

First Sunday of Advent Cycle A 2022

In the Christian context, Advent refers to the period of four weeks of preparation for the Feast of the Incarnation: the coming of Christ as a man.

The coming of Christ has three dimensions:

- A) The historical and monumental event in history when God assumed a human body, “The Word became Flesh and put his tent among us .” Did you know that Isaiah predicted the birth of Christ more than seven hundred years before his birth?
- B) The coming of Christ to us daily, especially in the Eucharist.
- C) The second coming of Christ which will also be a day of Judgment.

They are connected because they form part of the plan of God for our salvation. The incarnation would lead to Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, which reconciled us to God. The institution of the Church and its sacraments with the help of the Holy Spirit, help us on our daily conversion. At his second coming, Christ will unite both the living and the dead to himself.

Isaiah speaks of a time when men of every nation will come before the Lord and they will divert the money assigned to build or buy weapons of war, to projects that will feed the hungry. “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks”. This is the time when the Kingdom of God, a society of peace and justice, which Jesus started, will come to its fullness.

The time of peace, the time of Christ’s return will also be a day of judgment. We have to be prepared and alert. In the days of Noah, no one, except Noah and his family were prepared for the flood. What happened appeared impossible (the flooding of the whole world) but it did happen. Do not allow improbabilities to procrastinate your preparations

Matthew tells us that we ought to be alert as the man who expected the thief, prevented the robbery.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ this advent, let us invite him into our hearts that we may experience his peace and joy. Who or what can rob us of this? The thieves are not necessarily other people with selfish ideals that do not promote sharing and caring for others, they could also be forces and influences of a godless culture that lead us to drunkenness, debauchery, fornication and self gratification as our primary purpose in life. It could also be advertising that fools us into believing that we cannot be happy this Christmas unless we acquire something we cannot afford. Anything that encourages us to always put ourselves before others, especially the poor and the weak, will rob us of what God calls us to be: loving, caring and compassionate. As Christians, we firmly believe that people are always more precious than things. This Advent, we ought to focus more on the family reconciliation, spiritual healing, and unity than on the acquisition of things.

BE attentive to God this Advent! We also need to be alert, because Jesus will come, gently knocking on the doors of our hearts. We do not wish to miss the opportunity of our lifetime.