

## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE (PHP)



People Helping People is a small project founded in the Chapel of Penha de França by the late Father Bernardino Andrade 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...

"Loneliness hurts. It is in the bitterest hours that someone's presence makes the most difference." – from the author, José Luís Nunes Martins, in his book: "Luz" ("Light").



### PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

**EUROPE:** Alexandre Silva, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.  
Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com / penhafranca.php@gmail.com



"You should wash each other's feet" (John 13:14).

### >> 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: sineadmoynihnan7@icloud.com

When making any donation, please send an email to [penhafranca.php@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.php@gmail.com) with the date, and name on the transfer so that Alexandre Silva is able to confirm that the transfer has been received. Thank you.



### Tea and Coffee

After Mass  
Please join us in the Social Hall across the garden for a cup of coffee and a chat. And a piece of home-baked cake!

Please sign our Visitor's book in the Social Hall..... leave us your comments, or suggestions, let us know where you're from! ☺ We also have a map where you can place a pin on where you are visiting us from! ☺



Our Social Hall has a Free Little Library: a cabinet full of books. You're welcome to take a book, borrow a book, leave one in exchange, or even bring in some books that you have lying around that you no longer want. ☺



Receive this newsletter by email every week. Email us at: [penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com) to be added to the newsletter distribution list, or download them from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org)

## JOYFUL GIFT

1st December 2024 – 10h00 Sunday Mass

1st Sunday of Advent, Year C

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França,  
Rua Penha de França 3, Funchal, Madeira

**Website and Blog:** <http://rcmassmadeira.org/>

**f** [www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel](http://www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel)

**ig** [www.instagram.com/capela\\_penha\\_franca/](http://www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/)

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



### THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

**Good morning!** Today we start the new Liturgical Year with the first Sunday of Advent. The English Mass is a tradition that dates back to 1966, when Fr Rafael Andrade, having just returned from his first visit to England, complied with the bishop's request to start an English celebration. Father Rafael presided over this mass for over 30 years, when he had to stop in 1999 due to overlapping duties. For 8 years there was no English language Mass in Madeira, until it began again on the first Sunday of Lent in 2007. Fr Bernardino Andrade was our appointed priest and served faithfully until this year when he sadly passed away on January 18th. Since then we are blessed to have the English mass continue with Father Joseph Arun and Father Thomas Muzhuthett.

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 1st Sunday of Advent – Year C

(*Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 24(25); 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*)

A few weeks ago, we heard **Jeremiah** promising the deliverance of his people. This week he describes how this hope will be realised, even though Jerusalem and the Temple had been destroyed. A descendant of David will bring honesty, integrity and security to Israel. Jeremiah's complex writings changed Jewish expectations from a single Day of Judgement to a gradual process: an initial time of suffering, then an in-between period. This was identified by early Christians as now, after Christ's death had inaugurated the New Covenant, while we await the promised completion in Christ's second coming. These rather mild verses from the **Psalm** fail to show its directness: "In your kindness, recall me - You". The earliest New Testament writing, Paul wrote this first letter to the **Thessalonians** from Corinth, probably in 51 AD, where Timothy had brought news of the Thessalonian church's progress. Paul prays that the Lord should increase their love for one another, exhorting them to show this love by leading moral lives. We are starting the year of **Luke**, but the gospel for the beginning of Advent is from the end of Jesus' ministry, where he warns us to be ready for the end times. Every one of us faces an end time, and we must live our lives as if it comes today.

- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. ([www.bible-groups.info](http://www.bible-groups.info))

**PSALM RESPONSE:** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

By: Fátima Cátia Marques

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Christmas is coming" – n.º 90
- [2] **Penitential Act:** "Lord, have mercy..." – n.º 663
- [3] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Aleluia"
- [4] **Offertory Hymn:** "Kumbayah" – n.º 302
- [5] **Sanctus:** "Scarborough fair Sanctus" – n.º 707
- [6] **Agnus Dei:** "Lamb of God" – n.º 733
- [7] **Communion Hymn:** "Make way, make way" – n.º 360
- [8] **Thanksgiving:** Instrumental
- [9] **Final Hymn:** "We are marching" – n.º 602





### REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I remember a summer many years ago when my uncle, who lived in *Calheta*, told me to get ready because we were going to *Estrela*, or "Star" in English. I often spent time in my uncle's house during the summer months, relishing the time spent away from downtown Funchal where I was from. The countryside was so different. I didn't know exactly where *Estrela* was, but I instinctively sensed it was going to be high up in the mountains. In Portugal, the name "*Estrela*" is often used for places that are perched high above, much like the famous *Serra da Estrela* on the mainland.

**Stars have always held a special place in my heart.** They seem so permanent, so fixed in the sky, and I've always admired how they guide us. They were crucial for the first settlers to navigate between the mainland and the Madeiran Archipelago, guiding them through the darkness. There is something deeply comforting about their steady presence.

Yet, when I reflect on today's Gospel, I'm struck by the apocalyptic message Jesus gives, speaking of the heavens being shaken. The thought of the cosmos being unsettled by such an event is unsettling. Stars, which I associate with constancy and guidance, seem to be under threat in this image. But on deeper reflection, I realise that this message is not one of despair or fear. Instead, it points to something profoundly positive.



In his incarnation, Jesus already shook the entire cosmos. The eternal, unchanging God entered our broken world, and through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, everything that once seemed beyond our reach was touched. The stars may appear to tremble, but they are simply the outward expression of a reality where everything has been transformed by the presence of God. **The heavens are not falling apart; they are being renewed, made whole again through Christ.**



This perspective turns the apocalyptic imagery on its head. **Instead of provoking fear, it should fill us with hope.** Hope that even in the face of disaster, we are not abandoned. Even

when our world is shaken by trials, crises, or personal loss, we can find strength in knowing that Christ's presence has already changed everything, even death itself, the final enemy.

Advent is a time to deepen our awareness of this truth, to prepare ourselves to welcome Christ anew this Christmas. It invites us to open our hearts to the hope of his coming again, both in the final fulfilment of all things and in the midst of our everyday struggles. Even when our own lives are shaken, Christ is there, offering us his peace and his love, guiding us just as the stars once did for the early sailors.

As we begin this season of Advent, may we embrace the hope that Christ brings, and allow it to transform our hearts, preparing us for his coming not just at Christmas, but at every moment when we encounter his loving presence in the midst of our shaken world.

With prayers and best wishes,  
*Revd. Tito Pereira*



### THE ADVENT SEASON HAS ARRIVED

**What is Advent?** It is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin term "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming", particularly the arrival of something or someone of great significance. This is the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. Christians use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.



**Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent,** and it is also the beginning of the

new Liturgical year (Year C). The advent wreath is a popular symbol of the Advent season. It is usually made up of evergreen branches or boughs placed in a circle, and topped with four candles.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the wreath is blessed and one candle is lit (usually a purple candle). Every Sunday, for the next 3 weeks, another candle is lit until all four candles are burning brightly.



### CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE

– During November & December



This year, as customary, we will be making up **Christmas boxes for needy families** we support under the auspices of our *People Helping People* Charity.

We are collecting hygiene products (e.g. lotions, body wash, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.), and dried and tinned goods (tins of fruit, tuna, beans, dried nuts and

fruit, rice and pasta, etc.). Please place your offerings in the **basket at the entrance of the church.**



Any queries contact **Jane House** at: [janelh1945@gmail.com](mailto:janelh1945@gmail.com)



### SALE OF CHRISTMAS CRAFT ITEMS - December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Next Sunday,** we will have a **Christmas Craft stall** at the Chapel after Mass. Handmade Christmas items **by volunteers will be on sale.** These include Christmas Crackers, wreaths, hand painted glass bottles with lights or a candle, tree decorations - all

hand painted, crochet doilies, crochet hats, eco reusable cloth bags made from fabric scraps, ribbon art hair clips, etc. **As a guide to price:** crackers are €2 each, bottles €8, wreaths are €12. Everything else is for a donation of the person's choice, and the proceeds from the sale will be divided between *People Helping People* and another Charity. Thank you for your support! 😊

