

HAPPY ADVENT!

The new Liturgical Year is once again upon us! The real question is however, are we ready to embrace it? For many the usual *modus operandi* will continue, however, for us as Catholic Christians this season should provide us with another opportunity for deep reflection and fervent contemplation.

As we approach the ending of the calendar year, we have the opportunity to contemplate the wonder of that most amazing gift of “The Word made flesh who dwelt among us.” We are invited during the Advent season to prepare; and wait for hopeful expectation for the rebirth of Jesus into our minds, and hearts and indeed are our lives.

This preparation period is a mere four weeks, but well-worth our time and effort. As the season makes its entrance, the first candle is lit representing Hope. Undoubtedly, we can all concur, that this is a much-needed gift of the Spirit, at a moment in time when we face seemingly insurmountable obstacles personally, professionally and even financially, as we still face the stark reality of a global pandemic. Despite, our unwanted temporary resident of COVID-19; we are still called to earnestly put our hope in our Saviour, to see us through this dark and gloomy era and to welcome the warmth of his light within this new moment in time.

Hope leads us to Peace. Yes peace, at a time when our country seems filled with so much violence and upheaval, the gift of peace is most welcomed. However, it is only the “peace that passes all understanding” that is derived from the Master Teacher himself that allows us to live relative peace and harmony daily. We must also recognize that peace begins with every one of us, and hence we must do our part to ensure that our world, our schools and homes, are places where peace dwells.

The duo of Hope and Peace, ushers in Joy. What is Joy? Fr Kenny once reminded us that “joy is not a thing, but a person, and that person is Jesus Christ.” The third Sunday of Advent is referred to as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “Rejoice”. We rejoice that we are still here on the planet when many of our loved ones are now in their heavenly home. We rejoice that we have reasonably good health and employment. We rejoice that no matter what is happening Jesus Christ our Saviour is still King of The Universe.

The trio of Hope, Peace and Joy, give rise to Love. Dionne Warwick once sung, “what the world needs now, is love, sweet love.” Perennial words – because the world have always needed and will always need “love.” In this noble profession as educators, let us remember to teach lovingly. In this era of the new normal the children entrusted to our care could use an extra dose of love and care. Be gentle too with each other, as everyone carries a burden, many unknown. Your loving response could make a much-needed difference.

Let us endeavour to make this Advent Season, one of our best ever. Let us resolve to be vessels of the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Christ for those in our family and Bahamaland that are most in need of these treasures. Let us prepare our homes, schools and hearts, so that when that time comes to welcome the special guest of our Lord and Saviour on his birthday, we can proclaim with full throttle – Joy to World- the Lord has come” as He has taken up residence in our minds and hearts!

