

First Sunday of Advent

My Dear Friends,

Today we begin the season of Advent — a time of waiting, preparation, and conversion. It is a sacred journey that leads us to encounter the Lord who comes full of light, love, and mercy.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 24:37–44), Jesus invites us to stay awake and be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour. He compares His coming to the days of Noah — people were living their ordinary lives until the flood came suddenly. So, it will be when the Lord returns.

But being prepared does not mean living in fear. It means living with faith, allowing God's grace to touch and transform our hearts, and recognizing His presence in the ordinary moments of life.

Advent reminds us that the Lord comes to us in what is small and humble — in the smile of a child, the call of a friend, the person in need, or the simple gestures of everyday love. To stay awake means not letting the noise of life numb our hearts but awakening to the daily miracles that God places before us.

This week, take a moment to pause and look around. Find one blessing — one sign of God's presence — and share it with someone else. Perhaps your witness can awaken their hope and faith too.

May this Advent be a time of hope and renewal, a time to prepare our hearts so that Christ may be born within us.

And when He comes — at the hour we least expect — may He find us living with love, ready and joyful.

Come, Lord Jesus. We await You with joy.

Blessings!

Fr. Vilaire Philius

