

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:

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

7th of January 2024

Epiphany - 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/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

Instagram: www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

Email: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS – 10 AM (IN ENGLISH)

Good morning. Happy New Year! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. This 10am Mass is the only one on the Island of Madeira that is celebrated entirely in English. Father Thomas Muzhuthett will be celebrating Mass this morning, assisted by Deacon Tito Pereira who has been with us for quite a few Sundays! Today is Deacon Tito's last Sunday with us as he returns home to the UK this week.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Epiphany - Year B

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

Third **Isaiah** was writing after the Israelites had returned from exile in Babylon. Future messianic salvation is offered to all who believe in the Lord and keep his commandments. All peoples will stream to the new Jerusalem with acceptable offerings. **The Psalm** offers good wishes to a king, perhaps at a coronation. But the king is so idealised that only the Messiah could match these expectations. The vision of the universal Church Paul describes in **Ephesians** matches Isaiah's image of the new Jerusalem. The Church, Christ's body, led by the Spirit, is part of God's plan for the whole of creation. Paul joyfully realises that taking the gospel message to all was always part of God's plan: Gentiles as well as Jews are to share equally 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. God's plan is already being made known beyond Israel. But the scholars needed the Jewish scriptures to help find Jesus. 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.

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 www.bible-groups.info

TODAY'S HYMNS:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "We three kings of Orient are..." - 616
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Halle, halle, hallelujah!..." - 682
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Take our bread, we ask you..." - 528
- [4] **Amen:** "Amen, amen..." - 726
- [5] **Peace:** "Shalom, my friend, shalom..." - 495
- [6] **Communion:** "This is my body, broken for you..." - 572
- [7] **Thanksgiving:** "O Lord, hear my prayer..." - 418
- [8] **Final Hymn:** "Take the word of God with you as you go..." - 529





OUR CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE

- By: Alexandre Silva

(alex.lupus@gmail.com)

This Christmas, with the guidance of Mrs Debbie and with the help of Dixcart company, the Penha de França Chapel community has raised another wonderful gift for our needy families!

Once again you outdid yourselves with your compassion, care and generosity, and thanks to you, our needy families had a wonderful Christmas filled with joy and warmth!

I'm sure there's no need to explain the importance and meaning of Christmas, so for these families that go through so many hardships and uncertainty to be able to spend Christmas time without worrying about their next meal, and enjoying the holiday with each other, is truly like a miracle. A miracle that was made possible thanks to your kindness and willingness to not look away from those suffering, but extend your help to them instead.



Some of the Christmas Hampers ready for distribution to our needy families

On behalf of PHP (*People Helping People*) and all our families, thank you from the bottom of my heart not only for this special gesture, but also for the generosity you graced us with during this past year.

I believe these were the best Christmas hampers we ever provided our families with, and our donors are the ones that make it possible for PHP to help so many lives. Without all the help you give us, our families would not be able to spend Christmas in joy, some of them might not even be with us anymore, so we truly thank you for all you've done for them!

Whether we're the ones helping or the ones in need of help, here's to a New Year filled with happiness and joy for all of us!



Debbie and Carla, hard at work, preparing all the Christmas Hampers for the families

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As some of you may already know, Fr. Bernardino is now hospitalized, in a coma due to a stroke. The doctors say that he should be kept in coma at the very least until early this week, but it may take more time. I'll try to keep you updated in these difficult times.

Please keep him in your prayers.

- Alexandre Silva

06-01-2024



Fr. Bernardino at Mass last Sunday (31/12/2023), thanking Debbie for organizing the Christmas Hamper Drive, and everyone for their generosity.

"DIA DE REIS" (King's Day) – A tradition in Madeira



Every year on January 6th in Madeira, we celebrate "Dia de Reis" (in English: "King's Day"). According to tradition, it's to celebrate the day when the newborn baby Jesus, the Saviour, the Messiah, receives the visit of the 3 Wise Men from the East. The night before, Madeiran families usually gather together with friends and neighbours, who go out and sing traditional songs door to door. "Bolo Rei" (in English: "Kings Cake") is a traditional Portuguese cake that is usually eaten around Christmas, from December 25th until Epiphany, on the 6th January. The cake itself is round with a large hole in the centre, resembling a crown covered with crystallized and dried fruit. It is baked from a soft, white dough, and in some of these cakes there is the characteristic dried "fava" (broad) bean or small Wise Man figurine. Tradition dictates that whoever finds the fava bean or the Wise Man figurine, must pay for next year's cake!



PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS – Let us pray for them - By: Sharon Brearley



Dear Friends, I share with you an extract (below) from Tuesday's edition of the Catholic publication The Pillar. at a time when war is raging in many parts of our world, hundreds of Christians are being targeted, persecuted and killed because of their Faith:

"Hundreds of Nigerian Christians were killed in a three-day "Christmas" massacre last month across 20 villages in the country's Plateau State. * Nicaragua has increased its crackdown on clerics, arresting several priests in recent weeks, along with a bishop. * The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has said in recent weeks that Palestinian Christians have faced attacks during Israel's war against Hamas. And violence against Christians intensified in some regions of India during 2023. * In 2024, the persecution of Christians around the world is sure to continue, and could well be worsening...". Such terrible suffering- and what immense courage they must need. Let us pray for them and call upon our networks, communities and parishes to raise their voices and our collective prayers on behalf of our brothers and sisters.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2024



On Monday, 1st of January 2024, the Church celebrated the Feast of Mary Mother of God. It

was also the 57th World Day of Peace. Every year Pope Francis chooses a theme for that day. The theme this year was "Artificial Intelligence and Peace." You can read the Pope's full message on the Vatican's website:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>

