



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



### >> 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

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](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

Vol. 3, nr. 447

### 29th December 2024 – 10am Sunday Mass

#### Holy Family, Sunday after Christmas - 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!** Merry Christmas! Today, on the first Sunday after Christmas, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We are blessed to have mass in English celebrated every week by Father Joseph Arun or Father Thomas Muzhuthett, who are both Carmelite priests originally from Kerala, India. They have carried on the English service Mass for us since Father Bernardino's passing, for which we are all very grateful.



### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Holy Family, Sunday after Christmas – Year C

(1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Psalm 83(84); 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52)



Hannah was constantly tormented for her barrenness by Elkanah's other wife. Every year, they went on pilgrimage to Shiloh, where the Ark of the Covenant resided. One year Hannah prayed for a long time, promising the Lord that if he granted her request for a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord. The priest Eli added his prayers to hers. After **Samuel** was born, Hannah took him to Shiloh and left him with Eli, dedicated to the Lord, where later he was called as a prophet. **The Psalm** expresses intense longing to experience the Lord's presence in his Temple. The first letter of **John** was written near the end of the first century against false ideas that were being spread, especially that Jesus was not truly man. Jesus – "what we have seen" "and touched with our hands" – was true man, the greatest gift of the Father. And the Father has made us his children. We will know in truth that we belong to him if we keep his commandments. Knowledge of God and love for one another are inseparable. **Luke's** story of the boy Jesus in the Temple poses the question: did the human child Jesus show divine knowledge and powers before his baptism, when God proclaimed him as his Son and he started his ministry?

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

### PSALM RESPONSE: They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.



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

**Entry:** O come, all ye faithful - 394

**Offertory:** Hark, the herald-angels sing - 212

**Communion:** What child is this - 619

**Final:** Angels from the realms of glory - 35



## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Feast of the Holy Family comes at Christmas, a time when families are thrown together more than usual. A sense of belonging can help to experience the love and joy of being part of this particular family. On this feast day we are offering our own families and all their members on the altar to ask God's blessing on them and to obtain for them the guidance of the Holy Family.

In last year's newsletter on the Feast of the Holy Family, Father Bernardino asked Deacon Tito to write about something that he experienced as a child when his family moved to England, from Madeira. This is what Deacon Tito wrote:

### HOW LARGE IS YOUR FAMILY? - By Deacon Tito Pereira

Upon my arrival in England and commencement of school, the teacher initiated a discussion about family size within the class. Responses varied - one child mentioned four members, another three, and so forth. I distinctly recall marvelling at what seemed to me like remarkably small family units. When the teacher turned to me and inquired about my own family size, I hesitated, admitting uncertainty but suggesting it might exceed 100 members. A wave of laughter engulfed the classroom as the teacher dismissed my estimate as ridiculous. In my mind, family encompassed not

only parents and siblings but also grandparents, great aunts and uncles, aunts, uncles, and cousins. This expansive definition was met with skepticism in the classroom that day. Upon recounting the incident to my mother, she dismissed the teacher's reaction as absurd, asserting that our extended family likely exceeded three or four hundred individuals. As the years passed, I came to recognise that the concept of family extended beyond blood relations. As a Christian, I embraced a global family of brothers and sisters, and I began to appreciate an even broader perspective - that all individuals are children of God. This revelation expanded my understanding of family far beyond the confines of a mere headcount.



### GRANDPARENTS ARE A TREASURE

- (<http://frtonyshomilies.com/>)

Pope Francis said that as a child, he heard a story of a family with a mother, father, many children, and a grandfather. The grandfather, suffering from Parkinson's disease, would drop food on the dining table, drop and break bowls, and smear food all over his face when he ate. His son considered it disgusting. So, one day he bought a small table, a wooden bowl and spoon and set it off to the side of the dining room so the grandfather could eat, make a mess and not disturb the rest of the family. One day, the Pope said, the man came home and found one of his little sons playing with a piece of wood. "What are you making?" he asked his son.

"A table," the little boy replied. "Why?" the father asked. "It's for you, Dad. When you get old like Grandpa, I am going to give you this table." After that day, the grandfather was given a prominent seat at the dining table and all the help he needed in eating by his son and daughter-in-law. "This story has done me such good throughout my life," said the Pope. "Grandparents are a treasure," he said. "Often old age isn't pretty, right? There is sickness and all that, but the wisdom our grandparents have is something we must welcome as an inheritance." A society or community that does not value, respect and care for its elderly members "doesn't have a future because it has no memory, it has lost its memory," Pope Francis added.



## BEGINNING OF THE JUBILEE - in the Diocese of Funchal



The Lord of Miracles

The Diocese of Funchal will open the Holy Year, Jubilee 2025, today, Sunday, December 29th.

The welcome of the faithful will be held at St. Peter's Church (*Igreja de São Pedro*) at 4:30 pm and then there will be a procession to the Sé Cathedral where the Bishop of Funchal will preside at the Solemn Eucharist at the opening of the Jubilee, at 6pm.

The procession will be opened by the image of the Lord of Miracles (*Senhor dos Milagres*) of Machico.

"A Jubilee is celebrated in the Catholic Church every 25 years and signifies a special Year to celebrate the Birth of Jesus and, therefore, this is a Year of grace, of reconciliation, of charity, of forgiveness and mercy. This Holy Year will have **Hope** as its main theme".

Throughout the year, the Diocese of Funchal plans to celebrate various themed jubilees.



Igreja de São Pedro

## NEW YEAR CONCERT OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND CAROLS

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** this evening, 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: Today, 29 December

Time: 18h00



**WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?**

It's more than a day at the end of the year.  
More than a season of joy and good cheer.  
Christmas is really God's pattern for living.  
To be followed all the year by unselfish giving.

For in giving to others and in being kind  
Man finds true joy and peace of mind.  
And peace on earth will come to stay  
When we live Christmas every day.

- Poet: Helen Steiner Rice

Nubia Group  
NUBIAGROUP.BLOGSPOT.COM  
MERRY CHRISTMAS