



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 need our hearts open to love" – Pope Francis



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 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. ☺



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

JOYFUL GIFT



22nd December 2024 – 10am Sunday Mass

4th 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 4th Sunday of Advent. We are blessed to have mass in English celebrated every week by Father Joseph Arun and Father Thomas Muzhuthett, who are both Carmelite priests originally from Kerala, India.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 4th Sunday of Advent

(*Micah 5: 1-4; Psalm 79(80); Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-44*)



Micah was prophesying in Judea around 720 BC. The rich were defrauding the poor, and prophets even misleading the people by assuring them that all was well. Which is what people wanted to hear. No, said Micah: "Zion would be plowed like a field" – utterly destroyed, as happened in the exile in 586 BC. But a remnant would survive, and a ruler would come from Bethlehem, David's birthplace. When "she who is to give birth gives birth", the mother of the Immanuel, then the remnant will come back to the Lord.

The Psalm pleads that the Lord's help come soon, as Israel is being hard pressed by its enemies.

Hebrews continues to explain the differences between Christ's sacrifice and animal and food sacrifices offered in the Temple: these had to be repeated again and again, because they did not bring forgiveness of sin. Only Christ's sacrifice could remit sins: it is the fulfilment of God's will, rather than the holocausts he does not want. Jesus is seen as explicitly offering himself, so that not only are our sins forgiven but we may be made holy.

The Gospel begins the Christmas story with Mary's visit to Elizabeth, soon to give birth to the last of the Old Testament prophets.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

- [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

By: Fátima Cátia Marques





As we fast approach Christmas, a time filled with joy, reflection, and love, we are reminded of the beauty of our community here in Penha de França. This season invites us to reflect on the birth of Christ, a moment that changed the world, and to find ways to live out His message of love and generosity in our own lives.

One of the cherished traditions we hold dear in Madeira is the blessing of the people with the statue of the Baby Jesus by the priest at the end of Mass. Each year, this simple yet powerful act reminds us of the centrality of Christ in our lives and the deep hope He brings. As the Baby Jesus is used in blessing over each person, we are symbolically invited to welcome Him into our hearts and homes, allowing His light to guide us in the year ahead. This tradition is not just a ritual—it is a call



to embody Christ's love, peace, and humility in our daily lives.

This year, we are particularly grateful for the spirit of giving that defines our community, especially through the People Helping People charity and the annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. The generosity shown in donating food, goods, and time is a testament to the love we share with those in need. Each hamper created brings not just sustenance but hope, reminding those who may be struggling that they are not forgotten, and that Christmas is a time for all to experience the joy of giving and receiving.

In this season of giving, we invite everyone to reflect on how we can continue to live out the message of Christ. Whether it is through our contributions to the Hamper Appeal, our service to others, or the simple act of sharing a smile, we have countless opportunities to spread the love of God in our community.

As we celebrate Christmas, may the story of Christ's humble birth inspire us to live with compassion and humility. May the blessing of the Baby Jesus fill our hearts with peace and joy, and may we continue to be a community that embodies His love through our actions, now and in the year ahead.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas filled with warmth, kindness, and the spirit of generosity.

Thank you for being a part of a community that makes Christmas truly meaningful.

*With prayers and best wishes,
Rev'd. Tito Pereira*



CRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Schedule for the Masses at the Chapel:

Sunday, **December 22nd** - Mass in English: 10h00
No mass in Portuguese.

Tuesday, **December 24th** (Christmas Eve) –
Mass in Portuguese: 23h00
NO MASS in English.



Wednesday, **December 25th** (Christmas Day) – Mass in English: 10h00
No mass in Portuguese

Saturday **December 28th** – Mass in Portuguese: 18h30

Sunday, **December 29th** – Mass in English: 10h00
No mass in Portuguese



Please come and join us.


NEW YEAR CONCERT OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND CAROLS

A Christmas Prayer
by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



You are invited to join the choir group "Grupo Coral do Arco Calheta" and their guest artists* for a New Year concert at MUDAS Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Madeira on Sunday 29 December at 6pm.

*Featuring soprano and tenor Claudia Sardinha and Alberto Sousa and "Grupo formação musical da casa do povo da Calheta"

Tickets: €5 via +351 966 301742

(Margarita) or more information :

with Sharon after Mass

Date: 29 December

Time: 18h00

