

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:

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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



JOYFUL GIFT

8th of January 2023 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

Epiphany, 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 - ENGLISH SERVICE

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our

Lady of Penha de França. Our Mass today will be celebrated by Father Joseph Arun. The special intentions of this morning's mass will be for the souls of Carlos Camacho, Aaron Presley, and Trish Duvenhage. And also, special intention for Celeste and Agostinho Caldeira.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

(*Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71(72); Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12*)

Third Isaiah was writing just after the Israelites had returned from exile in Babylon. Participation in the future messianic salvation is offered to all who believe in the Lord and keep his commandments. Isaiah visualises the new Jerusalem, illuminated by God, to which all peoples will stream and a time when their offerings will be acceptable. This is good news for the whole world. **The Psalm** offers coronation wishes to a king – more than an earthly king, and so seen as Messianic. The vision of the universal Church Paul describes in **Ephesians** matches Isaiah's image of the new Jerusalem. Paul sees the Church, led by the Spirit, as Christ's body, part of God's plan for the whole of creation. And Paul joyfully realises that it was always part of God's plan that the gospel message is to be taken to all: Gentiles as well as Jews are to share in the inheritance promised by God. In Luke's Gospel an angel announced Jesus' birth to poor Jewish shepherds, excluded by their occupation from Temple worship. Today we hear **Matthew's** description of Gentile scholars travelling from afar to bring kingly offerings to the new-born child. But they needed the Jewish scriptures to help find him. We too need the Old Testament to help us understand God's plan and what he has done in Jesus for our salvation.

PSALM RESPONSE: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

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 - "We three kings of Orient are..." - n. 616

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

Offertory - Take our bread, we ask you... - n. 528

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

Communion - "This is my body..." - n. 572

Thanksgiving - Silence for reflection

Final - "Take the word of God with you..." - n. 529



FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART



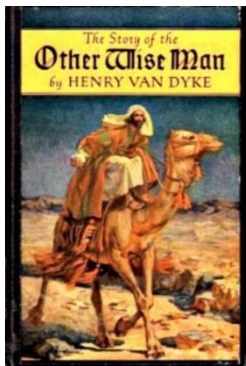
As many of you know, Father Bernardino has been in the hospital for a few weeks... but he is almost well enough to be going home soon!

If you'd like to send a message to brighten his day as he recovers, 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 the Joyful Gift newsletter a few years ago... (on the 14th of January 2018):

ARTABAN THE FOURTH WISE MAN

- Brought to you by Fr. Bernardino Andrade



In 1895, Henry van Dyke wrote "The story of the Other Wise Man", telling of a Fourth Wise Man called Artaban. Our hero is not mentioned in the Gospel because *he missed the caravan*. He got to Bethlehem too late to see the Baby Jesus. But Artaban did make it in time to save one of the Holy Innocents by bribing a soldier.

For 33 years Artaban searched for Jesus. He did not find Jesus, but all the while the Fourth Wise Man fed the hungry and helped the poor. Then one day in Jerusalem Artaban saw the "King of the Jews" being crucified. He started to offer a pearl as ransom. But then he saw a girl being sold into slavery to pay family debts. Artaban gave his pearl to buy freedom for the girl. Suddenly the earth quaked as Jesus died on the cross and a stone struck Artaban. Dying, he heard a Voice saying: « *When you helped the least of my children, you helped me. Meet me in Heaven!* ».

Artaban, the Fourth Wise Man, had been making God present in his community for years by helping others. God asks each of us on the feast of *Epiphany* to be a fourth Wise Man by becoming *God's Epiphanies*, making His love present in the world around us by our acts of love and kindness.

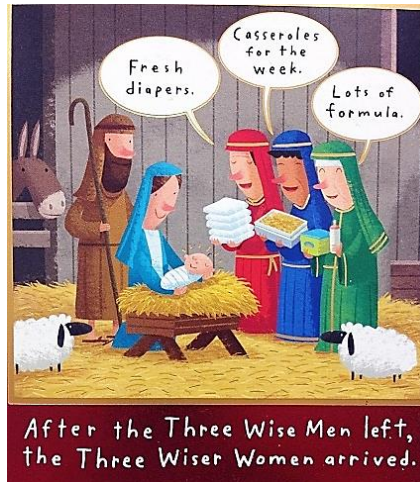
THREE WISE WOMEN

While they were talking about the story of the three wise men, a woman asked her parish priest this question: « *Do you know why God gave the star to the wise men?* » When he professed his ignorance she told him - « *God knows men are too proud to ask directions. If there had been three wise women instead of three wise men, they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and given some practical gifts!* »

God has a sense of humour. Good and healthy people have a sense of humour.

A child's prayer: *Lord make the evil people good and the good people kind.*

Love, Laughter, and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino Andrade (14-01-2018)



POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI : 1927-2022

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope on April 19, 2005, taking the name **Benedict XVI**. Eight years later, on Feb. 11, 2013, he announced that he was resigning from the papacy. For the last 10 years as Pope Emeritus, Benedict has lived a life of prayer and solitude in the Mater Ecclesiae monastery in the Gardens of the Vatican City State. He died



Dec. 31, 2022, at age 95.

His funeral was held on January 5th in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

Yesterday at the Sé Cathedral in Funchal a special Mass was held in remembrance. The Mass was presided by the bishop of Funchal, D.Nuno Brás.



WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2023 – Pope Francis' message to the world



Last week Sunday, besides being the **Festivity of Mary Mother of God** it was also the **56th World Day of Peace**. Every year Pope Francis chooses a theme for that day. The theme this year was "*No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace.*" In his message, Pope Francis said: « **Covid-19 plunged us into a dark night.** It destabilized our daily lives, upset our plans and routines, and disrupted the apparent tranquility of even the most affluent societies.

It generated disorientation and suffering and caused the death of great numbers of our brothers and sisters. » [...] « **Three years later, the time is right to question, learn, grow and allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals and as communities; this is a privileged moment to prepare for "the day of the Lord".** I have already observed on a number of occasions that we never emerge the same from times of crisis: we emerge either better or worse. Today we are being asked: *What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?* » [...] « Certainly, after directly experiencing the fragility of our own lives and the world around us, we can say that **the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another.** That our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. And that none of us can be saved alone.»... You can read Pope Francis' full message on the Vatican's website: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>

"The light of Christ is so clear and strong that it makes the language of the cosmos and of the Scriptures intelligible, so that all those who, like the Magi, are open to the truth can recognize it and join in contemplating the Saviour of the world".

– Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

