

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

JOYFUL GIFT

17th of December 2023

Third 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



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CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM - (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning! Today is the 3rd 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.

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

(Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28)

In words used by Jesus to announce that the Messianic era has come, **Isaiah** confidently rejoices that Zion will be restored after the return from exile. It will be the focal point for all peoples, where God will dwell in his renewed creation at the end of time. Everyone will behave with justice. It will be total salvation for God's people – but sinners will receive their just punishment. The response to **Luke's** Magnificat repeats Isaiah: "My whole being shall exult in my God". Paul ends his letter to the **Thessalonians** by emphasising the wholeness of each person's salvation. Simple rules of behaviour enable the new Christian way of living to become automatic: show respect and patience to all. Rejoice and give thanks always, for God is faithful, and will make you "perfect and holy". Last week Mark briefly described the Baptist's announcement of Christ's coming. Today **John** gives us more detail, immediately after the gospel's prologue. The Baptist's answers to his questioners become shorter and shorter, until they ask an open question, to which he replies more fully. John's is the only gospel which sees Jesus as existing before creation. The Baptist testifies that Jesus' identity has been confirmed by God. Baptism appears to be well-known, though Jesus' disciples only started baptising after he had risen.

PSALM RESPONSE: My soul rejoices in my God.

www.bible-groups.info

TODAY'S HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah..." - 302
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Halle, halle, hallelujah!..." - 682
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Take our bread, we ask you..." - 528
- [4] **Amen:** "Great Amen (Deutsche Messe)..." - 726
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "Longing for light, we wait in darkness..." - 329
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "Silent night, holy night..." - 498
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Come, Lord Jesus, come..." - 104





TO BE DIFFERENT IS NOT A PROBLEM BUT A BLESSING

One of the things that most identify people is a *difference*. Fingerprints is one of them. However, we have to admit that *difference* is one of the things that most divide people. It is fascinating to see in our chapel people who belong to different nationalities, different religious beliefs, different accents and a world of diversity, like a garden with different colours.

This next story helps us to understand the value of *difference*:

-"Buddhist gives a Jew a Christmas gift made by a Hindu!"-



Under a cultural exchange programme, a rabbi from Russia was visiting a Christian family in Texas. Since it was Christmas, the family wanted to take him to some of the finest places in Houston, so they all went to a favourite Chinese restaurant.

Throughout the meal, the rabbi extolled the wonders of America in comparison to the bleak conditions of his homeland. When they had finished eating, the waiter brought the cheque, a fortune

cookie, and a small brass Christmas tree ornament as a present for the rabbi. They all laughed when the rabbi pointed out that the ornaments were stamped "made in India."

But the laughter soon subsided when they saw that the rabbi was quietly crying. They all thought that the rabbi must have been offended by receiving a Christmas tree as a gift. But no, he smiled and shook his head and said, "Nyet, I was shedding tears of joy to be in a wonderful country, in a Chinese restaurant in which a Buddhist gives a Jew a Christmas gift made by a Hindu!"



HAPPY BIRTHDAY POPE FRANCIS

Our Holy Father Pope Francis was born on December 17, 1936. Today he is celebrating his 87th Birthday.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The Church celebrates on the 1st of January the World Day of Peace.

THANK YOU FOR THE CARD SHOWER

I have been a priest for 58 years. I never thought that being being a priest was going to be such a difficult and challenging life. However I never thought that being a priest was going to be so such a happy, fascinating and rewarding life too. Everything I do, I do it with love and passion. I don't know if I have been a good priest. But one thing I know. I have been a very happy priest. When I was in California, in one weekend I baptized 22 babies and used to say 7 Masses (three in English, three in Spanish and one in Portuguese). Of course very often I felt tired, but I never felt bored. **I have been sick.** Sometimes very sick. Recently I read in one of the pages of the newsletter a little piece promoting what was called a "Host a Card Shower For a Priest". Because of this I received many greeting cards.

Unfortunately I didn't thank my community individually, which I really apologize. But today I want take advantage of this moment to express my gratitude for this loving shower of cards. **THANK YOU... OBRIGADO**

Love & Peace, Fr. Bernardino

thank you

A PREGNANT MOTHER'S NEED... Can you help?
"While helping people" the priest stated at the chapel to help the poor is one of his people's duties. Many times people are in need of help and he is always ready to help them. This is how he is always ready to help them in a special way. He is always ready to help them in a special way. He is always ready to help them in a special way.

A CARD SHOWER - Surprise Father Bernardino on his birthday!
Host a Card Shower for a Priest!
Let's show them their matters and we really do care!

When you are in a card shower for Father Bernardino, please let him know that you are helping him. He will be very grateful. He will be very grateful. He will be very grateful.

Phone: 9241 1111
Fax: 9241 1111
Address: 9241 1111

In Funchal, the Christmas atmosphere has been felt since December 1st, when the bright festive lights were switched on in the streets of Funchal. Every year it is an amazing experience for both locals and visitors to Madeira Island. Avenida Arriaga (in the city centre) has been the main setting for Folklore groups, and other Christmas festivities. In front of the Cathedral in the centre of Funchal there are 3 large Angel structures which light up at night. Near to the Cathedral you



Angels light up the Cathedral



will find a life-size Christmas nativity scene, with mannequins of animals, the 3 wise men bearing gifts, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. There are also little "huts" selling local traditional products (liqueurs of aniseed, cherry etc.), the famous poncha drink, ginjinha (liqueur made by infusing ginja berries (sour berries) in aguardente [firewater]) and served in a chocolate cup, sandes de carne vinho e alho (sandwiches with pork meat marinated in wine and garlic) and much more!

This year in Funchal there is also an ice-skating rink, and a funfair park has been set up for the children. Funchal is well worth visiting this time of year!! © MERRY CHRISTMAS!

"MISSA DO PARTO" (CHILD BIRTH MASS) – A Madeiran tradition

In Madeira Island, the «*Missas do Parto*» (Child Birth Masses), are one of the most popular and old traditions that mobilize the entire population on their journey of preparation for Christmas. **Nine days before Christmas** (starting on December 16th), these traditional «Child Birth Masses» are celebrated in every Parish around the Island very early in the morning, usually between 5am and 7am! These Masses are held every morning for 9 days, ending on the morning of December 24th. Traditional Christmas hymns are sung, and after Mass there is a social outside the church with different goodies to eat and share, different musical instruments playing and people singing and socializing.



CRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
- Here at Penha Franca Chapel

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.

You can experience one of these Masses yourself (if you are an early riser!) at the **Sé Cathedral** in Funchal. The Masses will start at 7:30 am every day, until the 23rd December. A "Missa do Parto" (childbirth Mass) will also be celebrated **here at the Chapel on Wednesday 20th December at 7:00am.** **The Mass will be celebrated in Portuguese.**



THANK YOU ! – Christmas Hamper Contributions



Some of the items collected for the Christmas Hampers this year

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Christmas hamper drive by bringing in food and toiletry items, gifts of money and organising collection points. We have been truly overwhelmed by the generosity and the hampers and gifts we will give to the families will be very much appreciated.



We would also like to thank the company *Dixcart* and their staff for their generous contributions, and Dona Maria Nobrega for having a collection point at her supermarket "*Mercearia Avô Antonio*".

For more information, or if you'd like to gift a toy to a needy child this Christmas, please contact Debbie (deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk)

Thank you for considering and happy holidays! 🧡🙏🧡

TWO NEW DEACONS –



Seminarians: Diogo Sousa and Tiago Andrade – **will be ordained as deacons** this afternoon. The special Mass will take place **at 5PM** at the **Sé Cathedral in Funchal**.

All are invited to experience this special ordination service.

- **Source:** *Pedras Vivas* bulletin
www.jornaldamadeira.com



MEGA NATIVITY SCENE –

In "*Curral das Freiras*"



The traditional mega nativity scene located in the parish of **Curral das Freiras** was officially inaugurated by the Bishop of Funchal yesterday morning, December 16th and **can now be visited**.

Every Christmas season for the last 20 years, volunteers have been putting together this huge work of art, which is located in the parking lot of the Civic Centre.

It can be visited until the 14th of January, and has an entry fee of 1 Euro.

- **Source:** *Pedras Vivas* bulletin
(www.jornaldamadeira.com/2023/12/16/curral-das-freiras-mega-presepio-celebra-20-anos-e-ja-pode-ser-visitado/)