



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.**

"Our poor are wonderful people, very kind people; they do not need our pity or compassion, they need our compassionate love. They need our respect; they need to be treated with dignity." (Pope Leo XIV - I Loved You - Apostolic Exhortation Dilexité on Love for the Poor).



>> TRANSFER TO BANK ACCOUNT IN MADEIRA:

ACCOUNT NAME:
 Associacao Gente Ajudando Gente
BANK: Banco Santander Totta
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0003 4938 1759020
IBAN: PT50 0018 0003 49381759020 94
SWIFT: TOTAPTL
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: sineadmoynihn7@icloud.com

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE CONTACTS: Alexandre Silva, Funchal. Email: alex.lupus@gmail.com
 When making any donation, please send an email to penhafranca.php@gmail.com with the date, and name on the transfer so that we are able to confirm that the transfer has been received. Thank you.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH HOLY WATER



As you go inside the Chapel just under the archways on either side of the door, you will find a small font on the wall with Holy water inside which you can use to bless yourself with, before and after Mass. 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Tea and Coffee After Mass
 at Moynihans
 Irish Pub... up
 the road from the
 Chapel.



Please sign our Visitor's book

We'd love to know which country you are visiting us from!



30th November 2025 – 10:30 am - Sunday
1st Sunday of Advent - - Year A

Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França
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CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Today is the 1st Sunday of Advent, and the start of a new Liturgical year (Year A). **Fr. Joseph Arun** will be celebrating Mass for us today. Father Joseph is a Carmelite priest from Kerala, India, and has been living in Madeira since August 2019 serving the Portuguese community of the Carmo church (Igreja do Carmo) in Funchal.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS - 1st Sunday of Advent - Year A

(Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 121(122); Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44)

During advent the first readings are from first **Isaiah**, mostly composed before 700 BC, a period when Israel was under attack from Assyria. Isaiah is critical of attempts by Israel's kings to control their destiny – he urges them to place their faith and trust in God, and in His promises to David. But God might use Israel's enemies to cleanse his people. Nevertheless the people will survive through a remnant, like a stump of a tree, from which will come an ideal ruler in the future. In today's reading Isaiah looks forward to a peaceful time when all nations will be attracted by Israel's behaviour to accept God's authority, centred on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. **The Psalm** celebrates arriving in Jerusalem, goal of pilgrims and seat of government. In his letter to the **Romans** Paul has been drawing out the implications of his image of Christians as all parts of one body. Since we are therefore dependant on each other we have a duty of love for each other. Judgement will come at any time, so we must live at all times as if all our actions are visible to all. In **Matthew's gospel**, speaking on Mount Olivet just before the Last Supper, Jesus reinforces the need to "stay awake", ready for the Lord's coming.

- By: Chris Oliver (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE:

I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry: "O come, o come, Emanuel..." - 397
Offertory: "When the angel came to Mary..." - 626
Communion: "Let us break bread together..." - 318
Final: "Colours of day..." - 93



By: Larysa Makarova



REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

My grandmother used to tell me about a woman she knew whom everyone simply called *Esperança*, meaning Hope. In Madeira, of course, *alcunhas* (nicknames) have a life of their own. You can receive a nickname for almost anything, and once the neighbours start using it, you can forget about shaking it off. So perhaps Maria's nickname began as a bit of friendly teasing. Even so, as often happens with our island nicknames, it revealed something true about her character.



Maria had a simple custom. Each Advent, she placed a lighted candle in her window. She had heard the story of Mary and Joseph finding no room before Jesus was born. She wanted to make sure that if the Lord passed by her home, he would see a warm welcome waiting for him. There was nothing grand about it, her candle was just a small light shining out onto the street, yet it was a quiet sign of trust that Christ might come at any moment.



This little gesture captures the heart of the First Sunday of Advent. At the start of a new liturgical year, the Church does not ask us to rush about. Instead, we are invited to begin with hope, a hope rooted in God's promises. The people of the Old Testament longed for a world renewed by God, a world shaped by justice and peace where swords would be turned into ploughshares. Their longing was fulfilled in the birth of Christ, the Light who came into our world. Still, we wait for his return in glory, living in this curious time where he has already come among us and is not yet fully revealed.

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges us to stay awake and to be ready. Advent readiness is not tense or anxious watching. It is steady, faithful living, and noticing the quiet ways Christ is already close.

Like Maria, we are invited to place a candle of hope in the window of our hearts. As we gather here at the Penha Chapel, may our hope stay firm, our welcome be sincere and our lives remain open to the Lord who comes to bring light and lasting peace.

- Deacon Tito



CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE

We are collecting food staples and toiletries for the poor for Christmas. Please bring in what you can spare and place the items in the basket at the entrance of the church. We will be collecting through to December 14th. **Everything received will be distributed amongst families who need our help.** Many thanks to everyone who has contributed so far! ❤️

For further details, please email Debbie: deborahadajesus@yahoo.co.uk



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 A). 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.

 Week 1 Hope	 Week 2 Faith
Reminds us... Jesus is coming Bible verse Romans 15: 12-13 Bible verse Luke 2:10 Reminds us... The joy at the coming birth of Jesus	Reminds us... To prepare the way of the Lord Bible verse Luke 3:4-6 Bible verse Luke 2:14 Reminds us... "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours"
 Week 3 Joy	 Week 4 Peace

What do we remember each week of Advent?

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