



"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

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>> 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 Fr Bernardino (bernardinodandrade@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

3rd of December 2023

First Sunday of Advent - Year B

10h00 Sunday Mass

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 – 10 AM - (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent. Our Mass today will be celebrated by Father Thomas Muzhuthett, who is originally from Kerala, India, and assisted by Deacon Tito Perreira, originally from Madeira, but now living in the UK.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – First Sunday of Advent - Year B

(Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:3-8; Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37)

The reading from third **Isaiah** is part of a prayer written around the end of Israel's exile. Their leaders have been arguing instead of rebuilding the Temple. The prophet recalls God's blessings on Israel in the past, and desperately begs the Lord to come once more in his mercy to the aid of his people, who all now humbly confess their sinfulness. God is our Father, and we are clay, to be formed by his hand. **The Psalm** pleads with God to restore his vineyard, Israel, to its former favour. Especially the northern tribes, threatened by Assyria. Paul's letter to the **Corinthians** was prompted by internal rivalries. He can't stop talking about Jesus. God has now come, giving "all the graces" "through Jesus Christ", and joining us to his Son. Since Vatican II we are blessed by reading all through each gospel in turn. Listening to what each evangelist actually says may help us to sense different Christian communities gradually developing their understanding of Christ. **This Advent we start the year of Mark**, whose gospel is the earliest and shortest. It is the gospel in which no human being recognises or understands Jesus before his death. Today we have Mark's version of "Stay awake!", immediately before Jesus' passion begins.

PSALM RESPONSE: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

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 HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "O Lord, all the world belongs to you ..." - 416
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia..." -
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Come, Lord Jesus, come..." - 104
- [4] **Amen:** "Great Amen..." - 726
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "Glory and praise to our God..." - 166
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "Mary most holy, from your hands falling..." - 364
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Lord, the light of your love is shining..." - 344





BUILDING MY FRIEND'S COFFIN

1.

Death teaches us how to live. This was one of the things that I learned a long time ago and which has affected all my life.

When my colleague, Fr. Tom, became sick it didn't take too long to discover that it was a very serious illness. It was what we call "terminal".

One day I saw him attending a priest's meeting, carried in a wheel chair, and it was obvious to see that his suffering was unbearable. But he was there. Looking at him I saw one of our other colleagues shedding tears.

Finally, he died. It was during the Funeral that we saw him in this coarse coffin (which surprised everybody). And we became even more surprised when one of his close friends informed us that, at Fr. Tom's request, his coffin had been made by four of his friends. It was not a beautiful or expensive coffin but it was a very meaningful «piece of art» with an important message.



2.

The Church celebrates today the first Sunday of Advent and preparation for Christmas. It is also the first Sunday of the Liturgical year. Don't be surprised if you see any priests start Mass today by greeting people with the exclamation «Happy New Year».

The central theme of today's readings is Jesus' warning to us to be alert, watchful and prepared because of Christ's Second Coming coinciding with the end of the world.

Death is a serious invitation to think about death. Death is part of our lives. If we don't understand death, we will never understand life.

Today's Gospel insists: «Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time is come».



3.

MY FUNERAL

My former Diocese of Oakland in California made a request to all priests, including me, that we all would have three things ready to prepare us for death. The first would be our WILL, the second would be our INVENTORY, and the third would be our FUNERAL.

I have already invited two friend priests to, with me, prepare my funeral.

Of course, that more important than these three actions are our relationship with God forever. This is life, this is death, this is Advent, this is Christmas.



But the first reading starts with a comforting statement: «YOU, LORD, YOURSELF ARE OUR FATHER».

Love in Peace

Fr. Bernardino Andrade



03-12-2023



It's not too easy to see, but the official canonization portrait of Mother Teresa (on the left) depicts what's known as the "unity cross" on her rosary. The unity cross is linked to the Schoenstatt movement (a), as it was created by the first generation of Chilean Schoenstatt seminarians who studied in Brazil and Switzerland. The unity cross depicts Jesus on a low cross, enabling Mary to be pressed against him, as she collects his blood in a chalice which is at the

center of the image. The unity cross was first crafted by Fr. Angel Vicente Cerró, when he was a seminarian. It was finished in 1960 and presented at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Bellavista, Santiago, Chile. The original image is now in the Schoenstatt Shrine in Stuttgart, Germany. Monsignor Peter Wolf explains that "Mother Teresa found [a replica of] this cross in the dirt on the street and knew nothing of its history. She discovered it again when she visited the Vatican and saw that it was the pectoral cross of Archbishop Errázuriz, who was then the Secretary of the Congregation for Consecrated Life. Mother Teresa told him that this cross best expressed what she and her community wanted to do: Like Mary to stand by the Cross of the Dying Christ and to meet him there. "As she said goodbye, she asked me if I could get 3,000 crosses because she wanted every Sister of Mercy to have her own. I wanted to give them this gift. I found enough donors and we bought them in Mexico. I sent them to her" said Archbishop Errázuriz in his own words.

(a) The Schoenstatt Movement is a Roman Catholic Marian Movement founded in Germany in 1914 by Father Joseph Kentenich. The movement is named Schoenstatt (which means "beautiful place"), after a small village close to the town of Vallendar near Koblenz in Germany. The Schoenstatt movement emphasizes a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, upholding her as a perfect example of love and purity. It encourages its members to have the faith and purity of children, and to think of Mary as their mother.



CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE – For the needy

Many thanks to all who have so far supported our Christmas Hamper Drive for needy families. Please continue to bring in what you can spare and place in the basket at the entrance of the church (toiletries, food, eg. dried and tinned goods).and sweets for the children.



For those of you who would like to help, but may be going home before Sunday, there is also a small supermarket and coffee shop located next to the Hotel Girassol (along the Estrada Monumental) that has a small collection box. You are welcome to leave donations there towards our Christmas Hamper Drive.

Any queries please contact Debbie de Jesus at: deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk