

## 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.**

*"Nothing is impossible for those who have the courage to live with faith. Believe in the impossible and you will perform miracles." (in the book "Céu" by José Luís Nunes Martins)*

*"Jesus looks at life from the stage of the world, through the eyes of victims in need of help. There is no doubt. For Jesus, the only way to be with God and be human is to act like that Samaritan." (in the book "Recuperar o Projecto de Jesus" by José António Pagola)*

### >> 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: 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 or leave a message

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



Receive this newsletter by email every week. Ask to be added to the newsletter distribution list by sending an email to: penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com or alternatively, you can download them from the Chapel's website/blog: [www.rcmassmadeira.org/newsletter-downloads/](http://www.rcmassmadeira.org/newsletter-downloads/)

## JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, nr. 496

7th December 2025 – 10:30 am - Sunday  
2nd Sunday of Advent - Year A

### 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)

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### CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning! Today is the 2nd Sunday of Advent.

**Fr. Joseph Arun** will be celebrating Mass for us today. Father Joseph is a Carmelite priest from Kerala, India, living in Madeira since August 2019. He serves the Portuguese community at the Carmo church (Igreja do Carmo) in Funchal, and also our community here at Penha de França. **The special intention of this morning's Holy Mass** will be for the soul of **Karen Nicola Matthews**, who passed away 3 years ago, and for her twin brother **Mark Christopher Matthews** who passed away on 10th of December 1977 at only one day old. ☩☩

### TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year A (*Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71(72); Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12*)

The readings for Advent from **Isaiah** continue with this description of the ideal king, who will come from the remnant of Israel – the stump of Jesse, of David's dynasty. This was applied by Christians to Jesus. But Isaiah was seeking to comfort his people, under attack by Assyria, as he foresees an idyllic future when the whole of creation will live in complete harmony. Only the "fear of the Lord" and the "knowledge of the Lord" could bring this about. The **Psalm** looks forward to the coming of a perfect king, the Messiah, whose rule will be just and his reign glorious. Paul's letter to the **Romans** exhorts the two groups of Christians in Rome to work patiently together, ignoring varying degrees of conformity to the Jewish Law. We must learn about God from the Jewish Scriptures, the Old Testament, so that we may worship him in unity of mind and mouth. The Messiah's sufferings show that God keeps His promises, and will lead all nations, both Jews and Gentiles, to praise God. **In the Gospel**, John the Baptist, the last prophet of the Old Testament, prepares the way of the Lord by urging people to repent, to turn towards God from their sins. But he condemns those who say they have no need of God.

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

### PSALM RESPONSE: In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

### TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:



- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Christmas is coming ..." – n.º 90
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..." – n.º 679
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Kumbayah..." – n.º 302
- [4] **Communion Hymn:** "Make way, make way..." – n.º 360
- [5] **Thanksgiving:** "Come, O Divine Messiah!..." – n.º 107
- [6] **Final Hymn:** "We are marching ..." – n.º 602





**THE BEST WAY TO DESTROY AN ENEMY IS TO MAKE THEM A FRIEND**

Advent opens with that unsettling thought. It sounds simple, yet it asks far more of us than we first realise. It echoes the heart of the Gospel, because Christ comes not to defeat His enemies in the usual sense but to change them, to heal what is wounded and restore what has been pushed apart.

Isaiah's vision paints this beautifully. A shoot grows from the stump of Jesse, a sign that God brings life where everything appears finished. The **peace** Isaiah describes is not a cosy picture. It is a radical reordering of relationships. The wolf and the lamb living together shows what God intends for humanity: **a peace that takes former opposites and makes them neighbours.**



Saint Paul, reminds the early Christians that this is not just something to admire. Christ has welcomed us with our shortcomings, our failings and our awkward edges. If He has done that for us, we are called to do the same for one another. Our unity becomes part of our witness.

John the baptist's call to repentance sounds sharp, yet his purpose is kind. He prepares space in us for the One who brings reconciliation. Repentance turns us away from old resentments and frees us to live differently.

The season of Advent challenges us to believe that making a friend where there was once an enemy is part of God's work in us. Christ shows us how. As we wait for His coming, we can let His grace soften hard memories, repair old breaks and open a way towards peace in the places we find most difficult. This is how His Kingdom draws near.

- Deacon Tito



**A HUGE THANK YOU!!**

The English Speaking Ladies (ESLL) Luncheon group held a raffle at their December meeting at The Ritz, and raised 345€ for PHP (the charity "People Helping People")!!

ESLL and PHP are grateful to the follow businesses and individuals for their generous donations: \* Palheiro Golf Club, \* Restaurant at Quinta Magnolia \* The Ritz, \* Martucci's Restaurant, and \* Various members attending the luncheon.

**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@yanoo.co.uk](mailto:deborahadajesus@yanoo.co.uk)



Tomorrow, Monday 8th December, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation.

There will be NO MASS celebrated here at the Chapel, but as an alternative, you may wish to attend Mass (in Portuguese) at the **Sé Cathedral** in Funchal. There will be Masses at the following times:

**8h00; 9h00; 11h00; 17h00 and 18h00.**



**The origin of the word Christmas**



The word "Christmas" comes from the Old English phrase *Christes mæsse* ("Christ's Mass")—that is the Mass celebrated in honor of Christ's birth. From this original reference to a particular Mass celebrated in the Church's liturgical year, the term came to apply both to the day on which the Mass was celebrated and to the liturgical season associated with it (i.e., the Christmas season, a.k.a. Christmastide).

Catholic Fortress  
[facebook.com/catholicfortress](https://facebook.com/catholicfortress)

**Christmas Symbols**



The Tree ... points to heaven and reminds us that God is eternal.



The Wreath ... is a circle reminding us that God's love for us never ends.



The Candle ... shines brightly, showing us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Last Sunday we lit the 1st candle in the Advent Wreath. Today we will light the 2nd candle. Today's candle symbolizes "Peace"



# Advent 2025



*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free. Luke 1:67*

<p><b>November 30</b></p> <p>...the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light... Romans 13:12</p>  <p><b>Pick a good habit to work on for Advent!</b></p>	<p><b>December 1</b></p> <p>I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1</p>  <p><b>What can you do to make your house ready for Jesus?</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse... Isaiah 11:1</p> <p><b>Thank God for your parents!</b></p> 	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces. Isaiah 25:8</p>  <p><b>Who can you cheer up today?</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Trust in the LORD forever! For the LORD is an eternal Rock. Isaiah 26:4</p>  <p><b>Pray: Jesus, I trust in You!</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. Isaiah 29:18</p>  <p><b>Draw a Christmas picture for someone!</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Feast of Saint Nicholas</b></p>  <p>"The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving..." St. Nicholas of Myra</p>
<p>A voice of one crying out in the desert. "Prepare the way of the Lord" Matt 3:3</p>  <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Tell the Christmas story to a friend!</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception</b></p>  <p><b>Say a Hail Mary to Our Blessed Mother!</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Isaiah 40:1</p>  <p><b>Remind someone who is sad that God loves them!</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these things... Isaiah 40:26</p>  <p><b>Look at the sky and thank God for the sun, moon and stars!</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD Psalm 145:10</p>  <p><b>Go outside and thank God for nature!</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</b></p>  <p><b>Thank Mary for being our mother!</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Feast of Saint Lucy</b></p>  <p><b>Thank God for the Christmas decorations you see!</b></p>
<p>Be strong, fear not! Here is your God... Isaiah 35:4</p>  <p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>What are you afraid of? Trust in God to protect you!</b></p>	<p>A star shall advance from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel... Numbers 24:17</p>  <p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Pray for the leaders of your country!</b></p>	<p>I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall be ever in my mouth. Psalm 34:2</p>  <p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Sing an Advent hymn!</b></p>	<p>O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!</p>  <p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Consider the order of the universe God has created!</b></p>	<p>O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!</p>  <p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Read or recite God's Ten Commandments.</b></p>	<p>O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!</p>  <p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Thank Jesus for coming to save us!</b></p>	<p>O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!</p>  <p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Read the story of David and Goliath!</b></p>
<p>O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Jesus' coming is like the dawn after a dark cold night.</p>  <p><b>21</b></p>	<p>O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!</p>  <p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Jesus is the kindest king. Serve Him with joy!</b></p>	<p>O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!</p>  <p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Emmanuel means God is with us. His birthday is in two more days!</b></p>	<p>The dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness... Luke 1:78-79</p>  <p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>One more day to prepare your heart and home for Jesus!</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Day!</b></p> <p><b>Glory to God in the highest!</b></p> 		



Color in one flame for each week of Advent, starting on the first Sunday. The rose-colored candle is for the third Sunday. It is a sign of joy that the wait is half over!