

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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Email: larryjanc@aol.com

>> 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

ADVENT

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.

Advent begins on the Sunday after the Solemnity of Christ the King and continues for four weeks until Christmas Vigil Mass.

[facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage](https://www.facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage)

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



JOYFUL GIFT

8th December 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

2nd 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. The Mass this morning will be offered for **(1) the soul of Greg Gannon, (2) the special intentions of the Duffy Family, and (3) for the soul of Sean Duffy, who died tragically at the age of 33.** May their souls Rest in Peace.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS (Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. www.bible-groups.info)

(Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71(72); Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12)

The readings for Advent from **Isaiah** continue with this description of the ideal king, who will come from the remnant of Israel – the stump of Jesse, of David's dynasty. This was applied by Christians to Jesus. But Isaiah was seeking to comfort his people, under attack by Assyria, as he foresees an idyllic future when the whole of creation will live in complete harmony. Only the "fear of the Lord" and the "knowledge of the Lord" could bring this about. **The psalm** looks forward to the coming of a perfect king, the Messiah, whose rule will be just and his reign glorious. Paul's letter to the **Romans** exhorts the two groups of Christians in Rome to work patiently together, ignoring varying degrees of conformity to the Jewish Law. We must learn about God from the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament, so that we may worship him in unity of mind and mouth. The Messiah's sufferings show that God keeps His promises, and will lead all nations, both Jews and Gentiles, to praise God. In the Gospel, John the Baptist, the last prophet of the Old Testament, prepares the way of the Lord by urging people to repent, to turn towards God from their sins. But he condemns those who say they have no need of God.

PSALM RESPONSE: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

** 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 contact Chris at: chris@chris-oliver.net*



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC - Larysa Makarova (from the Ukraine)

Entry Hymn: "We are Marching in the Light of God..." - n. 602
Offertory Hymn: "I, the Lord of sea and sky..." - n. 247
Communion Hymn: "A new commandment I give unto you" - n. 2
Thanksgiving: *Instrumental*
Final Hymn: "How Lovely on the mountains..." - n. 235

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*); Larysa (*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. ☺



ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS



1.

I met Helen and her husband, Nuno, not long ago. Their love for each other is very visible. But I have learned that if love stops between two people only, that could be the biggest symptom of selfishness. That's why Helen and Nuno's true love for each other as a couple includes a big concern for the suffering of the world. The more a couple loves the world the more room they find for each other. I also learned that one of the best definitions of love is SERVICE. Service for each other and service for others. One of the most shocking ways that Jesus used to express love was to become a «Feet Washer». It is very clear that Helen and Nuno's love as a couple is very solid. They are «Feet Washers».

Two days ago I sent a letter to Helen. She authorized me to print at least part of my letter and her answer in the News Letter «Joyful Gift». Today I am going to print just part of my letter:

2.

Dear Helen

I have a plan for Christmas and I think you would be one of the right persons to coordinate this program. As you know this project of "People Helping People" involves money, time, but especially non-judgmental love for the poor and also creativity. In this beautiful island you have no idea how much suffering and misery exists. Sometimes we feel as desperate as they feel.

I would like to ask you to please coordinate this program. The program will be called «ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS» and would start this Sunday, December 8th, on The Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

My plan is to invite people attending the English Mass to adopt a needy family for Christmas. They would give you and your team their names and contacts and preferences. Some people would say for example that they want to adopt a family with children or no children or a family of three or four or more adults. Then you or a member of your team would get in touch with Dalila, a lady who has the list of the needy families and all details about their life conditions. The main role of the team would be to be the bridge between the "Adopter" and Dalila. What we expect from the «Adopters» is maybe a bag of food and some toys for their children if the family has children. No rules. We just ask people to love them and follow their hearts. The poor are not like Jesus. They are not the image of Jesus. They are Jesus (Mathew 25).

Here is the team I am offering you:
 MANNY DE PONTE (Bilingual), 96-91-33-074
 ALEXANDRE SILVA (Bilingual), 96-78-19-322, Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com
 DALILA Oliveira (Speaks Portuguese only), 96-50-13-173
 HELEN LUMGAIR (Speaks English only) Email: helenlumgair@gmail.com

*Love and Peace,
 Fr. Bernardino Andrade*

FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME, NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME, ILL AND YOU CARED FOR ME, IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME.

MATTHEW 25: 35-36

THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Today, December 8th, we celebrate The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the solemn belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Various paintings, statues and other forms of artwork have been made depicting the Immaculate Conception. They usually show Mary as a young woman dressed in white and blue. She is often standing on a hill or raised area and has a halo of stars around her head. The pieces of art may also include images of clouds, golden lights, cherubs, lilies or roses.



THE ADVENT SEASON – What exactly is it?



Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin term "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming", particularly the arrival of something or someone of great significance. This is the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Last week was the 1st Sunday of Advent, and also the beginning of the new Liturgical year (Year A). **The advent wreath is a popular symbol of the Advent season.** It is usually made up of evergreen branches or boughs placed in a circle, and topped with four candles. We use the Advent wreath as a way to prayerfully reflect the passage of the Advent season.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the wreath is blessed and one candle is lit (usually a purple candle). Every Sunday, for the next 3 weeks, another candle is lit until all four candles are burning brightly. Traditionally, the candles are purple and pink to match the colours of the liturgical vestments worn by the priest or bishop at Mass. However, in some countries, red, purple or white candles are used. **In Catholic churches in Madeira**, and here in our Chapel, we like to light a purple candle at the beginning of Mass on the first 2 Sundays of Advent, and priests wear purple vestments. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent it is a bit different, with priests wearing rose-coloured (pink) vestments, and instead of a purple candle, a pink candle will be lit. On the 4th Sunday of Advent a purple candle is lit.

A TABLE & 4 SMALL CHAIRS NEEDED – Can you help?

The best gift we can give to the poor for Christmas is our love. "People Helping People" (the project started at the Chapel to help the poor) has a long list of needy families. Besides feeding the poor, *People Helping People* also tries to help in other difficult situations too. **This week we received a request** from a poor family (a lady living with her elderly father, and her 2 children) who are in need of a small table and 4 chairs so that they can eat their daily meals. They have no table, and so they have to eat their meals using the bed as their "chairs" and with their plates on their laps. **If you, or anyone you know, has a small table (or 4 small chairs)** that you no longer need or want, and would like to help by donating to this family, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Fr. Bernardino (by Phone: 91-61-92-783, or by email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com) Thank you! ☺

