

## 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:

**EUROPE:** Pe Bernardino Andrade, Rua das Murteiras, 28 - 1E, 9060-199 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Email: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com

**USA:** Larry 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.

### >> 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

### >> 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

**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.

## JOYFUL GIFT

27th of November 2022

1st Sunday of Advent, 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..](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel..)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

**Email:** [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



### CATHOLIC MASS - IN ENGLISH - IN MADEIRA

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today is the First Sunday of Advent! The 10am Mass this morning will be celebrated by **Fr. Joseph Arun**, who is a Carmelite Priest, originally from India. Welcome Fr. Joseph! Straight after this mass, at 11am, there will be a Mass celebrated in Portuguese by Fr. Carlos Almada, our chaplain.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 121(122); Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44*)

During advent the first readings are from first Isaiah, mostly composed before 700 BC, a period when Israel was under attack from Assyria. Isaiah is critical of attempts by Israel's kings to control their destiny – he urges them to place their faith and trust in God, and in His promises to David. But God might use Israel's enemies to cleanse his people. Nevertheless the people will survive through a remnant, like a stump of a tree, from which will come an ideal ruler in the future. In today's reading Isaiah looks forward to a peaceful time when all nations will be attracted by Israel's behaviour to accept God's authority, centred on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. The Psalm celebrates arriving in Jerusalem, goal of pilgrims and seat of government. In his letter to the Romans Paul has been drawing out the implications of his image of Christians as all parts of one body. Since we are therefore dependent on each other we have a duty of love for each other. Judgement will come at any time, so we must live at all times as if all our actions are visible to all. In Matthew's gospel, speaking on Mount Olivet just before the Last Supper, Jesus reinforces the need to "stay awake", ready for the Lord's coming.

### PSALM RESPONSE: I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."

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

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** - "Take our bread, we ask you..." - n. 528

**Communion** - "We come to share our story..." - n. 607

**Thanksgiving** - "Longing for light..." - n. 329

**Final** - "Go, the Mass is ended..." - n. 175



(bernardinodandrade@gmail.com)



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.

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



CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE FOR THE POOR - here at the Chapel



This Christmas we are hoping to present each poor family under the care of the People Helping People charity, with a surprise hamper. From now until Christmas we are asking people to please bring along toiletry items such as soaps, lotions, body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. which may be placed in the basket at the entrance of the chapel on Sunday mornings before Mass. Thank you for your support!



THE ADVENT SEASON HAS ARRIVED

ADVENT WREATH SYMBOLS. (1) Evergreen Wreath - The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God (the Alpha and Omega). The evergreen is chosen as the base because God is the foundation of all good. Green is the color that represents hope and new life. Four Candles - represent the four (4) weeks of Advent. Traditionally, each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. The first two purple candles symbolizes (2) hope and (3) love respectively. The (4) third candle (which is pink/rose) symbolizes joy. The fourth and last purple candle represents (5) peace. The light of the candles signifies the light of Christ to mankind. facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage

What is Advent? It is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin term "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming", particularly the arrival of something or someone of great significance. This is the coming of Jesus Christ into the world.

Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent, and also the beginning of the new Liturgical year (Year A).

The advent wreath is a popular symbol of the Advent season. It is usually made up of evergreen branches or boughs placed in a circle, and topped with four candles. On the first Sunday of Advent, the wreath is blessed and one candle is

lit (usually a purple candle). Every Sunday, for the next 3 weeks, another candle is lit until all four candles are burning brightly.

Remember to leave your yellow Hymn Book and Order of the Mass sheets on the table at the Chapel entrance after mass



Please sign our Visitor's book in the Social Room.... leave us your comments, or suggestions, we'd love to know which country you're visiting us from!

We have a little "library" with books which you can borrow, swap, or leave a donation... AND we also have a map where you can place a pin on your home town! (You'll find the Social Room across the garden in front of the Chapel.)

Tea and Coffee After Mass Please join us in the Social Hall across the garden.

