

## 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:

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



## JOYFUL GIFT

1st of January 2023

### Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

#### 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! Happy New Year!

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

(Numbers 6:22-26; Psalm 66(67); Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21)

The Book of **Numbers** continues the story of the Israelites during their exodus journey from Mount Sinai until they arrive outside the Promised Land before 1200 BC. It includes this beautiful form of blessing given to Moses by the Lord, one of the oldest and finest pieces of ancient poetry. To "bless" means to pour out the power of life that produces growth, success, fertility and prosperity. The **Psalm** calls on all peoples to recognise and praise the one Lord, who gives us so many gifts. Paul wrote this angry and anguished appeal to the **Galatians** not to forsake the gospel he had taught them. Others were saying that Gentiles had to become Jews to be fully Christian. No, says Paul. The Jewish Law was a temporary disciplinary needed until humanity was mature enough to join God's family. This is now possible through the faith of, and our faith in, God's Son, who was born of a woman and so fully human. In **Luke's Gospel** the coming birth of Jesus was announced to Mary by the Angel Gabriel. She accepted what God wanted of her, but was still a virgin when Jesus was born. So she may have been much helped to understand this strange event by the coming of these shepherds, who confirmed that her son was "Messiah and Lord".

### PSALM RESPONSE: O God, be gracious and bless 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** - "The first Noel..." - n. 541

**Gloria** - "Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo..." - n. 669

**Offertory** - "O come, all ye faithful..." - n. 394

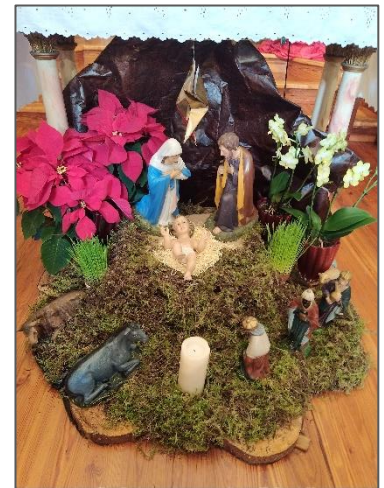
**Peace** - "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - n. 495

**Communion** - "Silent Night, holy night..." - n. 498

**Thanksgiving** - "Dorme Dorme..."

**Final** - "Joy to the world!..." - n. 292

**After the Final song** - "Feliz Navidad"





As many of you know, Father Bernardino has been in the hospital for a few weeks. He is slowly getting better, and hopes to be going home very soon!

Father thanks everyone for their prayers and wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

If you'd like to send a message to brighten his day, he does check his emails. You can email him at: bernardinodandrade@gmail.com



Today we bring you Father Bernardino's column which was printed in our newsletter a few years ago... (on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017):

**THE TWO WOMEN I HAVE LOVED THE MOST**

- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade

1.

**October 15, 1950. It was the day I entered the Seminary** in order to become a priest. I was 12 years old. I came from the country side, one day before, and stayed in Funchal in a friend's house along with my mother. The following day, carrying, on my shoulders, my suitcase, too heavy for a child, I walked in the direction of the seminary's building. My mother walked with me. Her presence was such a support for a fragile child who, for the first time, was leaving his family of 13 members.



Before the moment came to say good-bye she glued a simple image of Mary the Mother of God on the inner part of the suitcase cover. It was a simple image she clipped from a newspaper. It was a very simple and inexpensive gift but her words were powerful: «My son, this is a reminder of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and your mother. I am saying goodbye to you but every time you open the suitcase remember that She is here to protect you. Goodbye, my son».



This happened 66 years ago and since then I have always felt their presence. They have been the two women who have loved me the most and they have been the two women I have loved the most.

Today, January first, the Catholic Church celebrates the SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD who has been and will always be present in my life.

2.

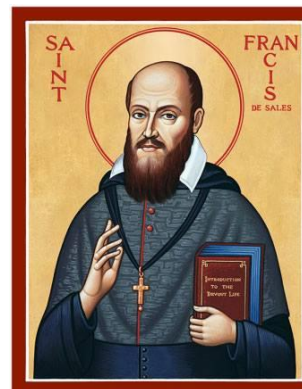
**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**

Many many people use the 1st day of the year to make their so called «New Year's Resolution». Even if we are doomed to fail I would really recommend that everyone would write down one, or two or many resolutions for the New Year. Just check and write down all the areas of

your life that need special attention... that need some change. But for a better guarantee of success try to build a support group that, with non-judgmental love, would help you to be faithful to your resolution or your new plan. «Alcoholics Anonymous» is the best model of a support group. I just learned something that supports this idea, that is: «If you want to be healed look for a person with scars».

Fr. Bernardino Andrade, 1-1-2017

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



Saint Francis de Sales was born in 1567 in Haute-Savoie, France. In 1592 he received his doctorate in law and theology. One year later he was ordained and appointed a provost of the Cathedral Chapter of Geneva. Later he became Bishop of Geneva, but continued to live in what is now modern day France, because Geneva was by then under strict Calvinist control. To counter this, de Sales became a prolific writer and arranged for broadsheets and books to be widely distributed in an effort to halt the prevailing Protestant culture.

He also developed a sign language to teach the deaf.

For all these reasons **he is patron of writers and journalists and also of the deaf.** He died in 1622 and was later styled 'the Gentleman Saint', because of his patience and gentleness. His Feast Day is celebrated on January 24th.

**DIA DE REIS (King's Day) – A tradition in Madeira**

Every year on January 6<sup>th</sup> in Madeira, we celebrate *Dia de Reis* ("King's Day"). According to tradition, it's to celebrate the day when the newborn baby Jesus, the Saviour, the Messiah, receives the visit of the 3 Wise Men from the East. The night before, Madeiran families usually gather together with friends and neighbours, who go out and sing traditional songs door to door.



"Bolo Rei" ("King Cake") is a traditional Portuguese cake that is usually eaten around Christmas, from December 25th until Epiphany, on the 6th January. The cake itself is round with a large hole in the centre, resembling a crown covered with crystallized and dried fruit. It is baked from a soft, white dough, and in some of these



A "fava" (broad) bean, and a figurine hidden in the Bolo Rei cake

cakes there is the characteristic dried "fava" (broad) bean or small Wise Man figurine. Tradition dictates that whoever finds the fava bean or the Wise Man figurine, must pay for next year's cake!

CHRISTMAS FEASTING

### THE SYMBOLIC GIFTS

	<b>GOLD</b> The royal metal; signifies Jesus' Kingship (hence, the gift for a king).
	<b>FRANKINCENSE</b> Symbol of prayer; signifies Jesus as the High Priest/Mediator between God and man (hence, the gift for a priest).
	<b>MYRRH</b> A burial ointment; meaning that Jesus had to die for the salvation of all (hence, gift for one who would die).

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