



"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

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](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

11th of December 2022

3rd 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)



CAPELA DE NOSSA SENHORA DA  
PENHA DE FRANÇA  
BOA VISTA FUNDADA



### CATHOLIC MASS - IN ENGLISH - IN MADEIRA

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. The 10am Mass this morning will be celebrated by **Fr. Joseph Arun**. A Mass in Portuguese will be celebrated at 11:30am.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Isaiah 35:1-6,10; Psalm 145(147); James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11*)

To encourage and console all whose confidence in God falters, **Isaiah** continues his triumphal vision of the peace that will come from God, when those ransomed by the Lord will go to Zion, singing God's praises. It was written in Babylon shortly after 540 BC, when the Persian king Cyrus had unexpectedly authorised Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem. Isaiah's portrayal of the people's expectant joy was later seen by Christians as a foretaste of the peace Jesus Christ will bring.

**The Psalm** praises the goodness of God who keeps his covenant promises

The letter attributed to **James**, probably the brother of the Lord, the leader of the Jerusalem Church, was written late in the first century. It is full of pastoral advice and warnings against riches and presumption. Religion is not a private matter – the Christian community is in a covenant relationship with God, and our faith in God must be visible in love of our neighbour. We must patiently practise our faith, not swearing but letting our "yes" mean "yes", leaving justice to God.

In **Matthew's Gospel**, Jesus fulfills Isaiah's vision – he is already enabling the blind to see, the lame to walk – his kingdom is already coming into being. But this deputation from John the Baptist in prison introduces two chapters describing growing opposition to Jesus by the Jewish leaders.

### PSALM RESPONSE: Come, Lord, and save us.

[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** - "Amazing Grace..." - n. 32

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

**Peace** - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495

**Communion** - "I am the bread of life ..." - n. 237

**Thanksgiving** - "Give thanks with a grateful heart..." - n. 164

**Final** - "O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder..." - n. 419



Advent  
A Season of Hope  
& Expectation



## ABOUT THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF PENHA DE FRANÇA:



Photo of the Chapel from the 1800s, showing the peak on which it was built. Photo credit: from the facebook page: *Madeira Quase Esquecida*

Many tourists and visitors who come here for Mass on Sunday mornings often ask about the history of the Chapel... so today we decided to write a little bit about it for those who would like to know a little bit more. This small chapel was founded by Antonio Dantas in 1622 (400 years ago!) It was originally built to minister to the soldiers of the small garrison at the *Pontinha* Redoubt (*stronghold*) in the bay of Funchal, but the Chapel soon became so famous a shrine that people came to it on pilgrimage from all parts of the Island. When the Diocese of Funchal took possession of the chapel it was used as the Bishop's Summer Residence for many years. In the meantime, the Franciscans had been coming to Madeira to carry out apostolic duties, and in 1935, they founded the Franciscan

Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, at the request of Bishop D. Antonio Ribeiro. The Chapel was reconstructed in 1712 and further enlarged around 1880. From 1935 to 2015, the Franciscans based their Franciscan Residence of Our Lady of Penha de França here, and in March 2015 they moved to the former convent of São Bernardino in the town of Câmara de Lobos. The Chapel reverted back to the Diocese of Funchal at that time.



### The English Mass is a tradition that dates back to

1966, when Father Rafael Andrade, having just returned from his first visit to England, complied with the Bishop's request to start an English celebration. Fr Rafael presided over this mass for over 30 years, when he had to stop in 1999 due to overlapping duties. Father Rafael passed away on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021 at the age of 86.

From 1999 to 2007 there was no Catholic mass in English in Madeira, until it began again on the first Sunday of Lent in February 2007.

Father Bernardino Andrade was appointed as the English Mass priest at that time. He began celebrating Mass on Sunday mornings at 10:00am and still continues to this day! Father Bernardino was born and grew up in Madeira but has worked as a Priest in both Mozambique and, for many years, in California, before his return to Madeira.



Fr. Vitor, who was our Chaplain for 6 years (from 09/10/2016 to 30/09/2022)



Fr. Carlos, appointed as the new Chaplain on 01/10/2022

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016 a Chaplain, Fr. Vitor Sousa, was appointed to the Chapel.

Six years later, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2022, Fr. Carlos Almada was appointed to take over as the new Chaplain while Father Vitor continues his ministry as the priest in the parishes of *Monte* and *Terreiro da Luta* churches.



Fr. Bernardino, our appointed priest for the Sunday morning English mass service

## “MISSA DO PARTO” (CHILD BIRTH MASS) – A Madeiran tradition

In Madeira Island, the «*Missas do Parto*» (Child Birth Masses), are one of the most popular and old traditions that mobilize the entire population on their journey of preparation for Christmas.

Nine days before Christmas (starting on December 16th), these traditional «Child Birth Masses» are celebrated in every Parish around the Island very early in the morning, usually between 5am and 6am! These Masses are held every morning for 9 days, ending on the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup>. Traditional Christmas hymns are sung, and after Mass there is a social outside the church with different goodies to eat and share, different musical instruments playing and people singing and socializing.



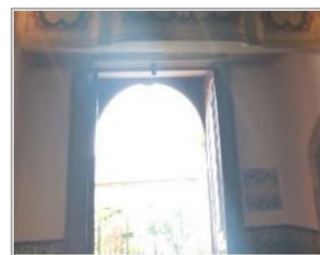
## STATUE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES - Here in the Chapel



February 11 is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, one of the most famous apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary that took place in southern France. **Here in the Chapel**, a little above and behind the altar, you will see a **statue of Our Lady of Lourdes** set in a “cave”, with St. Bernadette kneeling at her feet. This statue was offered to Bishop D. Manuel Agostinho Barreto (Bishop of Funchal from 1877-1911) who lived permanently here at Penha de França during the 34 years of his pontificate.

This bishop had the altar adapted to receive the image of Our Lady of Lourdes, the first of the island, which was offered in 1878 by the French citizen *M. Goubeaux* who lived in Madeira.

## THE LEGEND OF OUR LADY OF PENHA DE FRANÇA



At the entrance door of the Chapel, if you look upwards, just above your head you will **see a painting of a sleeping man**, with an alligator waiting to attack him. This has to do with a legend, which tradition has it that a **pilgrim, on the road to the shrine of Our Lady of Penha de França in Lisbon**, stopped by the way and **fell into a deep sleep of exhaustion**. Whilst he slept, a fearsome reptile was about to devour him, when Our Lady, surrounded by an aura of light, appeared upon the hilltop and awakened the pilgrim, warning him of the danger. The beast was slain, and the hide carried to the church in Lisbon. Without the head, it measured 14 hands, and was covered in thick greenish black scales. Stuffed with straw, it was on view in the church there until 1739, when it had to be removed owing to its dilapidated condition. At the foot of any statue of our Lady of Penha de França you will always see a sleeping man and an alligator to represent this legend.

