

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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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

24th of December 2023

Fourth 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. Merry Christmas! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and it's also Christmas Eve.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – 4th Sunday of Advent

(2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Psalm 88(89):2-3, 4-5, 27, 29;

Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38)

After seven years as King of Judah, David was anointed King of all the tribes of Israel. He then captured Jerusalem making it the capital of Israel. Then he increased his power by bringing into Jerusalem the Ark of the Covenant, the Lord's dwelling. But in our first reading the Lord tells David not to build a house for Him, because the Lord will himself build a house – ie a dynasty – founded on David. The long **Psalm**, written during or after the exile, starts by reminding God of this promise to David, before asking God how long before He will fulfill His promise. Paul summarises the Good News: Jesus Christ is the revelation that God intends all humanity to be brought into community with God through faith. We are not justified and saved by the Jewish Law, but by Jesus' faith in his Father and by our faith in Jesus Christ. **Luke** gives us the supreme example of faith: Mary agrees to God's invitation to be the mother of God's Son – the greatest 'Yes' in history! She does not know what might happen – except possibly death by stoning as an unmarried mother. By her faith and trust in God she becomes the first disciple. And God's promise to David is fulfilled.

PSALM RESPONSE: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

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 come, O come, Emmanuel..." - 397
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** (Celtic Alleluia) "Alleluia, alleluia..." - 679
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "O come, all ye faithful..." - 394
- [4] **Amen:** "Honour and glory, amen!..." - 727
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "The first Nowell the angel did say..." - 541
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "Give thanks with a grateful heart..." - 164
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Joy to the world! The Lord is come..." - 292





THE LAST DAY OF ADVENT

A pregnant woman doesn't «wait» a baby

One of the most fascinating things in the world of communication between languages is the “game” of words. For example: In English people “play” football and “play” piano. In Spanish and Portuguese people “play” football and “touch” piano. It would sound cute and funny if people translated it

literally and said “play” piano instead of “touch” piano. The opposite happens with the word “wait” and “expect”.

In Portuguese and Spanish, people “wait” for a bus and a pregnant woman “waits” for a baby. In English, people “wait” for a bus, but a pregnant woman “expects” a baby. This difference is powerful, and for me it is one of the greatest symbols of Advent.

What’s the difference between “waiting” and “expecting”? I think that the biggest difference lies on what people do in between. When people «wait», they do whatever they want just to “kill time”. When a pregnant woman “expects” a baby, she never “kills time”. She is always active, even when she is sleeping. Her body, her thoughts, her emotions are constantly being transformed. She will never be the same woman again.

For me this is a powerful image of Advent.

Christians are not just “waiting” for Christmas, or “waiting” for the Saviour to come to their lives. Christians are “expecting”. And like a pregnant woman, they live in a sense of anticipation, their lives are being transformed. They live a sense of urgency. They know that their lives, their marriages, their families and their communities will never be the same again.

No woman stays the same after she has been touched by the power of a fragile baby. No person stays the same after being touched by the power of a powerful God who became a fragile baby.

During this Advent it’s up to me and to you to choose to just “wait” for Christmas and “kill time”, or “expect” Christmas and live a sense of urgency and transformation through prayer and through the Sacraments and service to the poor.

Today is the last day of Advent. This is the moment. This is the «now» when a big change can happen in our life, and say «yes» to Jesus. After Christmas we will not be the same again because we spent four weeks «expecting» this day.

Happy Advent... Happy journey to Christmas.

Love and Peace,
Fr. Bernardino,
24-12-2023



*Love is on
the way*

* * * * *

*O Amor está
chegando*



MY CHRISTMAS CARD

Christmas is when God arrives to the barn. That’s why Christmas is my feast because the barn is me; the cattle is me; the hay is me; the manure is me. But I receive God. I am capable of God. Because God who doesn’t fit in heaven, wants to come to my barn. That’s why Christmas is my feast. My feast during the entire year. (João César das Neves)

- Fr. Bernardino Andrade

(The original text in Portuguese): *Natal é quando Deus chega à estrebaria. Por isso o Natal é a minha festa, porque a estrebaria sou eu: a palha sou eu; o estrume sou eu. Mas eu recebo Deus. Eu sou capaz de Deus. Até a estrebaria é capaz de Deus. Porque Deus, o Deus que não cabe nos Céus, quer vir à minha estrebaria. Por isso o Natal é a minha festa. A minha festa durante todo o ano.* (Joao Cesar das Neves)



Awaiting Baby Jesus

My heart is beating, filled with joy, awaiting Mary's baby boy. For with this child, we embrace the birth of God's most precious grace. Baby Jesus, soon to come! For to us comes the Promised One. Baby Jesus, God's own Son, you will be the Chosen One to lead our flock into salvation. Our eternal life awaits. The birth of Jesus brings us nearer Heaven's holy gates. Sing with joy and count the days, for soon to come, the Lord we'll praise. Rejoice that Jesus will soon arrive, the Messiah and our faith alive. Amen

Traditional Catholic Advent Prayer

August 19

MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY- 10:00am

Tomorrow, Monday December 25th, there will be a Mass in English here at the Chapel to celebrate Christmas Day.

Time: 10am

Please join us! ☺

