

■ Parish Seasonal Guide ■

Advent: Waiting with Hope

By Fr. Charlie Chilufya, S.J.

This Advent parish guide offers reflections and group prayer outlines for each week of Advent. It helps parish groups prepare spiritually for Christmas by entering into prayer, faith-sharing, and the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love.

■ Structure of Weekly Gathering

1. Opening Prayer

Begin with lighting an Advent candle. Pray together for the theme of the week (Hope, Peace, Joy, Love).

2. Reading of the Gospel

Proclaim the Sunday Advent Gospel aloud. Pause for silence, then read again.

3. Reflection Input

Short reflection or reading on the theme of the week (provided below).

4. Faith-Sharing

Each participant shares: Where do I see this Advent theme alive in my life? Where do I long for it more?

5. Closing Prayer

Conclude with the Our Father or the Suscipe prayer.

■ Weekly Themes & Reflections

Week 1: Hope

Isaiah 2:1–5 — The mountain of the Lord's house.

Reflection: Where do I wait in hope today? How do I bring hope to others?

Week 2: Peace

Isaiah 11:1–10 — The wolf shall live with the lamb.

Reflection: What reconciliations am I called to? Where do I need Christ's peace?

Week 3: Joy

Isaiah 35:1–6, 10 — The desert shall rejoice and bloom.

Reflection: What fills me with joy? How can I spread joy to others?

Week 4: Love

Matthew 1:18–24 — Joseph's trust and love.

Reflection: Where am I called to live greater love this Christmas?

■ Closing Advent Prayer

'Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate Your coming, kindle in our hearts the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Help us to live these gifts in our families, communities, and world. Amen.'