

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: 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

25th of December 2022

Christmas - The Nativity of the Lord - Year A

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..

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS - IN ENGLISH - IN MADEIRA

Good morning! Merry Christmas!

Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. The 10am Mass this morning will be celebrated by Fr. Joseph Arun.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Midnight): Isaiah 9:1-7; Psalm 95(96); Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

(Dawn): Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 96(97); Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

(Day): Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 97(98); Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18



Around 720 BC Judah was threatened by many enemies. **Isaiah** advised the kings to stand firm, because the Lord would give a sign: "the maiden shall be with child". The birth of a helpless baby gives hope for the future. But this future must be founded on justice and integrity. Early Christians adopted these words as a marvellous way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. All three **Psalms** invite all creation to praise God as king and judge, for he alone is God and he will make all things right. Written over 60 years after Jesus' birth, Paul summarises the gospel to **Titus**: a compassionate God chose to offer us the free gift of being "at one" with him. But God's revelation of salvation in Christ demands we transform our lives and "give up everything that does not lead to God". The reading from **Hebrews** tells us that God has spoken to us through his son, who is "the perfect copy of his nature". **Luke** places the birth of the Christ firmly in time and space. Jesus was a man born miraculously to a virgin in Bethlehem in Judea. The peace and quiet of the undercroft, where animals gave warmth, must have been a welcome relief for Mary, after the noise and bustle of the inn. The simplicity of Jesus' birth is important: God comes as a vulnerable baby to draw us into a relationship with him. The royal birth announcement was sent not to royalty, but to poor shepherds, outcasts excluded from Temple worship by their occupation. Joseph, of the house of David, named Jesus as his son. Jesus lived in history, growing up in Nazareth in Galilee. By the time **John's gospel** was written, Christians had come to realise that Jesus had existed as the Word of God before time began. So John's prologue seeks to describe the complexity of the creator becoming part of his own creation.

PSALM RESPONSE:

(Midnight): **Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.**

(Dawn): **This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.**

(Day): **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**



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

FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART



Father Bernardino is still in the hospital this week, but slowly getting better, and hopes to be going home very soon!
On this Christmas day he wishes everyone a blessed and Merry Christmas.

If you'd like to send a message to Father to brighten his day, he does check his emails. You can message him at:

bernardinodandrade@gmail.com



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry - "The first Noel..." - n. 541
Gloria - "Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo..." - n. 669
Offertory - "O come, all ye faithful..." - n. 394
Peace - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495
Communion - "Silent Night, holy night..." - n. 498
Thanksgiving - "Dorme Dorme..."
Final - "Joy to the world!..." - n. 292
After the Final song - "Feliz Navidad"



THE BEAUTIFUL POLISH TRADITION OF BREAKING BREAD – On Christmas Eve

In many Polish homes throughout the world, a family tradition is the breaking of the *oplatek* on Christmas Eve. The *oplatek* (pronounced opwatek) is a thin wafer made of flour and water, similar in taste to the hosts that are used for communion during Mass. These wafers are stamped with elaborate Christmas scenes. On Christmas Eve, the family eagerly awaits the first star in the night sky, recalling the star of Bethlehem that signaled the birth of the Saviour. Once the star has been spotted, the Christmas Eve meal begins. **The father (or eldest member of the family) begins the ceremony by**



An *oplatek* with image of Mary and baby Jesus

taking the *oplatek* and breaking a piece off of it, giving it to his wife. When he does this, he may say what he is thankful for, wish her good health, or ask for forgiveness. It's a time to tell each other, 'I love you, I care about you.'

After this, the *oplatek* is then shared with each member of the family in a similar manner, starting with the oldest down to the youngest.

It is a touching ceremony, one that can help heal hurts from the past year. After the breaking of the bread is completed, a small meal is served that



Sharing of the *oplatek*

eagerly anticipates the Midnight Mass, which many Polish families would attend on Christmas Eve. The tradition has survived the test of time and is still celebrated in many parts of the world. It is a beautiful tradition, one that keeps the true "spirit of Christmas," and unites a family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Source: aleteia.org



JUST A LITTLE DONKEY

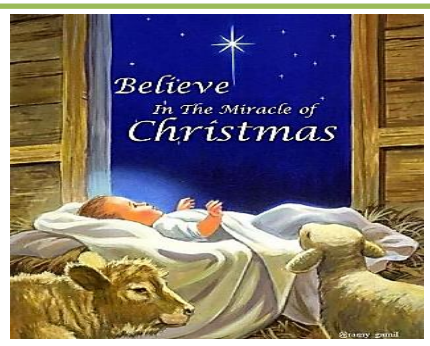
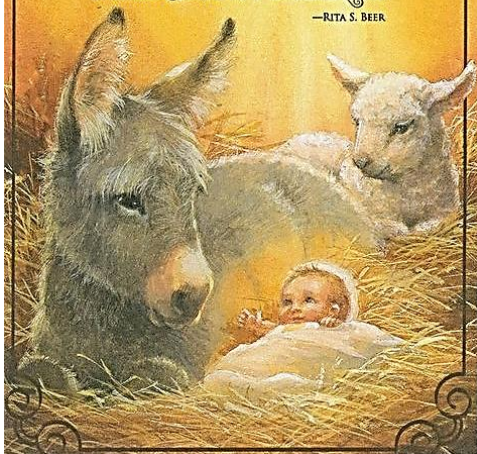
JUST A LITTLE DONKEY,
BUT ON MY BACK I BORE
THE ONE AND ONLY SAVIOR
THE WORLD WAS WAITING FOR.

JUST A LITTLE DONKEY,
BUT I WAS STRONG AND PROUD—
I GLADLY CARRIED MARY
THROUGH THE CHAOS OF THE CROWD.

I BROUGHT HER TO A STABLE
WHERE SHE MADE A TINY BED...
A PLACE FOR BABY JESUS
TO LAY HIS LITTLE HEAD.

I PRAY THE WORLD REMEMBERS
THAT SPECIAL CHRISTMAS NIGHT
WHEN JUST A LITTLE DONKEY
CARRIED HEAVEN'S PRECIOUS LIGHT.

—RITA S. BEER



MY CHRISTMAS CARD

Christmas is when God arrives to the barn.

That's why Christmas is my feast because the barn is me; the cattle is me; the hay is me; the manure is me.

But I receive God. I am capable of God.

Because God who doesn't fit in heaven, wants to come to my barn. That's why Christmas is my feast.

My feast during the entire year.

(a poem by João César das Neves)

- Fr. Bernardino Andrade



Jesus is the
reason for
the season

