



## Advent Message – 2019

### Jesus Christ - the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6)

The grace and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all!

1. We are privileged once again with the Season of Advent, a providential time of waiting of the greatest miracle when God became man and dwelt amongst us (Jn. 1:14). This season as it were offers us a favourable time not only of waiting but also of preparing ourselves for the birth of our Lord.
2. Advent is a period of hope for a better tomorrow – that Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace will reign over our Land and bestow blessings; He will inspire peace and tranquility; and will cause growth trajectory for our Land.
3. In an allegorical language, the prophet Isaiah gives us a glimpse of what awaits us:  
*“Then wolves will live in peace with lambs, and leopards will lie down to rest with goats. Calves, lions, and young bulls will eat together...in peace. They will not hurt or destroy each other on all my holy mountain, because the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the sea is full of water”* (Is. 11:6-9).
4. This season, is therefore not only a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of the Lord, but also an invitation to the full knowledge of the Lord, the Prince of Peace (Is. 9: 6). The full knowledge of the Lord comes from listening to the Word of God, as St. Paul says: *“Faith comes from hearing”*, (cf. Rom 10:17). Our faith and indeed our knowledge of the Lord will bring about: enlightenment, purity of mind and heart, and inspiration to decency and magnanimity.
5. In our Advent Message last year, we were concerned with the **climate condition** with its adverse effects threatening our common home; the unending **political rivalry** between the political divide threatening peace and tranquility; the **economical war** between the West and the East making a toll on our emerging economy; the **willful**

**manipulation of information** to suit interest groupings; and the **degeneration of objectivity and civility** in addressing issues.<sup>1</sup>

6. However, the knowledge of the Lord will remind us of our opportunity to a change of heart and the necessity for an honest conversion. It will reiterate our duty to live peaceably with one another and to cultivate the practice of reaching out to one another in love and respect. It will inspire in us a collaborative spirit in search of common solutions for a better society, thereby building bridges of friendship and companionship. It will reinvigorate our need to forgive and forget the past wrongs and foster trust between individuals and groupings.
7. As we await the birth of the Prince of Peace, it is our duty to cultivate a culture of speaking kindly to one another and about others. The kind of hateful speech predominant in our society today, does not inspire in the search for common solutions for a better Zambia, but heightens resentment and hatred for one another. It can be so amazing how a little kindness would go a long way to setting the tone not only of a happy society, but also of a loving, caring and supportive society. Therefore, let us not praise and celebrate others when they are dead. The right time is now.
8. Let us develop a landscape that forgives and forgets. Resentment and hatred are moral cancers that eat away at the enthusiasm to do good and to move on with life. It is imperative to do good at all times, regardless; by hanging out together with others, working cheerfully, supporting one another and putting our time, our talents and our treasures at the disposal of everyone and for the benefit of all.
9. The knowledge of Jesus Christ - the Prince of Peace cautions us to be wary of the “dictatorship of relativism” which threatens to obscure the unchanging truth about man’s nature, his destiny and his ultimate good. Let us be wary and guard ourselves against **uncouth** and **abnormal tendencies to our Christian and cultural values** of our Nation.
10. May the Prince of Peace teach us to talk about things that have value and not necessarily the price. Instead of being cynical, let us be filled with admiration and respect for one another. In the face of fragmentation we are called to restraint, responsibility and commitment, especially towards others, work and public property. It is a necessity to value one another, not on account of one’s contributions but for what they are, namely;

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<sup>1</sup> Alick Banda, Advent Message – 2018, *A call to repentance, change of heart and a renewed way of life*, 2018, Lusaka, ADL Archives.

the divine presence of the living God. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus, intercede for us!

Given this at Lusaka, Cathedral of the Child Jesus, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, on the Feast of Christ the King, in the Year of our Lord, 2019, the Twelfth of our Episcopate.



**+Dr. Alick Banda**

Archbishop of Lusaka &

Apostolic Administrator of Ndola