

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 Contreras, 60 Meeks Ln., Oakley, CA 94561. Tel. 707-333-5501

Email: la.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: la.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

18th of December 2022

4th 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent.** The 10am Mass this morning will be celebrated by Fr. Joseph Arun. The special intentions of today's Mass are for: (1) the soul of Manuel Gomes Sebastiao who passed away 8 years ago today (2) for the soul of João Domingos Grotá, on the 1-year anniversary of his passing, and (3) for the soul of Karen Matthews who passed away two months ago on the 12th of October 2022. In your prayers this week, please also remember Fr. Bernardino who is in the hospital.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23(24); Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24)

First **Isaiah** was writing before 700 BC, when Judah was under attack. Isaiah promises that a time of peace will come when Israel returns to living simply, with no riches to make others envious. But only if they keep their faith in God. Without being asked, God gives King Ahaz a sign of his support: a young woman will bear a son, to be named Emmanuel, "God with us". Israel will still suffer. But a remnant of David's house will survive, like the stump of a fallen tree. After praising God's universal dominion, the **Psalm** gives moral requirements for assisting at divine worship. Paul begins his letter to the Jewish Christian community in Rome very carefully. They did not know him, so he assures them that he shares their beliefs, especially that Jesus, a descendant of David, is the Christ, proclaimed Son of God through his resurrection. Before **Matthew** describes Jesus' birth, he lists 42 ancestors linking Jesus firmly with Abraham, David and Israel's kings. The list includes four women, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah. Through their unconventional behaviour, a remnant of David's line survived, reminding us of the important roles women have always played in God's plan.

PSALM RESPONSE: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

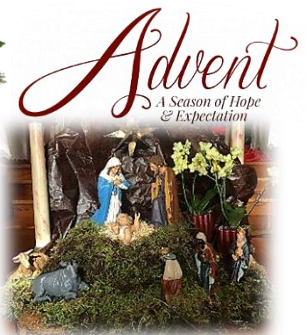
The Scripture notes are sent to us every week by **Chris Oliver from the UK**. If you'd also like to have these sent to you by email or included in your parish newsletter, please contact Chris at: chris@chris-oliver.net

www.bible-groups.info



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "Kum ba yah, my Lord..." - n. 302
Offertory - "Take our bread, we ask you..." - n. 528
Peace - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495
Communion - "Christ, be our light! ..." - n. 329
Thanksgiving - "Silent night, holy night..." - n. 498
Final - "Come, Lord Jesus, come..." - n. 104



FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART



Last Sunday during Mass we prayed for Father Bernardino who is ill and in the hospital. A small book was left in the social room where people could write some "Get Well" messages for Father. The messages were given to Father that afternoon when we visited him in the hospital. He was so pleased and happy to see everyone's messages, and wishes to thank everyone who took the time to write him a little note.



We know that Father would have liked to share with you a special Christmas message, but as he is ill, we are reprinting his column from last year's newsletter:

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»

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

Fr. Bernardino Andrade (printed in the newsletter on 19/12/2021)

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE - Thank you for your support



We were overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone who donated for our Christmas hamper drive.

We collected enough goodies to make up 11 bags which will be distributed through our people helping people Charity to needy folk this Christmas.

A big thank you to everyone for your support!



NIGHT OF OPEN DOORS



On December 23rd, the evening of the traditional Madeiran "Noite do Mercado" (market night) between 18:30 and 19:30, the Sé cathedral will have its doors open. Between **18:30 and 19:00** there will be Christmas carols and the recently restored ceiling will be illuminated. All are welcome !

MASS SHEET DONATION

Last week Sunday we were blessed to receive two brand new packs of Mass Sheets for our Chapel !!

The Mass sheets seem to disappear from our Chapel, so these were gratefully received. 😊

Many thanks to Veronica and Peter Benjamin for donating these.



O good St. Nicholas, you who are the joy of the children, put in my heart the spirit of childhood, which the gospel speaks, and teach me to seed happiness around me.

You, whose feast prepares us for Christmas, open my faith to the mystery of God made man.

You good bishop and shepherd, help me to find my place in the Church and inspire the Church to be faithful to the gospel.

O good Saint Nicholas, patron of children, sailors and the helpless, watch over those who pray to Jesus, your Lord and theirs, as well as over those who humble themselves before you.

Prayer to St. Nicholas

Bring us all in reverence to the Holy Child of Bethlehem, when true joy and peace are found. Amen.

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