018 0003 49381759020 94

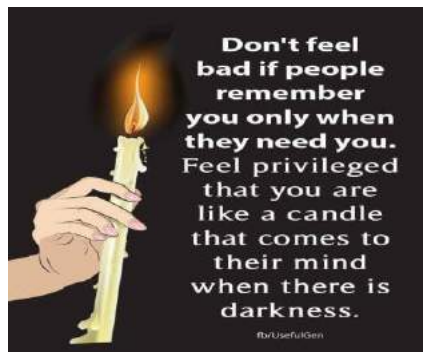
Bank Address: Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A, 9020-119, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Every Sunday morning at the door of the Chapel there will be a **basket to collect food for the poor**. You are welcome to bring any little thing to help alleviate their suffering. (Rice, pasta, milk, canned tuna, biscuits etc.) Thank you to all who have donated so far! ☺



SUNDAYS:
10h00 English
11h30 Portuguese

SATURDAYS:
18h30 Portuguese



Tea and Coffee After Mass!!
in the Social Room across the garden - please join us!



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*); Fatima and Helena (*Hymns*); Tracy (newsletter layout). **The newsletters are printed by Cartridge World Funchal**, in Rua Elias Garcia, nr 5. We can email this newsletter to you every week. If you would like to receive it by email every Sunday, just email the word "Newsletter" to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com, or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺



JOYFUL GIFT

1st December 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

1st Sunday of Advent, Year A

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,
Rua Penha de França 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:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França which has the only Catholic Mass in English on the entire island. This morning we are blessed to have **Fr. Bernardino Andrade** celebrating Mass here at the Chapel. **This morning's Mass will be offered for the special intentions** of the **Dos Ramos family** (Marcelino, Rita, Cristiano, Laurence, Carmelita, and Lucia), and for Marcelino's mother: Maria Adelaide Ferreira dos Ramos.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS (Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. www.bible-groups.info)
(*Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 121(122); Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44*)

During advent the first readings are from first Isaiah, mostly composed before 700 BC, a period when Israel was under attack from Assyria. Isaiah is critical of attempts by Israel's kings to control their destiny – he urges them to place their faith and trust in God, and in His promises to David. But God might use Israel's enemies to cleanse his people. Nevertheless the people will survive through a remnant, like a stump of a tree, from which will come an ideal ruler in the future. In today's reading Isaiah looks forward to a peaceful time when all nations will be attracted by Israel's behaviour to accept God's authority, centred on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. The Psalm celebrates arriving in Jerusalem, goal of pilgrims and seat of government. In his letter to the Romans Paul has been drawing out the implications of his image of Christians as all parts of one body. Since we are therefore dependent on each other we have a duty of love for each other. Judgement will come at any time, so we must live at all times as if all our actions are visible to all. In Matthew's gospel, speaking on Mount Olivet just before the Last Supper, Jesus reinforces the need to "stay awake", ready for the Lord's coming.

PSALM RESPONSE: I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house".

* These Scripture notes are sent to us every week by Chris Oliver from the UK. If you'd also like to have these included in your parish newsletter, you are welcome to ask your Priest to contact Chris at: chris@chris-oliver.net

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Voice / Organ – Fátima Cátia Marques.
Cello – Helena Paula Marques

Entry Hymn: Advent Hymn: "Kumbayah" - n. 302

Penitential Act: "Lord, have mercy" - n. 659

Gospel Acclamation: "Aleluia"

Offertory Hymn: Advent Hymn: "O worship the King" - n. 438

Sanctus: "Holy" - n. 704

Agnus Dei: "Dona nobis pacem" - n. 126

Communion Hymn: Portuguese Hymn

Thanksgiving: Instrumental

Final Hymn: Advent Hymn: "Colours of Day" - n. 93





1.- NO SOUP, NO DESSERT

I was enjoying a delicious meal with a family. All of a sudden I heard the mother telling her little son: «No soup, no dessert». What does it mean? I discovered that the mother valued soup over dessert. She was putting healthy nourishment above pleasure. Actually, what she was trying to do was to motivate her little boy to eat good, healthy food. That healthy food, very well planned by her, was served in a delicious vegetable soup. That was necessary and mandatory for a healthy meal. Dessert wouldn't be necessary nor mandatory. Dessert would be more like a reward for the boy's effort that he would have to make to take good care of his health by eating a dish of healthy soup.

2.- NO ADVENT, NO CHRISTMAS

Today, December 1st, 2019, is the first Sunday of Advent. It is the beginning of the season of preparation for Christmas. Meditating about Advent, I was thinking, for my own purpose, that «No Advent, no Christmas». If I don't try to understand Advent I will not be able to understand Christmas. Without Advent, Christmas will not be more than a Winter pagan festival with a crib.

In the first reading, Isaiah tells us about his dream: «Many peoples will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war». It is obvious that this can be a tremendous challenge for each one of us. Paul, in the second reading, shakes all of us to wake up now. Our salvation is nearer... In the Gospel, Jesus repeats the same invitation by saying «Stay awake, because you don't know the day when your master is coming».

3.- WAS BUDDHA A GOD?

A man came to Buddha and asked him: «Tell me Buddha, are you a God?» «No. I am not». «Are you an angel?» «No. I am not.» «Are you a prophet?» «No, not a prophet either.» «What are you then?» Whereupon Buddha answered: «I am awake».

4.- ADVENT, TIME OF RENEWAL

After a meeting, I went with other people to a coffee shop for a cup of coffee. After ordering the coffee, I thought that it would be a good idea to have some kind of pastry. Then I asked if someone else would like to have a pastry too. Fatima answered that she only eats sweets on Sundays. My answer was that it would be a good idea for me too, for health reasons, and to do a little penance. Fatima's answer was: «Well we are going to start Advent. It is a good time to start». I said thank you and decided to make my Lent during Advent too. That would be part of my Advent penance. Would you like to join me?

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

What do we remember each week of Advent?

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|---|--|
| <p>Week 1 Hope</p> <p>Reminds us... Jesus is coming</p> <p>Bible verse Romans 15: 12-13</p> <p>Bible verse Luke 2:10</p> <p>Reminds us... The joy at the coming birth of Jesus</p> | <p>Week 2 Faith</p> <p>Reminds us... To prepare the way of the Lord</p> <p>Bible verse Luke 3:4-6</p> <p>Bible verse Luke 2:14</p> <p>Reminds us... "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours"</p> |
| <p>Week 3 Joy</p> | <p>Week 4 Peace</p> |

CatholicLink

HAPPY 82nd BIRTHDAY TO FATHER BERNARDINO!

On Friday the 29th of November, Father Bernardino celebrated his 82nd birthday. We are so blessed to have him celebrate Mass here at the Chapel every Sunday morning. Although he may not realize it, Father Bernardino has touched the lives of many people, and especially the poor in the community whom he has dedicated himself to helping. Here are a few special moments with Fr. Bernardino that we have experienced here at the Chapel...



Saint Patrick's Day with the Irish community



Father chatting with people after Mass, outside the chapel

Palm Sunday 2016



Renewal of Wedding vows of a special couple



Special blessing of a soon-to-be-born baby



Giving flowers on Father's Day: to the oldest, the youngest, and the father with the most children who were at Mass that Sunday morning!

And these are **only a few** of the many special and beautiful memories that have been created and shared here at the Chapel over the years with Fr. Bernardino! ... ☺
May the Good Lord continue to bless him with many more birthdays to come!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU – From People Helping People

A huge thank you to Sinead and Tadhg, the owners of Moynihans Irish Bar, for their generosity towards "People Helping People" (a project started by this Chapel to help those in need). They organized a fundraising Golf event and last week donated the proceeds (650 euros!) towards helping the poor in the community. Thank you to all who took part in this event, and especially Sinead and Tadhg. Your generosity, as always, will help to continue making a difference in the lives of the poor, those who struggle every day to make ends meet. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

