

## 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

19th of December 2021

Fourth 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)

### CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH MADEIRA:

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent.

The special intention of this morning's Mass will be for the soul of Deborah Mary Simpson, beloved sister of Julie Godwin; and also for Father Robert Morrow and his team of surgeons and cancer specialists. He will have liver surgery tomorrow, 20<sup>th</sup> December. 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

(Micah 5: 1-4; Ps 79(80); Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-44)

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

**Micah** was prophesying in Judea around 720 BC. The rich were defrauding the poor, and prophets even misleading the people by assuring them that all was well. Which is what people wanted to hear. No, said Micah: "Zion would be plowed like a field" – utterly destroyed, as happened in the exile in 586 BC. But a remnant would survive, and a ruler would come from Bethlehem, David's birthplace. When "she who is to give birth gives birth", the mother of the Immanuel, then the remnant will come back to the Lord.

**The Psalm** pleads that the Lord's help come soon, as Israel is being hard pressed by its enemies.

**Hebrews** continues to explain the differences between Christ's sacrifice and animal and food sacrifices offered in the Temple: these had to be repeated again and again, because they did not bring forgiveness of sin. Only Christ's sacrifice could remit sins: it is the fulfilment of God's will, rather than the holocausts he does not want. Jesus is seen as explicitly offering himself, so that not only are our sins forgiven but we may be made holy.

**The Gospel** begins the Christmas story with Mary's visit to Elizabeth, soon to give birth to the last of the Old Testament prophets.

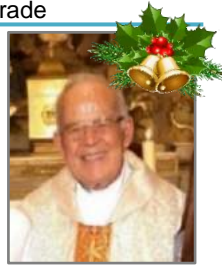
**PSALM RESPONSE:** **God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

\* 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)

# Advent



(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



**A GOLDEN CHRISTMAS GIFT**

I lived all my childhood in the countryside. Every piece of land was used for farming. I remember my father saying that when he was younger, if they found even if it was a mere piece of stone, that they would put a little bit of soil on it and would sow a little bit of wheat. The land was sacred. On this mountainous island it was not possible to have big farms. Everything that was planted had the purpose of feeding the family. Fruit trees were a luxury. But in my neighbourhood there was an orange fruit tree. The neighbours would use it a lot to ask for leaves to boil and make tea when a family member was sick. There were no supermarkets or money to buy oranges.

I used to hear stories of the Baby Jesus coming down through the chimney and bringing gifts to the children. I don't remember of the Baby Jesus bringing me any gifts but it was not a problem. It was the same for all the children of the neighbourhood, that's why we didn't have the time to be jealous. Christmas was Christmas and that was great. The aroma of home-baked bread, cakes and cookies and Church celebrations, movement of people walking through the streets to visit their families were enough.

Oh... Oh... Oh... I had one Christmas gift:

I don't remember the details but I remember that one day the Baby Jesus brought me a very special Christmas gift. He brought me an orange. It was so golden, so yellow, so beautiful, so attractive that I had no courage to take the skin off and eat it. I spent the day with that orange in my hands, showing it to my friends. I felt like as if I had the world in my hands.

When I told this story in my Parish in California I was surprised when an American lady told me that in her childhood, an orange had also been the only Christmas gift she had ever received.

But the funny part of the story was when on Christmas eve, a lady called Pam Juarez came with her daughter to the Parish residence and brought me a box full of oranges. After that, and this happened for years, on every first Sunday of Advent I started finding over the altar a beautiful yellow orange, and then a box of oranges at my residence.

When I announced that I was leaving the Parish and coming back to Portugal this same lady brought me a plastic orange as yellow as the ones she used to give me in California. This plastic orange is the one that is on our altar today. This happened fifteen years ago and it is still yellow and beautiful and reminding me that happiness is not in «having but in being»

**Contradiction**

I just read a few things about the Sultan of Brunei. His residence is bigger than all of the Vatican with 1.758 rooms and 257 bathrooms. His garage has 7.000 luxurious cars, 604 Rolls-Royces, 452 Ferraris, 502 Mercedes, 209 BMWs. The list is long.

The problem of today's world is not how to feed the poor. The problem of today's world is how to satisfy the rich.

I am wondering if the Sultan of Brunei is more satisfied or happier than I was when I had a golden orange for Christmas.

A MERRY AND A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS FOR ALL OF YOU AND YOUR PRECIOUS FAMILIES.

Fr. Bernardino Andrade

19/12/2021



**CRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

**Christmas Schedule for the Masses at the Chapel:**

Saturday, **December 25th** (Christmas Day) –  
Mass in English at 10:00am  
Mass in Portuguese at 11:30am

Sunday, **December 26th** –  
Mass in English at 10:00am  
Mass in Portuguese at 11:30am



Please come and join us.

**Children's perceptions of the Angels** – A Little Bit of Humour to Brighten Your Day

It's not easy to become an Angel! First, you die, then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through, and then you got to agree to wear those Angel clothes.

– **Matthew, age 9**

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.

– **Henry, age 8**

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if they don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it.

– **Vicki, age 8**

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them. – **Sarah, age 7**

Angels are like Moms. They know you inside and out and love you just the same! – **Michelle, age 6**



**A Christmas Prayer**  
by Robert Louis Stevenson

**Loving Father,**  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



**TODAY'S MASS READERS:**

Welcome: Neil  
1st Reading: Tony  
2nd Reading: Lurdes  
Bidding Prayers: Robin

Next Sunday:  
Welcome: Zac  
1st Reading: Weronika  
2nd Reading: Carla  
Bidding Prayers: Matt

