



BISHOP'S ADVENT APPEAL 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in
Christ,

On the weekend of 26th &
27th November we celebrate
the First Sunday of the
Advent Season. In the next

four weeks we will be reflecting on the birth of our Lord, Jesus
Christ.

It is with great pleasure that I get to express my thanks to you all
for your most generous contribution to the 2021 Advent Appeal
in the amount of R 295 196.39 towards the support of the
Seminarium Fund. Despite economic hardships a great spirit of
generosity has been shown. Please accept my sincere gratitude.

Bishops Advent Message,

Advent is a privileged time, a golden opportunity, and a holy
Season that announces the beginning of a New Year in our
Liturgical Cycle. In this Year "A" the Church invites all of us on
ordinary Sundays to reflect on the Gospel of St Mark which
proclaims Jesus Christ as the Son of God fully human and fully
divine.

Like the Holy Family of Nazareth: St Joseph the Patron of the
Universal Church and Mary, Our Lady of the Flight into Egypt our
Patroness; we are all called to a deeper, active and effective
listening of the Word of God so that Jesus may "become flesh and
dwell among us" in our hearts, families, parishes, wards, schools,
colleges, universities; political, business and financial institutions;
places of work, leisure, our planet which is our common home, in
the whole universe and in all of creation. Everything that lives must
be inundated with the transformative presence and power of
Christ.

The vocation, ministry and life of St Joseph was characterized by
dreams. Many of them were personal, others were shared with
Mary and others were part and parcel of the messianic hope of
the people of Israel. Every one of us dream of happiness and
finding fulfilment in life. We rightly nurture great hopes, lofty
aspirations and those ephemeral goals – like success, money,
pleasure and entertainment which cannot always satisfy us
completely. If we were to ask people to express in one word their
life's dream, it would not be surprising to hear the response: "to
love and to be loved". It is love that gives meaning to life because
it reveals life's mystery. Indeed, our life grows in abundance and
flourishes when we give it; we truly possess it only if we
generously give it away. Advent is the time to reawaken our
dreams, to discern whether they are realistic or unrealistic and
most importantly, like St Joseph to discover God's own dream(s)
for each one of us, for our parish communities and our beloved
country.

The Liturgy of Advent and the Christmas Season recalls and
celebrates God's stupendous love, He loved the world so much
he gave us his own beloved Son Jesus so that all of us may have
life in abundance. We are so grateful that we have emerged alive
from Covid-19 pandemic although many of us still suffer its
prolonged effects and the trauma of having lost our grandparents,
parent(s), spouse, siblings, loved ones, relatives, bishops, priests,
deacons, religious, fellow parishioners, pastoral workers,
colleagues, benefactors and fellow country men and women. In

other instances, we have lost our homes, business, investments,
savings, employment, belongings, opportunities and time.

It is time to count our blessings as well, to allow God's healing
power to mend our broken hearts, restore our shattered
interpersonal relationships and to become the ambassadors of
justice, peace, reconciliation and care for our planet with all its
precious resources which sustains our life and that of all living
organisms.

God's will, his vision, plan and dream revealed by the Prophets
and his Son Jesus Christ is that all of us must become one human
family because God is our Father and Jesus is our Brother, who
has gone ahead to prepare a permanent place in heaven for us.
The "vocation" that we all share is making God's dream come true
for us, the great vision of fraternity that Jesus cherished when he
prayed to the Father "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21)

For the Advent Season of 2022 we have chosen the following beneficiary:

*The Sustainability and Viability of Diocesan Properties in need of
major repairs.*

"Visible churches are not simply gathering places but signify and
make visible the Church living in this place, the dwelling of God
with men reconciled and united in Christ . . . In this 'house of God'
the truth and the harmony of the signs that make it up should show
Christ to be present and active in this place." *The Catechism of
the Catholic Church.*

Our church buildings should be beacons of hope to both the
faithful and the greater community, whether in a city, town, or rural
surrounding. The building needs to catechise, to evangelize and
must show Christ and His Church present and active.

Our Diocese has magnificent well-maintained churches, however
we are experiencing serious structural issues at some of our
churches, most of them being non-sustainable parishes. The
Diocese assists these Parishes.

It is the responsibility of the Diocese to ensure the safety of those
worshipping at our Churches. Your valuable contributions will go
a long way in ensuring the longevity of our buildings for all the
faithful!

You may donate in the envelopes provided at your Parish or
alternatively, you can EFT the Diocese directly:

NAME: Catholic Diocese of Port Elizabeth

BANK: STANDARD BANK

Branch Code: 050017

ACCOUNT NO: 08 000 638 8

REFERENCE: Bishops Advent Appeal plus name of parish

**Have a Blessed, Joyful, Fulfilling, Meaningful and Fruitful
celebration of the Holy Season of Advent and Christmas!**

Yours sincerely in Christ,

RT. REV. VINCENT M. ZUNGU

BISHOP OF PORT ELIZABETH