



Diocese of Kroonstad

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BISHOPS ADVENT MESSAGE – 2021

(A SEASON OF PREPARATION AND WAITING IN HOPE)

Dear Priests, Deacons, Religious, Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you with the love of God as we enter the Holy Season of Advent 2021. What a challenging year it has been for us all in our families, country and church communities with the pandemic of Covid-19. We enter the Advent Season with the coronavirus continuing to disturb our lives and of great concern to us all. In our parish communities in the Diocese of Kroonstad we are encouraged if possible to have an Advent Wreath with four candles symbolizing the four Sunday's of Advent. The first candle been lit on the first Sunday of Advent. I mention the lighting of the Advent Candles as a symbol of the light of Christ we are waiting to celebrate at Christmas. A light that assures us in the midst of the darkness of Covid -19 Christ who came on that first Christmas Night is with us always. He is the light of our Christian faith which fulfills us with hope when things seem so difficult to manage. The Advent Season focuses on the two comings of Christ. The first at Christmas and His Second Coming at the end of time. The readings of God's Word during this Advent Season and in a special way on the Sundays of Advent are messages of encouragement and hope as we wait in expectation for the celebration of Christmas and the Lord's return, second coming at the end of time. The Gospel of Luke Year C are read in this new Liturgical Year of the Church. God's Liberation is near at hand. All believers shall see the salvation of God, Mary's Child the Prince of Peace, Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord are highlights of the Gospel. As we prepare in the Advent Season may we read and reflect on the Word of God. May the Priests offer a Penitential Service in the Parishes so that we can prepare a heart that has been forgiven with love and mercy by God in the sacrament of confession. Our expectant prayer of joy `Maranatha Come Lord Jesus`. May I end this Advent Message with a positive happening in our Diocese and Catholic Church. The Launch of the Synod preparation towards a Synodal Church. We journey together as the People of God. I hope the process is going well in the Diocese. A Blessed and Prayerful Advent to all.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

P. Holiday
Bishop Peter Holiday

