

## 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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Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

**USA:** Larry and Janice Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 707-333-5501

Email: l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net



### >> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

#### ACCOUNT NAME:

Associação Gente Ajudando Gente

**BANK:** Banco Santander Totta

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 0003 4938 1759020

**IBAN:** PT50 0018 0003 49381759020 94

**SWIFT:** TOTAP1PL

**NIB:** 0018 0003 49381759020 94

**Bank Address:**

Caminho de Santa Quitéria 46A,

9020-119, Funchal

Madeira, Portugal.



### >> DONATIONS FROM THE UK:

**ACCOUNT NAME:** Sinead Moynihan

**BANK:** Lloyds Bank

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 02461743

**BRANCH:** Univ. of Cambridge

**SORT CODE:** 30-13-55

**IBAN:** GB05 LOYD 3013 5502 4617 43

**BIC:** LOYDGB21035



The funds will then be transferred to Madeira.

Any questions or concerns about transferring to

this account, please contact Sinead Moynihan

at: sineadmoynihian7@icloud.com

When sending any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) with the date, amount, and name on the transfer so that Fr. Bernardino is able to confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received. Thank you.

### >> PAYPAL:

genteajudandogente2016@gmail.com

### >> DONATIONS FROM THE USA:

**Instructions for sending funds to People Helping People in Madeira, Portugal, from USA:**

**Write a check made out to:** Fr

Bernardino Andrade PHP

in the bottom of the check in Memo

area add: **PHP**



**Mail the check to:**

Mr. L.A. Contreras

60 Meeks Lane

Oakley, Ca 94561

The funds will then be transferred to the People Helping People account in Madeira, at no cost.

Any questions or concerns please

contact Larry Contreras at

707-333-5501 or email him at:

[l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net](mailto:l.a.contreras@sbcglobal.net)

## JOYFUL GIFT

20th of December 2020

4th Sunday of Advent, Year B

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,  
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira



**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org>  
[www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel).  
[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)  
[penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



**Good morning!** Wishing you all a *blessed* and *holy* Christmas. Today we have the privilege of getting the visit of Aldora Gonçalves, a lady who is going to offer us a little taste of a "Missa do Parto" (read more about this Madeiran tradition on pg. 3 of the newsletter).

The special intention of this morning's Mass is for Patricia Usher who passed away on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, 5 years ago. May her soul rest in peace.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS** (Brought to you by: Chris Oliver.) [www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)  
*2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38*

After seven years as King of Judah, David was anointed King of all the tribes of Israel. He then captured Jerusalem making it the capital of Israel. Then he increased his power by bringing into Jerusalem the Ark of the Covenant, the Lord's dwelling. But in our first reading the Lord tells David not to build a house for Him, because the Lord will himself build a house – ie a dynasty – founded on David. The long Psalm, written during or after the exile, starts by reminding God of this promise to David, before asking God how long before He will fulfill His promise. Paul summarises the Good News: Jesus Christ is the revelation that God intends all humanity to be brought into community with God through faith. We are not justified and saved by the Jewish Law, but by Jesus' faith in his Father and by our faith in Jesus Christ. Luke gives us the supreme example of faith: Mary agrees to God's invitation to be the mother of God's Son – the greatest 'Yes' in history! She does not know what might happen – except possibly death by stoning as an unmarried mother. By her faith and trust in God she becomes the first disciple. And God's promise to David is fulfilled.

**PSALM RESPONSE: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

\* The Scripture notes are sent to us every week by Chris Oliver from the UK. If you'd also like to have these sent to you by email or included in your parish newsletter, please contact Chris at: [chris@chris-oliver.net](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net)

**TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC** - Larysa, Margarita, Sharon, Josefina, Luis, & Aldora

**Entry** - "DA SERRA VEIO UM PASTOR". (A Shepherd came from the hills).

**Penitential** - "God of mercy" - n. 656

**Offertory** - "When the angel came to Mary..." - n. 626

**Sanctus** - "Holy, holy, holy Lord..." - n. 702

**Agnus Dei** - "Lord, have mercy." - n. 654

**Communion** - "And I will raise you up..." - n.237

**Final** - "VIRGEM DO PARTO, OH MARIA (Virgin of Delivery, oh Mary).





## FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART



by Fr. Bernardino Andrade  
(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)

### 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.



Fr. Bernardino Andrade

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Merry Christmas



## EXPERIENCE A MADEIRAN TRADITION THIS MORNING

– Christmas Hymns at the Chapel

On page 3 of today's newsletter you read a little bit about a Portuguese tradition that takes part at Christmas time here in Madeira.... "Missas do Parto" (loosely translated in English as *Childbirth... or ...Delivery Masses*). Today we have the privilege of getting the visit of Aldora Gonçalves who is going to offer us a little taste of a traditional "Missa do Parto". She will be bringing us two of the hymns that are sang only on this season of preparation for Christmas: The entrance hymn, and the last hymn at Mass today.

### The entrance hymn is called:

«DA SERRA VEIO UM PASTOR». (A Shepherd came from the hills).

### The last hymn is called:

«VIRGEM DO PARTO, OH MARIA (Virgin of Delivery, oh Mary).

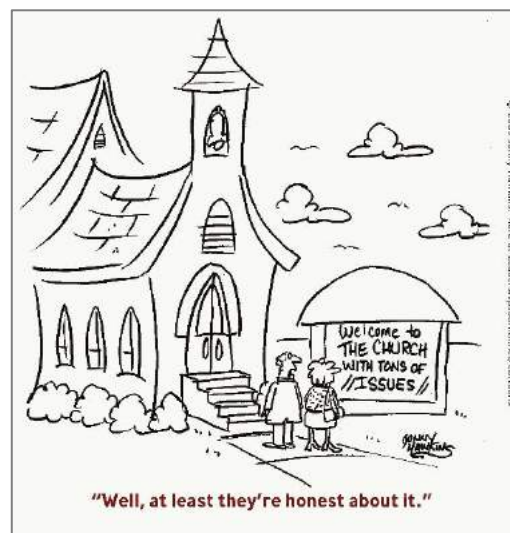
This last hymn is the most joyful hymn of the *Missas do Parto*. If you would like to join along with the hymn, here are the words to the refrain:

### This is the refrain:

*Virgem do Parto oh Maria,  
Senhora da Conceição.  
Dai-nos as Festas Felizes,  
A paz e a salvação.*



## SMILE YOU ARE IN CHURCH – Some humour for your Sunday



At the church door, the pastor had put a small box on a table, and next to it a card with these words written: "Money is one of the biggest obstacles for you to go to heaven. Better Deposit yours in this box".

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**CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE** – A great success!

The home-made Christmas cookies



The seven hampers collected for needy families at the Chapel

Seven hampers were made up for needy families from the donations received in our Christmas Hamper Drive.

Each family received toiletries, food items, a tin of home made biscuits and some gifts for the children. We would like to give a big thank you to everyone for their generosity - all those who gave contributions of toiletries and food items, those who brought gifts for the families (including Anne O' B, Anne V, Ronnie, Sharon, Liz P., Margarita, Veronica and Matt and Cila and Claudia F.) and Sharon and Debbie who helped make Christmas cookies. The families were delighted to receive the gifts and were very appreciative. Also our gratitude to Lynda and Mal Davies; to Jenny and her lady friends for their hampers; and also to Mr and Mrs J.U. who donated some furniture items which were distributed to 3 families in need. ☺

THANK YOU

CHRISTMAS  
HAMPER APPEAL

**SECOND COMING** – Now or Future?

..... Part 2

Brought to you by: Chris Oliver (Email: [chris@chris-oliver.net](mailto:chris@chris-oliver.net))

..... continued from last Sunday's newsletter...

Some Christian communities have promised the second coming on a certain date: so far it hasn't happened, but one day they might be right!

But perhaps we need a better understanding of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection to clarify the second coming. During the Last Supper Jesus announced the New Covenant. As at Sinai, to complete a new covenant four things were needed: a priest, an offering, a sacrifice, and a meal (Exod 24). Jesus was a new kind of priest, although not of the tribe of Levi; Jesus' body was the offering, an only Son like Isaac. The sacrifice was Jesus' life, freely given up on the Cross. And the Last Supper was the essential celebratory meal. As a Passover meal, the Last Supper required four cups of wine. The Gospels record only three, after which they went out singing a psalm. Refusing drinks on the way to Calvary, Jesus drank some wine immediately before dying, saying "It is finished". This fourth drink of (sour) wine completed the Passover meal and so sealed the New Covenant "in His Blood". Jesus, as the new Moses, was now ready in his glorified body to lead the New Israel, the Church, to the Promised Land of His Kingdom.



Jesus "assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh" (Advent Preface I). As man, Jesus was the new Moses, and His sacrifice on the Cross announced the new Exodus and instituted the New Covenant in which God's Spirit is written on our hearts at Baptism, making us members of His Church. But we still pray for "thy Kingdom come". And all nations do not yet seem to be streaming to God's "banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine strained wines" (Isa 25:6) on Mount Zion. So when is the second coming? When will he come "again in glory and majesty" (Advent Preface I)?

..... Part three: to be continued next week Sunday

**THE BEAUTIFUL POLISH TRADITION OF BREAKING BREAD** – Christmas Eve

In many Polish homes throughout the world, a family tradition is the breaking of the *oplatek* on Christmas Eve. The *oplatek* (pronounced opwatek) is a thin wafer made of flour and water, similar in taste to the hosts that are used for communion during Mass. These wafers are stamped with elaborate Christmas scenes. On Christmas Eve, the family eagerly awaits the first star in the night sky, recalling the star of Bethlehem that signaled the birth of the Saviour. Once the star has been spotted, the Christmas Eve meal begins. **The father (or eldest member of the family) begins the ceremony by taking the *oplatek* and breaking a piece off of it, giving it to his wife. When he does this, he may say what he is thankful for, wish her good health, or ask for forgiveness.** It's a time to tell each other, 'I love you, I care about you.'

After this, the *oplatek* is then shared with each member of the family in a similar manner, starting with the oldest down to the youngest. **It is a touching ceremony, one that can help heal hurts from the past year.**

After the breaking of the bread is completed, a small meal is served that eagerly anticipates the Midnight Mass, which many Polish families would attend on Christmas Eve. The tradition has survived the test of time and is still celebrated in many parts of the world. It is a beautiful tradition, one that keeps the true "spirit of Christmas," and unites a family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

An *oplatek* with image of Mary and baby Jesus

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

*The True Meaning Of Christmas*

In today's day and time,  
it's easy to lose sight,  
of the true meaning of Christmas  
and one special night.

When we go shopping,  
We say "How much will it cost?"  
Then the true meaning of Christmas,  
Somehow becomes lost.

Amidst the tinsel, glitter  
And ribbons of gold,  
We forget about the child,  
born on a night so cold.

The children look for Santa  
In his big, red sleigh  
Never thinking of the child  
Whose bed was made of hay.

In reality,  
When we look into the night sky,  
We don't see a sleigh  
But a star, burning bright and high.

A faithful reminder,  
Of that night so long ago,  
And of the child we call Jesus,  
Whose love, the world would know.

~ Written by Brian K. Walters  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Nubia\\_group/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Nubia_group/)





Christmas is when God Arrives to the barn.  
 That's why Christmas is my feast because the barn  
 is me; the cattle is me; the hay is me; the manure is me.  
 But I receive God. I am capable of God.  
 Because God, the God who doesn't  
 fit in heaven, wants to  
 come to my barn. That's why christmas is my feast.  
 My feast during the entire year. (João César das Neves)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



## MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY – 10:00am



This Friday, December 25th, there will be a Mass in English  
 at 10am to celebrate Christmas Day.

Please join us! ☺

### WHAT TIME IS THE CHRISTMAS “MIDNIGHT MASS“ AT PENHA DE FRANÇA?

When I first arrived in California, I remember this priest complaining that the people used to ask strange questions. And one of them was “*What time is the Christmas Midnight Mass in the Parish?*”? And that would make people laugh. However this question makes sense. The Birth of Jesus, on December 25th, is the only Liturgical Solemnity of the Church that has four different texts that enables any priest to say four different Masses to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. The first is the VIGIL, the second is during the NIGHT (usually at midnight but not necessarily), the third one at DAWN, and the fourth one during the DAY. I am planning to say three MIDNIGHT Masses (at different churches) to celebrate the Birth of of Jesus. The first one will be on December 24, at 7:00 PM in one of the Chapels in Funchal (not Penha de França). The second will be at 12:00 Midnight in a Parish Church. The third *Midnight Mass* will be in English, and will take place here in the Chapel of Penha de França at 10:00 AM... on December 25<sup>th</sup>. That means that in all these three Masses the texts (especially readings) will be the same that would be used at Midnight.



### CONFESSIONS (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION)

Today after Mass, Fr. Bernardino will be available for Confessions on the upper room of the Moynihan's Restaurant.

### “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 old traditions that mobilize the entire population on their journey of preparation for Christmas. Nine days before Christmas (Dec. 16), «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 goodies to share, different musical instruments playing and people singing and socializing. Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions, this year will be a little different... with none of the usual socializing after Mass being allowed.

