

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.**

"Take care that Holy Christmas never becomes a celebration of commercial consumerism, appearances or useless gifts, of superfluous waste, but rather a celebration of the joy of welcoming the Lord into the manger and into our hearts." "Christmas is coming, the Lord is coming! When he was born, the Lord was in a manger, but no one realised that he was God. This Christmas, I would like the Lord to be born in the hearts of all of us, hidden... and for no one to realise it, but for the Lord to be there. I wish you this happiness of the Lord's closeness. (Christmas is every day - Pope Francis).



>> 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 Quitéria 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: sineadmoynihan7@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/

JOYFUL GIFT

Vol. 3, nr. 498

21st December 2025 – 10:30 am - Sunday
4th 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/>

www.facebook.com/penhafrancachapel

www.instagram.com/capela_penha_franca/

penhafranca.newsletter@gmail.com



CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

Good morning. Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent. Our priest this morning is **Fr. Joseph Arun**. *The special intentions of this morning's Holy Mass* will be for the souls of (1) **Rosemarie Julie Sebastião Richardson**, who passed away in South Africa on 22/12/2001; and her father, **Manuel Gomes Sebastião**, who passed away on the 18/12/2014; and (2) for the soul of **José Da Fonseca**, who was laid to rest two days ago, on Friday 19/12/2025. Our condolences to their families who are present at our Mass this morning. ☩☩

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 4th Sunday of Advent - Year A (Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23(24); Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24)



First Isaiah was writing before 700 BC, when Judah was under attack. Isaiah promises that a time of peace will come when Israel returns to living simply, with no riches to make others envious. But only if they keep their faith in God. Without being asked, God gives King Ahaz a sign of his support: a young woman will bear a son, to be named Emmanuel, "God with us". Israel will still suffer. But a remnant of David's house will survive, like the stump of a fallen tree. After praising God's universal dominion, the **Psalm** gives moral requirements for assisting at divine worship. Paul begins his letter to the Jewish Christian community in Rome very carefully. They did not know him, so he assures them that he shares their beliefs, especially that Jesus, a descendant of David, is the Christ, proclaimed Son of God through his resurrection. Before **Matthew** describes Jesus' birth, he lists 42 ancestors linking Jesus firmly with Abraham, David and Israel's kings. The list includes four women, Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah. Through their unconventional behaviour, a remnant of David's line survived, reminding us of the important roles women have always played in God's plan.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC:

- [1] **Entry Hymn:** "Come, O Divine Messiah!..." – n.º 107
- [2] **Gospel Acclamation:** "Celtic Aleluia..." – n.º 679
- [3] **Offertory Hymn:** "Kumbayah..." – n.º 302
- [4] **Communion Hymn:** "As I kneel before you – Ave Maria gratia plena..." – n.º 39
- [5] **Thanksgiving: Portuguese Hymn:** "Preparai os caminhos do Senhor – Maranatha"
- [6] **Final Hymn:** "We are marching ..." – n.º 602



A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION – By Sr. Miriam – a nun from Turvey Abbey

This is how Jesus CHRIST came to be born.'



Matthew begins his gospel with a lengthy genealogy which requires great concentration, whether you are listening to it or reading it aloud. It's not unlike having a complicated story plot explained or trying to work out how you are related to a distant relative. The lineage which Matthew lays out so carefully is our lineage too. We are as much reliant on God's promise as our Biblical ancestors.

Matthew tells his story through Joseph's eyes. Joseph's Davidic descent is all important here. This descent, so carefully explained, embeds Jesus very firmly in Jewish tradition. **Two leaps of faith are required for God's plan to come to fulfilment:** Mary's 'yes' and Joseph's willingness to be a father to Jesus.

We are almost at the end of our Advent journey. The path of promise that we have traced through the Scriptures doesn't come to an end with Christ's birth. The unique story of how each of us came to be born stands alongside the birth of our Saviour. **God still waits for our 'yes'** and our willingness to enter deeper into the mystery of the Incarnation.

Look back over Advent.

How have you been drawn deeper into the mystery of the Incarnation?

Matthew 1:18-24

- *Sister Miriam* *

(*Sister Miriam is a nun at the Priory of Our Lady of Peace, commonly known as Turvey Abbey, in the UK... a Roman Catholic community living according to the Rule of Saint Benedict and affiliated to the Olivetan family of Benedictines.) - This reflection was shared with us by Deacon Tito Pereira

SCHEDULE FOR MASSES DURING CHRISTMAS



HERE at the **CHAPEL** of Our Lady of Penha de França:

Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

– NO MASS at the Chapel

Thursday, December 25th (Christmas Day) – Mass at 10h30

Friday, December 26th

– NO MASS at the Chapel

Saturday, December 27th

– NO MASS at the Chapel

Sunday, December 28th –

Mass in English: 10h30



MASSES celebrated at the **CATHEDRAL** in Funchal:

Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

– Midnight Mass – 23h00

Thursday, December 25th (Christmas Day)

– Mass in Portuguese: 9h00, 11h00, 17h00

Friday, December 26th

– Mass in Portuguese: 11h00, 17h30



CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL 2025



The Christmas Hamper Appeal sponsored by the People Helping People organisation has once again received wonderful support from friends of the charity. We are not only appreciative of the individuals who made monetary donations, donations of food and hygiene products as well as buying gifts for the children, but we are also grateful to the following organisations and their proprietors:

- **Holy Trinity of Madeira** joined us this year in helping collecting donations



- **The International school of Madeira**

Parents and children at the school made up boxes of presents for individual children and adults, as well as donating clothing.



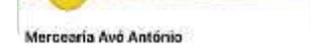
- **Why Not Restaurant**

The restaurant has for two years running made a very generous donation of foodstuffs.



- **Mercearia Avó António**

The owner of this supermarket Dona Maria, located in the Lido, has for several years allowed us to have a collection point in the supermarket.



- **Moynihans Irish Pub**

Our continued gratitude to Sinead and Tahg for allowing us to set up a collection point at the pub, as well as their support throughout the years.



This year, as well as providing for the families we help through the People Helping people charity, we were also able to make a large donation to a Funchal parish which helps needy families in the area.

With grateful thanks from Jane House and all of the PHP team



Some of the PHP team sorted out & delivered the hampers to families in need



The International School of Madeira with their wonderful gifts

Merry Christmas

