HOMILY: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 28-29, 2026 — Year B
Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

I welcome you all with joy, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, to this Eucharistic celebration.

Today, we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. And as we do so, we also begin a new liturgical year — Year B.

The word **Advent** comes from the Latin word **ADVENTUS**, which means **Coming, Arrival**.

It literally means the coming of someone very important.

And in our Catholic theology, it means the Coming of Jesus Christ.

Throughout this Advent, we shall be preparing ourselves — preparing our hearts — for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord on December 25, Christmas.

You can see some symbols in the Church, especially the **Advent Wreath**: a circle of evergreen, with four candles, one lit each Sunday. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent:

1st Candle — Purple — Hope

2nd Candle — Purple — Peace / Faith

3rd Candle — Pink — Joy; Gaudete Sunday — rejoice, Jesus is near

4th Candle — Purple — Love, the Love of God

My dear friends, as we begin this Season of Advent, the message in the Gospel of today is very clear.

Jesus said to His disciples: "**Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when the time will come...**"

In other words, this period of Advent requires from us:

First, to strengthen our prayer life. Let us not pray only on a Sunday, but let us pray every day, with hope in the Living Lord.

Second, to be watchful. To be alert to the Lord's coming in our lives, to His special presence in our daily lives; **yes**, **he is always present in the Eucharist.** Christ is our special visit. He wants to visit your heart, your home, your family, your workplace... Be prepared.

PERSONAL STORY ON PREPAREDNESS

I remember during my philosophy studies in Katigondo Seminary in Uganda. The Papal Nuncio to Uganda by then, Archbishop Michael August Blume, S.V.D., visited us seminarians. We welcomed him with great joy. The whole Seminary community was very happy.

Then he planned to visit my class. Then, the Rector told us to be in class five minutes before he comes. He arrived in our class exactly five minutes before his talk.

But some of my friends were delayed in their dormitories.
On arrival at the classroom door, no entry for them, the Nuncio had entered.

I tell you, up to now, my friends who missed his talk still regret that event. They are also priests now, but they learnt a lesson — a lesson of being watchful, keeping alert, and keeping time.

My dear friends, that is exactly what Advent is telling us today.

If my friends missed the visit of a Nuncio and they still regret it, how much more should we prepare, so that we do not miss the visit of Christ Himself?

Thus, Advent is here to tell us: "Christ is coming, be watchful, pray, and be ready to welcome Him in your life."

Christ is our source of true joy, true love, true peace, and true comfort.

We pray, asking Mother Mary and St. Bavo to pray for us, that we too may have a meaningful Advent Season — a waiting with hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Fr. Francis Mwanje
Pastor