

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



"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

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

## JOYFUL GIFT

10th of December 2023

Second 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](https://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

[www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](https://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

[penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com)



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### CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM - (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Today is the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

Mass will be celebrated by Father Thomas Muzhuthett, from Kerala, India, and assisted by Deacon Tito Perreira, originally from Madeira, but now living in the UK. **The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass** will be for the soul of **Karen Nicola Matthews**, who passed away last year on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, and for her twin brother **Mark Christopher Matthews** who passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1977 at only one day old. ☩☩

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

(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 84(85):9-10, 11-12, 13-14; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8)

Isaiah celebrates with fulsome praise their God who has enabled the Israelites to return from exile in Babylon. God has cleared the way for their return, just as He led his people during the Exodus from Egypt. Then God was visible in a small area as a pillar of cloud or fire. Now God's work should be shouted throughout the whole world. In the **Psalm** a prophet, after the return from exile, first listens to hear what the Lord has to say, and then reports the joyful happiness revealed to him. **The second letter of Peter**, written probably towards the end of the first century, addressed doubts about when Christ would return in majesty. God patiently guides mankind to the promised land of his kingdom, giving everyone plenty of time to turn to him. But the Day of the Lord **will** come, and it will come to all creation, and when we least expect it. **Mark's gospel** omits any mention of Jesus' early life. It starts with Jesus' coming proclaimed by Isaiah and the Baptist. God was revealed to the Jews during the Exodus and in their return from exile. Now He is revealed to the whole world through his Christ, Jesus, confirmed as God's son at his baptism.

**PSALM RESPONSE:** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

[www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info)

### TODAY'S HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound..." - 32
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Sing hallelujah to the Lord..." - 502
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation..." - 69
- [4] **Amen:** "Honour and glory, amen!..." - 727
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "I am the bread of life..." - 237
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "Give thanks with a grateful heart..." - 164
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "O Lord, my God! When I in awesome wonder..." - 419





**MAY I LOVE YOU, PLEASE?**

I met Jose a few years ago during a Spanish *Cursillo* (a spiritual retreat experience). He had come to California from Nicaragua, was a University professor and a politician. He had enjoyed a «good» life until he was forced to flee the country for serious reasons.



Visiting his family in California, Jose was invited to take part in a three-day *Cursillo*. Jose «had no choice» because his brother-in-law was going to be the Coordinator of the retreat. The only reason he said «yes» was because he felt embarrassed to decline his brother-in-law's invitation. Jose had no faith at all. His last time in church and his last Communion had taken place 40 years before.

The first day of the *Cursillo* was a struggling and painful journey. Then he felt something different. He discovered a «different God». He discovered that «his» God whom he had left behind was not the God of Jesus. On the second day of the *Cursillo* Jose was uncontrollably in love with «his new God», the God of the Bible, the God of Jesus, the God of the Lost Sheep and of the Prodigal Son. Jose was fascinated by the person of Jesus.

I heard his first Confession in 40 years and gave him absolution in the name of God. He felt loved and forgiven and I had the privilege of giving him his First Holy Communion after forty years of absence.

During one of the breaks, he confided to me that the «hardest thing for him to understand was that during these 40 years, God performed so many miracles in his life, and he didn't even believe in Him».

I put my hand on his shoulder, looked in his eyes, and also confided to him: "- Jose... a mother never asks permission from her baby to love him... to help him...to feed him. God will never ask your permission to love you and to help you. God will never ask «May I love you, please? ». That's free. The blessing and the tragedy is that we have the power to say "yes" or "no". The religion of Jesus is a religion of the YES.

Love and Peace,  
Fr. Bernardino Andrade

[bernardinodandrade@gmail.com]



**CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE** – For the needy



**Many thanks** to all who have so far supported our **Christmas Hamper Drive** for our needy families.

A Special thanks to Dixcart Madeira office and all their staff who have donated so generously this year.

**If you would still like to donate, contact Debbie de Jesus at:** deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk



**ADVENT WREATH COLORS & MEANINGS**

The 5 Candles of the Advent Wreath



1

**FIRST SUNDAY**

Prophet's Candle: HOPE

This purple candle represents the HOPE of the prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus.

**SECOND SUNDAY**

Bethlehem Candle: FAITH

This purple candle represents the FAITH of Mary and Joseph as they traveled to Bethlehem.

2



3

**THIRD SUNDAY**

Shepherd's Candle: JOY

This pink candle represents the Joy of the Shepherds upon hearing of Jesus's birth!

**FOURTH SUNDAY**

Angel's Candle: PEACE

This purple candle represents the Angels's song proclaiming that Christ would be the bringer of Peace into a dark world.

4



Please sign our visitor's book in the Social Hall.... leave us your comments, or suggestions, let us know where you're from! ☺



**Tea and Coffee After Mass**

Please join us in the Social Hall across the garden.



**CRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**24/12 - Christmas Eve (Sunday morning). Mass at 10am**



**25/12 - Christmas Day (Monday). Mass at 10am.** Please come and join us for Mass on this holy day.