

## 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:

**EUROPE:** Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.  
Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

**USA:** Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 1-925-813-2888  
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! ☺



**23/12/2019**

10h00 Mass in English

**25/12/2019 Christmas day**

10h00 Mass in English

**29/12/2019**

10h00 Mass in English

### SMALL TABLE & 4 SMALL CHAIRS

This week we received a request from a poor family (a lady living with her elderly father, and her 2 children) for help in asking for a small 2nd-hand table or 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 (91-81-92-783) or email bernardinodandrade@gmail.com



**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 & stories of interest). **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](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com), or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org) which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺



## JOYFUL GIFT

**22nd December 2019 – 10h00 Sunday Mass**

**4th 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](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)



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### THE CATHOLIC ENGLISH MASS IN MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This 10am Mass is the only Catholic Mass in English on the entire island. This week Wednesday it is Christmas Day! We will be having a special **Christmas Day mass here at the Chapel at 10am**. This morning we are blessed once again to have **Father Bernardino Andrade** celebrating Mass. Please join us for a cup of coffee or tea, and some cake after Mass, in the social hall across the garden from the Chapel.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info))

(*Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23(24); Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24*)

First **Isaiah** was writing before 700 BC, when Judah was under attack. Isaiah promises that a time of peace will come when Israel returns to living simply, with no riches to make others envious. But only if they keep their faith in God. Without being asked, God gives King Ahaz a sign of his support: a young woman will bear a son, to be named Emmanuel, "God with us". Israel will still suffer. But a remnant of David's house will survive, like the stump of a fallen tree. After praising God's universal dominion the **psalm** gives moral requirements for assisting at divine worship. Paul begins his letter to the Jewish Christian community in Rome very carefully. They did not know him, so he assures them that he shares their beliefs, especially that Jesus, a descendant of David, is the Christ, proclaimed Son of God through his resurrection. Before Matthew describes Jesus' birth, he lists 42 ancestors linking Jesus firmly with Abraham, David and Israel's kings. The list includes four women, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah. Through their unconventional behaviour, a remnant of David's line survived, reminding us of the important roles women have always played in God's plan.

### PSALM RESPONSE: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

\* 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](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)



### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

- Larysa Makarova (from the Ukraine)

**Entry Hymn:** "O come, O come, Emmanuel..." - n. 397

**Offertory Hymn:** "Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation..." - n. 69

**Communion Hymn:** "One bread, one body, one Lord of all..." - n. 449

**Thanksgiving:** *Instrumental*

**Final Hymn:** "Colours of day dawn into the mind..." - n. 93



A «RUINED» CHRISTMAS SERMON

The Pastor of a Church in New York, conscious of his responsibility as a presider of a good Liturgy, spent hours preparing what he considered should be a good sermon for the Midnight Christmas Mass. He read about the birth of Jesus, he took notes and rehearsed the sermon he was supposed to deliver. A Christmas play, mobilizing a group of children and young people, was very well prepared to act after the reading of the Gospel, right before the sermon. It was a very inclusive church where everyone would have a chance to participate.

To emphasize inclusion, they decided to invite Tom to act as a shepherd. Tom was a very special 17-year-old boy with learning difficulties because of his down syndrome condition. After trying a few rehearsals, there was a little frustration due the difficulty Tom had to learn a very simple role as a shepherd. Then they decided to change roles. Maybe Tom would be a good innkeeper. Tom was open to anything as long as he could be part of the play.



Great. After the first try, it was easy to decide that Tom would be the perfect «actor» to act as an innkeeper. The only thing he had to do was to wait in front of the altar, put his hands on his hips, look tough, and when Joseph and Mary came asking for shelter he would say: «No room for you at the Inn».

It took some time and lots of work but there was no doubt that Tom was ready. Even at the last minute they were whispering: «Don't forget Tom... put your hands over your hips, look tough and say: - there is no room for you at the Inn. Are you ready?

- Yyyyes. I am... am ready».

The moment came. Joseph and Mary walked slowly towards the altar. Tom was standing there. They approached Tom and asked for a place to spend the night. Besides, Mary was ready to give birth to her baby. Both looked very tired. But Tom did as he had been trained to do: He put his hands over his hips, looked tough and yelled in a loud voice:

«There is no room for you at the Inn! ».

Joseph and Mary did as they have been trained to do too. They looked very sad, turned around and started walking towards the front door. Just a few seconds after they left, Tom started crying, with tears rolling down his face, and ran after them and repeated a few times: «Wait... wait... you can stay at my house... You can stay at my house. Please, don't go!»

At that moment, the pastor approached the microphone and with tears in his eyes, said:

«I couldn't make a better sermon than the one that was just done by Tom. «Please Jesus stay at my house».... «Merry Christmas».

The Priest then went to his chair and spent a few moments in silent meditation, which inspired all the congregation to do the same.

Love and Peace,  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



CHRISTMAS IN FUNCHAL



In Funchal, the Christmas atmosphere has been in full force, and every year is an amazing experience both for locals and visitors to Madeira. Avenida Arriaga (in the city centre) has been the main setting for

Folklore groups, Youth Choirs, and Orchestras to perform every day. Nearer to the Cathedral there is a life-size Christmas nativity scene, with mannequins of animals, the 3 wise men bearing gifts, Angels, and Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. There are also little «huts» selling local traditional products (liqueurs of aniseed, cherry etc.), the famous poncha drink, ginjinha (liqueur made by infusing ginja berries (sour berries) in aguardente [firewater] and served in a chocolate cup), sandwiches with pork meat marinated in wine and garlic (sandesh de carne vinho e alho) and much more! Funchal is well worth visiting this time of year!!



«MISSA DO PARTO» (CHILD BIRTH MASS) – A Madeiran Christmas tradition



In Madeira Island, the «Missas do Parto» (Child Birth Masses), are one of the most popular and oldest traditions that mobilize the entire population on their journey of preparation for Christmas. Nine days before Christmas (Dec. 16th), «Child Birth Masses» are celebrated in every Parish around the Island, very early in the morning during nine days. Usually between 5:00 and 6:00 AM! The hymns are traditional and after Mass there is a social outside the church with different eats and beverages to share, as well as different musical instruments playing, and people singing and socializing.

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Last week Sunday, and the week before, Father Bernardino spoke of a plan that he has to help the needy at Christmas time. He calls it «Adopt a Family for Christmas». God touched a few hearts and some donations have already been received. Thank you very much for this! The hope is that the program of «Adopting» a Family for Christmas will in some small way help to make some needy families just a little bit happier during this festive season. We have been given a list of needy families (those with children, and their ages) by Dalila, the lady who has been involved in the People Helping People project that helps those in need. The main aim of the «Adopter» of a particular family, is to maybe buy a bag of food or toiletries, or some toys for the children. No rules. We just ask people to love them and follow their hearts. If you would like to «Adopt a Family for Christmas» you can contact:



- 1) HELEN LUMGAIR (Speaks English only); Email: helenlumgair@gmail.com
- 2) MANNY DE PONTE (Bilingual), 96-91-33-074
- 3) ALEXANDRE SILVA (Bilingual), 96-78-19-322, Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com
- 4) DALILA Oliveira (Speaks Portuguese only), 96-50-13-173

Thank you for caring! ©