

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



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

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).

>> 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! ☺



05/01/2020

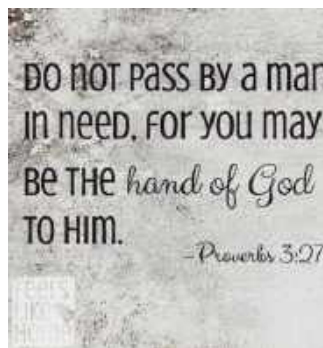
10h00 Mass in English

11h30 Mass in Portuguese

12/01/2020

10h00 Mass in English

11h30 Mass in Portuguese



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*); Cátia and Helena, Larysa, Rui (*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, or download it from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org which is updated every week by Debbie and Tony. ☺



JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, number 199

5th January 2020 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

Epiphany, 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/



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH, IN MADEIRA:

Good morning, and Happy New Year! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This 10am Mass is the only Catholic Mass which is celebrated entirely in English, on the whole island of Madeira. **We are blessed to have Fr. Aires Gameiro celebrating mass here today. He will be standing in for Father Bernardino this morning.** Thank you Father Gameiro! ☺

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS (Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. www.bible-groups.info)
(*Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71(72); Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*)

Third Isaiah was writing just after the Israelites had returned from exile in Babylon. Participation in the future messianic salvation is offered to all who believe in the Lord and keep his commandments. Isaiah visualises the new Jerusalem, illuminated by God, to which all peoples will stream and a time when their offerings will be acceptable. This is good news for the whole world. **The psalm** offers coronation wishes to a king - more than an earthly king, and so seen as Messianic. The vision of the universal Church Paul describes in **Ephesians** matches Isaiah's image of the new Jerusalem. Paul sees the Church, led by the Spirit, as Christ's body, part of God's plan for the whole of creation. And Paul joyfully realises that it was always part of God's plan that the gospel message is to be taken to all: Gentiles as well as Jews are to share in the inheritance promised by God. In Luke's Gospel an angel announced Jesus' birth to poor Jewish shepherds, excluded by their occupation from Temple worship. Today we hear **Matthew's** description of Gentile scholars travelling from afar to bring kingly offerings to the new-born child. But they needed the Jewish scriptures to help find him. We too need the Old Testament to help us understand God's plan and what he has done in Jesus.

PSALM RESPONSE: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

* 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

HYMN NUMBERS:

Organ / Voice – Fátima Cátia Marques

Cello – Helena Paula Marques

[1] Entry Hymn: Christmas Hymn:

O Little town of Bethlehem – No. **414**

[2] Penitential Act: Lord, have mercy – No. **663**

[3] Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Aleluia

[4] Offertory: Christmas Hymn:

Hark, the herald-angels sing – No. **212**

[5] Sanctus: Holy – No. **704**

[6] Agnus Dei:

Dona nobis pacem – No. **126**

[7] Communion Hymn: Christmas Hymn:

O Come, all ye faithful – No. **394**

[8] Thanksgiving: Instrumental

[9] Final Hymn: Christmas Hymn:

The First Nowell – No. **541**



CHRISTMAS OF GOD'S MEDDLING

Sign and mystery.

Mystery does not intrude; it is distant and invisible. The title of the Pope's letter on the Christmas Crib is very meaningful. «*The admirable sign*», Jesus' Crib speaks, bothers, implies, insists. The Boy, the incarnate Son of God is *God with us* (Emmanuel). We may not be aware of Him but God's flesh is there in us, in our home and heart. He lives beside us, occupies space and time in our lives. With the mysteries one tries to arrange and solve things alone.



The sign of God visible in time and space intrudes into our plans. A distant and mysterious God can still be ignored and rhymed with agnosticism, indifference. A visible little God who lives in *my* tent, cries and starts talking, no longer can be ignored; it can disturb and mess things up. Ask St. Joseph, Mary, the shepherds, the wise men, king Herod: all of them were surprised and had to change their plans. At home and in the village, Emmanuel demands time, space and attention. A God-boy is there, you see. When he grows up he requires even more space, time and attention. He speaks and asks people to listen; he gives his opinion and gets involved in our plans. He intrudes, by surprise, to propose his plans. Already in O.T. a prophet was sent to Ahaz; in the N.T. Mary and Joseph were intruded by *God with us* (Emmanuel), God with them, God with you and me. Zechariah, «your wife will have a child in her barren old age». «Fear not, Joseph», leave your plan and accept mine.

Now Jesus always intrudes on your things. In the past the invisible God sent messengers, announcements, words, meaning, stars, some signs but He was not seen. In Jesus He appeared as a sign of flesh and blood and began to speak. He dwells on earth; Diciples have written what he said in the gospels, and now He leaves no one.

One moment, one second and there He is, intruding in each other's lives. «*We saw his star and we came to worship him*». Herod wants to kill him. Joseph receives orders: «*get up, take the boy and his mother and run away*». At the age of twelve he questions and answers doctors. He asks Peter, Andrew, and Matthew to leave their plans and to follow him. He insist with Zacchaeus: «*come down, quickly, I want to stay in your house*». With Saulus, he is surprising: «*why are you persecuting me*»?

The Sign, Emmanuel, will never be erased; it will continue to dwell with everyone and meddle with everyone's life.

The Boy-God - Christmas takes away from man the illusion of being the center of the world. It makes him face change in himself by accepting to be a son, and a servant to be disturbed by his Lord and Father. And to be blessed and loved in the plans of God, the Boy! In this year of 2020 pray Jesus to disturb you when you are distant from Him. It would be a blessing! A Happy New Year.



Funchal, Epiphany, 05.01.2020

Fr. Aires Gameiro

(Brother of Saint John of God)

DIA DE REIS (King's Day) – A tradition in Madeira

Every year on January 6th in Madeira, we celebrate *Dia de Reis* ("King's Day"). According to tradition, it's to celebrate the day when the newborn baby Jesus, the Saviour, the Messiah, receives the visit of the 3 Wise Men from the East. The night before, Madeiran families usually gather together with friends and neighbours, who go out and sing traditional songs door to door.



"Bolo Rei" ("King Cake") is a traditional Portuguese cake that is usually eaten around Christmas, from December 25th until Epiphany, on the 6th January. The cake itself is round with a large hole in the centre, resembling a crown covered with crystallized and dried fruit. It is baked from a soft, white dough, and in some of these cakes there is the characteristic dried "fava" (broad bean) or small Wise Man figurine.

Tradition dictates that whoever finds the fava bean or the Wise Man figurine, must pay for next year's cake!



A "fava" (broad bean), and a figurine hidden in the Bolo Rei cake

THE SYMBOLIC GIFTS

- GOLD**
The royal metal; signifies Jesus' Kingship (hence, the gift for a king).
- FRANKINCENSE**
Symbol of prayer; signifies Jesus as the High Priest/Mediator between God and man (hence, the gift for a priest).
- MYRRH**
A burial ointment; meaning that Jesus had to die for the salvation of all (hence, gift for one who would die).

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

