



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...

"The poor are people, they have a face, a story, a heart and a soul. They are brothers and sisters with their values and faults like everyone else and it is important to establish a personal relationship with each one of them" – Pope Francis



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS:

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



>> 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

When making any donation, please send an email to 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

Join us across the garden for a cup of coffee, cake, and a chat!

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. 😊



JOYFUL GIFT

15th December 2024 – 10am Sunday Mass

3rd 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

ig www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

✉ penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



THE CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Today we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as **Gaudete Sunday**. We are blessed to have mass in English celebrated every week by Father Joseph Arun and Father Thomas Muzhuthett, both originally from Kerala, India.

✠✠ **The special intentions** of this morning's Holy Mass will be for the departed souls of Francisco de Nobrega and Julia de Ponte, and also for the departed souls of Charles Johnson, Eunice Johnson, Helen Johnson, and Adrian Johnson (Father, Mother, Sister and Brother) who were passengers on flight TAP 425 727-200 (CS-TBR) and who came to rest in peace in Madeira following the tragic accident at Madeira's Santa Catarina Airport, Santa Cruz, on November 19, 1977. ✠✠✠✠

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 3rd Sunday of Advent

(*Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Isaiah 12; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 10-18*)



About 600 BC **Zephaniah** preached that Judah's idolatry would lead to a "day of wrath". But the Lord "is in your midst" and will mercifully spare a holy remnant.

Jerusalem will finally enjoy the peace and joy of the Day of the Lord celebrated in this song, and recalled by Luke: "the Lord is with you". Before 700BC first **Isaiah** prophesied that idolatry and social injustice would bring about the destruction of the northern kingdom Israel. But, he said, "a shoot shall spring from the root of Jesse" bringing justice to the world, and he celebrated this rescue with today's Psalm. After instructing the **Philippians** in right moral behaviour and community living, Paul encourages them to look forward to the Lord's coming with confidence that the peace of God will come to them. They should celebrate publicly their joy in the Lord, but not so exuberantly that others are offended or put off. They should always show kindness to all. **Luke's gospel** continues from last week with the moral teaching preached by John the Baptist before Jesus started his ministry. Repentance must include conforming to God's justice. But John insists that he is not the Messiah, who is coming and will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

- Brought to you by: Chris Oliver. (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC: *By: Larysa Makarova*

Entry: O come, O come, Emmanuel - 397

Offertory: When the angel came to Mary - 626

Communion: Let us break bread together- 318

Final: Colours of day dawn into the mind - 93





Last Sunday morning, December 8th, Father Marcos Gonçalves, who is Vicar General of the Diocese of Funchal, visited our Chapel.

He left a special message for everyone in the community, which we share with you below:



Good morning, everyone.

It's a joy to be here and to see this chapel, which is so beautiful and becomes even more beautiful when it's filled with so many hearts who are here to welcome God into their own hearts.



I would also like to thank the priests of the Carmo Church, the Carmelite priests, Father Thomas and Father Joseph, who come here with great generosity to celebrate Mass in English.

And since I can't be here all the time, I'd like Manny to continue as the person in charge of the chapel. He will liaise with me. So, any problems, any doubts, any uncertainties, just ask him and then he will get in touch with me and we will work it out in dialogue.

Manny has been here for so many years, what better person to be here with you, to welcome you, as he has done so well. I have nothing but gratitude that we can continue to count on him.

And just to finish, I would like to wish you all a good day and a good journey in preparation for Christmas. We all love seeing the nativity scenes. Make the nativity crib in your homes but don't forget to make your heart the most beautiful crib where God can be born.



Thank you for your attention and a happy Sunday and a good celebration of the Eucharist to everyone.

- Translated from the message given in Portuguese by Father Marcos Gonçalves last Sunday at Mass



THE 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as *Gaudete Sunday*, is a day of **joy and hope** as we anticipate the coming of Christ. The word *Gaudete* means "rejoice," and the liturgical colour shifts to rose to reflect the lighter mood in this season of preparation.

In the readings for today, we are invited to embrace joy and trust in God's promises. The prophet Zephaniah proclaims: "*Rejoice and exult with all your heart... The Lord, your God, is in your midst*" (Zephaniah 3:14-17). Similarly, St. Paul encourages us: "*Rejoice in the Lord always*" (Philippians 4:4-7). In the Gospel, John the Baptist challenges us to prepare for Christ's coming through acts of charity, justice, and simplicity (Luke 3:10-18).

This sense of rejoicing and preparation ties beautifully to the Madeiran tradition of the "*Missas do Parto*": A novena of Masses which begin 9 days before Christmas and typically celebrated at 6am! These Masses are moments of joyful anticipation, rooted in community and faith. They embody the message of *Gaudete Sunday*.



Like the joyous songs and hymns of "*As Missas do Parto*", **this Sunday reminds us that God's presence is not distant but very near.** The masses' joyful atmosphere reflects the joy we're called to experience as we await the birth of Christ. The act of gathering before dawn shows faith and dedication, celebrating the light that overcomes the darkness.

John the Baptist's call to repentance and action mirrors the reflective and preparatory nature of these Masses. The nine days leading to Christmas symbolise a journey, just as Advent invites us to journey spiritually toward Christ. Like Mary, who prepared herself to receive Jesus, *the Missas do Parto* help us reflect on how we are making room in our lives for God's presence.

The post-mass gatherings, with shared food and fellowship, echo John's message in the Gospel: "*Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none*" (Luke 3:11). These acts of sharing strengthen community bonds and remind us of the joy found in generosity and togetherness.

On this *Gaudete Sunday*, we are reminded that joy is not merely a fleeting emotion but a deep sense of peace and hope rooted in God's promises. Like "*As Missas do Parto*", we are called to celebrate with song, reflect on our spiritual readiness, and embody the joy of Christ's coming through love and community.



May we, like those who rise early for "*As Missas do Parto*", greet this season with hearts full of joy and hope, ready to welcome the light of Christ into our lives.

- *Rev.º Tito Pereira*



IN MEMORY - A SPECIAL MASS INTENTION

This morning we pray for the repose of the souls of:

Charles Johnson,
Eunice Johnson,
Helen Johnson,
Adrian Johnson

(Father, Mother, Sister and Brother) who came to rest in peace in Madeira.

All were on flight TAP 425, 727-200 (CS-TBR) which tragically crashed into the sea at Madeira's Santa Catarina Airport, Santa Cruz, on November 19, 1977.

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A MEMORIAL TO ALL 131 VICTIMS OF THE 1977 PLANE CRASH IS LOCATED IN SANTA CRUZ



CONFESSION IN ENGLISH

- During Advent Season -

During Advent, Confession is available in English at the Carmelite Church ("Igreja do Carmo") with Father Joseph and Father Thomas.



WHEN: Wednesdays and Thursdays
TIME: 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM and 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

WHERE:
Carmo Church
(Igreja do Carmo):
Rua do Carmo 1,
Funchal,
9000-019



CRISTMAS SCHEDULE – Morning Mass on Christmas Day - at 10am

Christmas Schedule for the Masses in English at the Chapel:

Sunday, **December 22nd** - Mass in English at 10:00am.

Tuesday, **December 24th** (Christmas Eve) - NO MASS in English.

Wednesday, **December 25th** (Christmas Day) – Mass in English at 10:00am

Sunday, **December 29th** – Mass in English at 10:00am



Please come and join us.



“MISSA DO PARTO” (CHILD BIRTH MASS) – A Madeiran Christmas 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 15th), these traditional «Child Birth Masses» are celebrated in every Parish around the Island very early in the morning, usually between 5am and 6am! These Masses are held every morning for 9 days.

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.



CHRISTMAS IN FUNCHAL - What you can expect at this time of year

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, Youth Choirs, and Orchestras to perform every day. Most shop windows in town are not decorated with *Father Christmas* but rather with scenes of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the manger. Near to the Cathedral is 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, sandwiches with pork meat marinated in wine and garlic (*sandes de carne vinho e alho*) and much more! Funchal is well worth visiting this time of year!! ☺



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

