

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.

Older issues of the newsletter can be downloaded from the Chapel's website/blog: www.rcmassmadeira.org



JOYFUL GIFT

4th of December 2022

2nd 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..

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: 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 Second Sunday of Advent. The 10am Mass this morning will be celebrated by our Chaplain, **Fr. Carlos Almada**. A Mass in Portuguese will be celebrated at 11:30am.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71(72); Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12*)

The readings for Advent from **Isaiah** continue with this description of the ideal king, who will come from the remnant of Israel – the stump of Jesse, of David's dynasty. This was applied by Christians to Jesus. But Isaiah was seeking to comfort his people, under attack by Assyria, as he foresees an idyllic future when the whole of creation will live in complete harmony. Only the "fear of the Lord" and the "knowledge of the Lord" could bring this about. **The Psalm** looks forward to the coming of a perfect king, the Messiah, whose rule will be just and his reign glorious. Paul's letter to the **Romans** exhorts the two groups of Christians in Rome to work patiently together, ignoring varying degrees of conformity to the Jewish Law. We must learn about God from the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament, so that we may worship him in unity of mind and mouth. The Messiah's sufferings show that God keeps His promises, and will lead all nations, both Jews and Gentiles, to praise God.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist, the last prophet of the Old Testament, prepares the way of the Lord by urging people to repent, to turn towards God from their sins. But he condemns those who say they have no need of God.

PSALM RESPONSE: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

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

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "O Lord, my God!..." - n. 419

Offertory - "Come, Lord Jesus, come..." - n. 104

Communion - "Glory and praise to our God..." - n. 166

Thanksgiving - "Mary most holy..." - n. 364

Final - "Lord, the light of your love is shining..." - n. 344



Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation





1. There are many symbols that remind us about Christmas. There are carols, lots of lights, decorations and many many more beautiful things that unite believers and non-believers around the same event that is the Birth of Jesus. For me, nothing else reminds me more about Christmas than the presence or the thought of a pregnant woman. Every time I see a pregnant woman, the first thought that comes to my mind is the thought of a tabernacle carrying a living Jesus. It is also the thought of Advent. This time of Advent is not the time of «waiting» for the Birth of Jesus but it is especially a time of «expectation». «Waiting» is more a passive action like when we are waiting for the bus or in the airport waiting to embark when the airplane is arriving two or three hours late. «Expecting» is being in action 24 hours a day. That's why Advent is supposed to be a very active time inside each one of us, like the growing process of the Baby Jesus inside the womb of His mother or the growing process of any baby growing inside the womb of its mother. Advent is a time of change. It is, like Lent, a time of renewal and cleaning. What am I planning to happen inside me during this time of Advent? Would you like to make a short list and try? Christmas will be a better Christmas if we have a better and more spiritual Advent.

2.

Every year, around the second Sunday of Advent (on December 8th), the Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is like a «Baby Shower» for Jesus' Mother.

In this «Baby Shower» of Jesus' Mother, there are two key words that can be of great inspiration for us.

One is «Rejoice». «Rejoice, the Lord is with you». This was the way the Angel Gabriel greeted Mary when he announced to her that she was going to be the Mother of Jesus.

I know people who, instead of greeting each other with the traditional «Good morning» or «Good evening», use the words the Angel Gabriel used to greet Mary in such an important moment of her life and the life of the world. It can be: «Rejoice, Christine, the Lord is with you». «Rejoice Francis, the Lord is with you». «Rejoice Rita, the Lord is with you».

I learned a long time ago that every word carries energy. I suspect that greeting each other with these words from the Gospel (Luke 1) will have an impact in each other with a very positive energy that can change the day of a friend or of an enemy.

REJOICE. THE LORD IS WITH YOU!



The other word is «Mary, do not be afraid... for nothing is impossible to God» (luke 1). Why not, instead of saying «Good bye», «I will see you tomorrow», just say: «John, do not be afraid, for nothing is impossible to God», «Harry, do not be afraid. For nothing is impossible to God». «Anne, do not be afraid, for nothing is impossible to God».

Please have a very happy Advent... Please rejoice, the Lord is with you... Please do not be afraid for nothing is impossible to God.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Every year on December 8th, we celebrate The Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This Feast Day celebrates the solemn belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Various paintings, statues and other forms of artwork have been made depicting Mary as a young woman dressed in white and blue. She is often standing on a hill or raised area and has a halo of stars around her head. The pieces of art may also include images of clouds, golden lights, cherubs, lilies or roses.

We will be celebrating a special mass in English here at the Chapel: When: **Thursday December 8th**

Time: **10am**

The mass will be celebrated by Father Joseph Arun. Please join us.



CHRISTMAS IN FUNCHAL - What you can expect at this time of year

In Funchal, the Christmas atmosphere has been felt since December 1st, when the bright festive lights were switched on in the streets of Funchal. Every year it is an amazing experience for both locals and visitors to Madeira Island. Avenida Arriaga (in the city centre) has been the main setting for Folklore groups, and other Christmas festivities. In front of the Cathedral in the centre of Funchal there are 3 large Angel structures which light up at night. Near to the Cathedral you will find a life-size Christmas nativity scene, with mannequins of animals, the 3 wise men bearing gifts, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. There are also little «huts» selling local traditional products (liqueurs of aniseed, cherry etc.), the famous poncha drink, ginjinha (liqueur made by infusing ginja berries (sour berries) in aguardente [firewater]) and served in a chocolate cup, sandes de carne vinho e alho (sandwiches with pork meat marinated in wine and garlic) and much more! Funchal is well worth visiting this time of year!! © MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Angels light up the Cathedral



CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE - Thank you for your support

Every Christmas we are reminded, in the midst of plenty, that for many families in Madeira, Christmas is a continuing time of scarcity and struggling to survive. We are collecting toiletry items (soaps, lotions, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, etc.) and also non-perishable food items (tinned goods, condensed milk, coffee, tea, jams, condiments etc.) for less fortunate families. Items may be placed in the basket at the entrance of the church at the 10am Mass on Sunday mornings or deposited at Moynihans bar which is just up the road from the Chapel. Thank you to all of you who have donated so far! Your gift will be making a difference to a needy family this Christmas!



Food Basket at the Chapel Door

