

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.**

“Better in the New Year: The new year may not be the best. But we can be better in the new year. The year will be new, not because time moves forward, but because life can change. Few transformations will depend on us. But the most important change will depend on us: the change within us, in our hearts, in our lives. The world will be better if each of us invests more in the other. Let us join hands. Let us think of our neighbors and the poor. Let us keep the courage of truth alive and let the breeze of hope blow.” (in *“Não comesas a desistir, nunca desistas de começar”* [Don't start giving up, never give up starting] by João António P. Teixeira



>> 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!



**11th January 2026 – 10:30 am Sunday
 Baptism of the Lord – Year A**

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

Good morning! Welcome to the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha de França. We are blessed to have **Fr. Joseph Arun** celebrating Mass here in English for us every Sunday. Father Joseph is originally from Kerala in India. In addition to this Mass in English, Fr. Joseph also celebrates Mass in Portuguese at the Carmelite church in Funchal (*Igreja do Carmo*)!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – Baptism of the Lord - Year A
(Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Psalm 28(29); Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17)

In this “servant song” second **Isaiah** rejoices when, in 539 BC, King Cyrus released Israel from their exile in Babylon. But he asked how had this come about? It was not any human agency. It was Israel's God who freed his servant, Israel, whom he had formed and chosen for a purpose, and given his spirit. After calling all to praise the Lord, the **Psalm** describes a magnificent theophany: God's majesty revealed in a tremendous thunderstorm. In **Acts**, Peter applies this message to Jesus, whom “God anointed with the Holy Spirit”. Peter had just had a vision showing that nothing we eat can make us unclean. Therefore, he felt willing to enter the house of Cornelius, against the Jewish Law. Then the Holy Spirit came upon this Gentile household. So Peter had to baptise them: he now understands **how** the Gospel must be taken to Gentiles, in spite of Jewish purity laws. After a big build-up by the Baptist about the coming of the powerful messiah, the adult Jesus appears for the first time in this Gospel, and quietly insists on being baptised by John. Jesus has to be identified with sinners to fulfill God's plan. God then confirms Jesus as his Son. Thus fortified, Jesus will then be led into the wilderness to be tested by the devil.

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

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord will bless his people with peace.



TODAY'S HYMN MUSIC

Entry: “We have a gospel to proclaim...” - 610
Offertory: “All that I am, all that I do...” - 21
Communion: “Let there be love shared among us...” - 317
Final: “Follow me, follow me...” - 144



By: Larysa Makarova



Reflection for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

If you are on social media, you will know how birthday wishes appear almost without effort. A reminder pops up and messages begin to arrive. The same can happen for wedding anniversaries or other milestones. Yet there is one anniversary that is rarely noticed or celebrated: the anniversary of our baptism. I have never seen anyone wished a “happy baptism day”.



Today’s feast, the Baptism of the Lord, gives us the chance to pause and think about that. It is a quiet feast, largely untouched by the commercialism that surrounds many Christian celebrations, and that is a gift. It allows us to reflect more deeply, not only on Jesus’ baptism, but on our own.

Jesus did not enter the waters of the Jordan because he needed repentance. He entered them to stand fully with us. In doing so, he revealed who he is and what God is like. Isaiah reminds us that Jesus himself is God’s covenant, the light that opens blind eyes and brings healing. In him, we see clearly the love of God at work in the world. When the voice from heaven calls Jesus “the beloved”, we hear that it is love, not power or fear, that heals what is broken.

St Paul tells us that anyone who does what is right is acceptable to God. To walk in the way of Christ, the Prince of Peace, is to discover peace even when the world around us feels unsettled. We know how easy it is,

listening to the news, to feel that hope is slipping away. The Baptism of the Lord speaks directly into that fear. It reminds us that God has not abandoned the world. He has entered it, and his name is Jesus.

Today, I am especially grateful to be able to see my own godmother here in Madeira. It is a real gift to be with her and to recall my own baptism here in the Igreja do Socorro. Moments like this remind us that baptism is not just a memory from the past, but a living grace that continues to shape who we are.

In our baptism, we are not just touched by water; we are immersed into Christ. The Spirit sends us to carry his light and lead others to him. And over each of us, God still says: *This is my child, the beloved.*



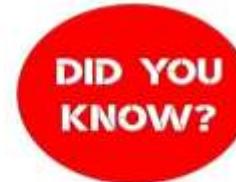
Igreja do Socorro in Funchal

- Deacon Tito



“Life is about relationships. Church is about relationships. We are baptized to be part of the family of God and to take care of one another. Life is about belonging. Church is about belonging. Belonging is about taking care of one another.”

- Fr. Bernardino Andrade (Joyful Gift newsletter of 13.01.2019)



Catholics@Work

The last day of Christmas Season is on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.



The Catholic liturgy indicates that Christmas is not just one day, but an entire season, lasting from Christmas eve, Dec. 24, after sunset, until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (usually the Sunday after Epiphany).



“SANTO AMARO” Feast - January 14th to 17th

Every year in early January, **the town of Santa Cruz** pays tribute to its patron saint, *Santo Amaro* (Saint Maurus), in a very lively religious festivity, which marks the end of the Christmas holidays.

It is during this time when Madeiran families gather to share the remaining delicacies of the festive season, take off the Christmas decorations and dismantle the lapinhas (nativity cribs) and “clean” the kitchen cabinets

The Santo Amaro festivities includes food, music, dance, sports, educational activities and religion. The atmosphere of the event is always very lively, with various bands, folklore groups, around 35 stalls selling *espetada* (traditional kebabs), *bolo do caco* (a type of bread), *poncha* (a traditional drink) and traditional liqueurs. There is also the usual Ethnographic Fair with traditional and contemporary handicrafts.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD,
YOU ARE WONDERFULLY MADE,

DEARLY
LOVED

AND PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT.

PSALM 139

