

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org) or requested from: [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)

## JOYFUL GIFT

12th of December 2021

Third 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..](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)

*Advent*  
A Season of Hope  
& Expectation

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### CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as "Gaudete Sunday". Catholic priests wear pink vestments during all Masses on Gaudete Sunday. The special intention of this morning's Mass will be for João and Valarie Camacho who have been ill, in thanksgiving for their recovery. Father Bernardino Andrade is 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

(Zeph 3: 14-18; Is 12; Phil 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 10-18)

[www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

About 600 BC **Zephaniah** preached that Judah's idolatry would lead to a "day of wrath". But the Lord "is in your midst" and will mercifully spare a holy remnant. Jerusalem will finally enjoy the peace and joy of the Day of the Lord celebrated in this song, and recalled by Luke: "the Lord is with you". Before 700BC first **Isaiah** prophesied that idolatry and social injustice would bring about the destruction of the northern kingdom Israel. But, he said, "a shoot shall spring from the root of Jesse" bringing justice to the world, and he celebrated this rescue with today's Psalm. After instructing the **Philippians** in right moral behaviour and community living, Paul encourages them to look forward to the Lord's coming with confidence that the peace of God will come to them. They should celebrate publicly their joy in the Lord, but not so exuberantly that others are offended or put off. They should always show kindness to all. **Luke's gospel** continues from last week with the moral teaching preached by John the Baptist before Jesus started his ministry. Repentance must include conforming to God's justice. But John insists that he is not the Messiah, who is coming and will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

### PSALM RESPONSE: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

\* 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

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

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

**Communion** - "Christ, be our light!" - n. 329

**Final** - "Mary most holy..." - n. 364





**AN EMBARRASSING MOMENT**

I was part of a group of forty people inside a bus going in pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Because the roads were comfortable, I leaned back, relaxed and fell asleep.

When I woke up, I started looking for something that I always need to have with me. I searched for a while.... over, under and around my seat with no success.

A lady in the seat behind me, seeing my anxiety, asked:  
 - "Father, what are you looking for? Maybe I can help."  
 - "I am looking for my glasses"  
 She smiled without making fun of me and said:  
 - "You have them on your eyes".  
 I immediately confirmed that she was not joking. I was looking for my glasses while they were helping me to see!



Today is the third Sunday of Advent. In two weeks we celebrate Christmas.

Be aware... be awake... expect... be prepared...

This is one of the greatest meanings of Advent. Do not just wait passively for Christmas. Live in expectation like a woman expecting a baby. The Lord is coming. He is Emmanuel. Rejoice. He is among us.

There is a belief that the last thing a fish sees is water. A fish sees other fish, sees rocks, plants, and so on, but he doesn't see water. He is so immersed into water and water is such a vital and essential part of him that he just doesn't see it.



Where is God? We are so immersed in God. God is such a vital and essential part of us that most of the time we live like that priest who was looking for his glasses while he was seeing through the same glasses which he was looking for. We live like the fish that doesn't see the water and like the bird that doesn't see the air.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Be alert... Be awake... Be aware... Pay attention... to the God who is within you and outside of you.

Christmas is about Jesus, is about God embracing us with His unconditional love, it is about liberating the poor and the oppressed from their condition of misery and suffering. That's the reason why we have Advent to prepare the world for this great event that is Christmas. Let us stop and be aware.

Happy Advent!

Fr. Bernardino,  
2021-12-12



**DECEMBER REMINDERS**

- TAKE TIME TO REST
- START YOUR DAY WITH JESUS
- SEEK HIS WILL
- PAUSE + REFLECT
- TRUST HIS PLAN FOR YOU
- REMAIN GRATEFUL



Thank God it is becoming more and more common to see baskets standing at the front doors of churches, collecting items for the Poor. Penha de França is one of them.

Debbie de Jesus started a campaign in October to collect special products to make up hampers to be distributed before Christmas, to the Poor who are being supported by the «People Helping People» Association.

Last Monday, December 6, a special group of people from the community gathered together at the Anglican church to prepare the bags for the Poor.

Debbie would also like to thank all those who brought presents for the children, food items and toiletry items for the hampers. The families who have already received their hampers have been overjoyed. A big thank you to Cila, who knitted all the teddy bears which were included in the hampers. She spent all of lockdown knitting them, and will be making children happy this Christmas! Thanks to Alexandre for his help in delivering the parcels.



Marthie, Jean, Fr. Bernardino, Jane, Thelma, Debbie and skip. Alexandre in the front



Some of the toys gifted to the children



**THE STORY OF SANTA CLAUS**  
St. Nicholas

That's not me...

St. Nicholas of Bari was born in Lysia (today's Turkey). From an early age he was a very generous person, especially towards the poor. He also had the custom of giving secret gifts to children.

Nicholas moved to Myra where he was ordained as a priest, and later as a bishop.

He was imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution and only released when Constantine the Great came to power.

St. Nicholas is associated with Christmas because of his tradition of giving secret gifts to children. His feast day is on the 6th of December.

**CatholicLink**



**Christmas Symbols**

- The Tree**  
...points to heaven and reminds us that God is eternal.
- The Wreath**  
...is a circle reminding us that God's love for us never ends.
- The Candle**  
...shines brightly, showing us that Jesus is the light of the world.