KEY MESSAGES ABOUT THE SEASON OF ADVENT

- Advent is a countdown. We see shopping centres, television advertisements and supermarkets reminding us how many shopping days until Christmas. Children count down until the great day of ‘presents’ dawns. We as Christians prepare for Christmas by counting down the weeks until we celebrate the birth of Christ with advent candles.

- As the season of Advent approaches, let us be reminded of the sense of waiting that the season brings. It is considered a season of preparation for the annual commemoration of Christ’s birth. This rich and multi-layered season is also designed to prepare the Christian for the glorious possibilities of the parousia (the second coming). It is a season of joyful expectation.

- Advent is the liturgical theme of preparation in the church, set aside to bring before our eyes the incarnation of the Lord, the coming of Jesus Christ through Grace and the Second Coming of the risen Lord.

- The advent season begins with the preparation cry of John the Baptist “Make straight the way of the Lord.” John the Baptist goes ahead of the Lord to get everything ready for him. It is truly a time of preparation and expectation in anticipation of the Lord.

- Advent is something that is ‘arriving soon’. When we have something coming, when we expect an event, an advent, we are usually alert inside. We are listening.

- Advent is such a beautiful season. It is a time for renewal; it is especially a time for forgiveness because God brings forgiveness to us in the shape of the Son. Over the next few weeks we will travel once again the road that leads to Bethlehem. We will follow the cautious young couple along their arduous journey and remember their disappointment over being kept out of the inn. We will once more enter the stable, smell the odours and watch the manger being prepared. And along with the people of the village, the shepherds of the field, the angels, and the magi, we will focus our eyes of adoration upon the child in the crib and the star in the sky.

- During this season we are meant to be startled, to be awakened to almost infinite possibilities, and claim our souls and lives for the work of recreation, restoration and deep transformation.