

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: 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: TOTAPTPL

NIB: 0018 0003 49381759020 94

Bank Address:

Caminho de Santa Quiteria 46A,
9020-119, Funchal
Madeira, Portugal.



>> 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

>> 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

Food items are also appreciated and can be left in the basket at the Chapel door on Sunday mornings. When sending any donation, please send an email to penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com with the date, and name on the transfer so that Fr. Bernardino is able to confirm with you as soon as the transfer is received. Thank you.

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org or requested from: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com

JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, number 287

28th of November 2021

First Sunday of Advent, Year C

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..
www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/
penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent, and the start of a new Liturgical year (Year C).

This English Mass is a tradition that dates back to 1966, when Fr Rafael Andrade, having just returned from his first visit to England, complied with the Bishop's request to start an English celebration. Father Rafael presided over this mass for over 30 years, when he had to stop in 1999 due to overlapping duties. For eight years there was no Catholic mass in English in Madeira, until it began again on the first Sunday of Lent in 2007. Father Bernardino Andrade is now our appointed Sunday priest. He was born and brought up in Madeira but has worked as a Priest in both Moçambique and, for many years, in California.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Jeremiah 33:14-16; Ps 24(25); I Thess 3:12 - 4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*)

www.bible-groups.info

A few weeks ago we heard **Jeremiah** promising the deliverance of his people. This week he describes how this hope will be realised, even though Jerusalem and the Temple had been destroyed. A descendant of David will bring honesty, integrity and security to Israel. Jeremiah's complex writings changed Jewish expectations from a single Day of Judgement to a gradual process: an initial time of suffering, then an in-between period. This was identified by early Christians as now, after Christ's death had inaugurated the New Covenant, while we await the promised completion in Christ's second coming. These rather mild verses from the **Psalms** fail to show its directness: "In your kindness, recall me - You". The earliest New Testament writing, Paul wrote this first letter to the **Thessalonians** from Corinth, probably in 51 AD, where Timothy had brought news of the Thessalonian church's progress. Paul prays that the Lord should increase their love for one another, exhorting them to show this love by leading moral lives. We are starting the year of **Luke**, but the gospel for the beginning of Advent is from the end of Jesus' ministry, where he warns us to be ready for the end times. Every one of us faces an end time, and we must live our lives as if it comes today.

PSALM RESPONSE: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

* 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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "I watch the sunrise lighting the sky..." - n. 248
Offertory - "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer..." - n. 201
Communion - "And I will raise you up..." - n. 237
Thanksgiving - "Make me a channel of your peace..." - n. 359
Final - "How great Thou art..." - n. 419



(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



ADVENT 2021

I wrote this column 20 years ago to be published at St. Anthony's Parish News Letter, in California (Diocese of Oakland). At that time, I was the Pastor of a multicultural Parish and my weekly column had the title of «From the Pastor's Heart».



A PREGNANT WOMAN DOESN'T "WAIT" FOR A BABY

One of the most fascinating things in the world of communication between languages is the "game" of words. For example: In English, people "play" football and "play" piano. In Spanish and Portuguese people "play" football and "touch" piano. It would sound cute and funny if people translated literally and said "play" piano instead of "touch" piano.

The opposite happens with the word "wait" and "expect".

- In Portuguese and Spanish, people "wait" for a bus and a pregnant woman "waits" for a baby.
- In English, people "wait" for a bus but a pregnant woman "expects" a baby.
- This difference is powerful and for me it is one of the greatest symbols of Advent.
- What's the difference between "waiting" and "expecting"? I think that the biggest difference lays on what people do in between.
- When people wait, they do whatever they want just to "kill time".
- When a pregnant woman "expects" a baby she never "kills time". She is always active even when she is sleeping. Her body, her thoughts, her emotions are constantly being transformed. She will never be the same woman again.

....What a powerful image for Advent.

....**Christians are not just "waiting"** for Christmas or "waiting" for the Saviour to come to their lives. **Christians are "expecting"**. And like a pregnant woman they live in anticipation, their lives are being transformed. They live a sense of urgency. They know that their lives, their marriages, their families and their communities will never be the same again.

Week 1 Hope
Reminds us... Jesus is coming
Bible verse Romans 15: 12-13
Bible verse Luke 2:10
Reminds us... The joy at the coming birth of Jesus

Week 2 Faith
Reminds us... To prepare the way of the Lord
Bible verse Luke 3:4-6
Bible verse Luke 2:14
Reminds us... "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours"

Week 3 Joy

Week 4 Peace

What do we remember each week of Advent?

CatholicLink

....No woman stays the same after she has been touched by the power of a fragile baby.

.... No person stays the same after being touched by the power of a powerful God who became a fragile baby.

.... **During this Advent it's up to me and to you to choose** to just "wait" for Christmas, spend money and "kill time"....or "expect" Christmas and live a sense of urgency and transformation through prayer and through the Sacraments and service to the poor.

Happy Advent... Happy journey for Christmas!

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



TOMORROW IS FATHER BERNARDINO'S BIRTHDAY!!!

Father Bernardino will be celebrating his 84th birthday tomorrow (November 29th).

Happy Birthday Father, from all the community at Chapel Penha França and from everyone you've touched around the

world... we hope you have a wonderful and happy day, and may God grant you many more years!!

MASS AT "CANTINHO DO BOM PASTOR" – CANCELLED



In last Sunday's newsletter, Father Bernardino informed about a special Mass that was to take place today at Cantinho do Bom Pastor (in Bica da Cana).

Unfortunately, the mass has been cancelled due to bad weather predictions for that side of the island, and also due to the Madeiran Government's new Covid restrictions.



WHAT IS ADVENT?

The word Advent is from the Latin 'Adventus' for "coming".

It is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas.

It blends together a penitential spirit; a liturgical theme of **preparation** for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord...

...and a joyful theme of **getting** ready for the Bethlehem event.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR Information from: EWTN CatholicFortress

NEW MASS REGULATIONS – Introduced by the Madeiran Regional Government

As informed last week, the Madeiran Regional Government announced new measures after noticing a sudden increase of covid cases on the island. The regulations also include measures for Mass attendance in churches, and affect everyone on the island, visitors included.

Those attending Mass must have either:

- a valid Covid-19 Vaccination Certificate
- OR
- a negative Covid-19 Antigen Test - dated within the preceding 7 days.

The usual measures which have been in place up to now will continue: (masks to be worn at all times inside and outside the Chapel, maintaining of social distance, disinfecting of hands, etc.)