



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 joy of Christmas is a special kind of joy: it's a joy that isn't just for Christmas Day, but for the whole life of a Christian. It's a serene, tranquil joy, a joy that always accompanies the Christian."



>> **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: 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!



28th December 2025 – 10:30 am - Sunday
Holy Family - 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 we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on this first Sunday after Christmas. Our priest this morning is Fr. Joseph Arun.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Holy family - Year A
 (Sirach/Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14; Psalm 127(128); Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)

The Wisdom of the Son of Sirach was written about 200 BC and much used in the Church to present moral teachings. He sees the family as set up by God, in which we learn and practice kindness and honour to each other, just as we respect and honour the Lord. The Psalm celebrates the blessings of family life: husband, wife and children respecting the Lord. The letter to the Colossians advises that wisdom and knowledge should be interpreted only in relation to Christ. Our baptism frees us from man-made religious rules. Not total autonomy: our lives must reflect the Spirit of Christ within us, while seeking to avoid offending our neighbours. But following these precepts and forgiving others is not easy. This beautiful description of the ideal community and family life assumes the normal family structure of the letter's time and culture. Husbands, wives and children should treat each other in the way the Lord would, showing mutual respect and duty. In Matthew's gospel Jesus is taken to Egypt, with Hosea reminding us of God's deep love and care for Israel, his son. After the slaughter of the innocents, echoing the deaths of Egypt's first-born before Israel's exodus from slavery, Jesus is called back. The family return to Israel and settle in Nazareth in Galilee. - By: Chris Oliver (www.bible-groups.info)

PSALM RESPONSE: O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

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..." - 36

By: Larysa Makarova





HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

- A Reflection by Fr. Tony Kadavil (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)

On the last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We are here to offer all the members of our own families on the altar for God's blessing.

Grandparents are a treasure: 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. Hence, 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 sons playing with a piece of wood. "What are you making?" he asked the little boy.

"A table," the son replied.

"Why?" the father asked.

"It's for you, Dad. When you get old like Grandpa, I am going to give you this table." (In the American version of the story, the boy was making a wooden bowl).

Ever since 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 Pope Francis. "Grandparents are a treasure. 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's lost its memory."



SUNDAY FUNNIES



One day, a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought for a while, and said, "Momma, how come grandma's head is full of white hair?"

Christmas Gifts – "Mama," declared little Billy excitedly, "I have to write another letter to Santa Claus." Laboriously he wrote it, but before she put it in an envelope, Mama read it:

"Dear Santa Claws: Tear up that letter I sent you last week. I am sending a new order, 'cuz this afternoon I found all the gifts I asked for, under the bed in the spare room upstairs!"



People Helping People - FURNITURE DONATION

In last week's newsletter we shared photos of all the wonderful donations received for the families that the "People Helping People" charity supports. A large amount of furniture was also donated by a family.



Many thanks to Oscar Gois and his family for donating all the furniture

On 23 Dec. at 11:00 am, the People Helping People Association delivered the first batch of furniture to the families that we support. We went to São Roque, Monte and Machico. In January the 2nd batch of furniture will be delivered to more families.



Afonso (PHP volunteer) helping to deliver the furniture on December 23rd

This is just one of the miracles that happened making it even more special for the families, and also for those who volunteer at the People Helping People Association.

Thank you to Mrs. Elia de Sousa, Mrs. Irene Góis, and Óscar Góis for your generous and supportive act towards the families helped by the People Helping People Association.



IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS

A GUIDE TO THE LITURGICAL CHRISTMAS SEASON

 Dec. 24- Jan. 10 The Christmas season officially begins on Christmas Eve. It lasts until the Baptism of the Lord, which is usually the second Sunday in January.	 Dec. 25- Jan. 1 From Christmas Day until Jan 1st, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, is the Octave of Christmas.	 Jan. 1 January 1st is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where we honor her role as mother of Christ and His Church.	 Jan. 6 There are many feast days this season (Holy Family 12/30, Holy Innocents 12/28, etc.) The Epiphany, commemorating the visit of the Magi, always falls on Jan 6.
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