A Promise of Light

Message from Bishop Alain Faubert – Advent 2026

The days are growing shorter, the nights longer. Think about it, brothers and sisters: if we were aliens, newly arrived on this planet, we would no doubt ask ourselves: 'Are we in for perpetual night? Will the sun, and its warmth during the day, ever return?'

But we, the inhabitants of this earth, know that the light will return. And for us Christians, despite the darkness that surrounds us, despite the clouds of war, despite the prevailing gloom, and better than a cycle of endless repetitions, we know that the true Light is coming! Christ, our Light, is returning in glory!



You might say to me: 'That light has already come, two thousand years ago! What has changed? The world is still full of violence and hatred.' I reply: 'Ever since He came, a fire has been kindled in this world; a hope shines within us, stronger than the night.'

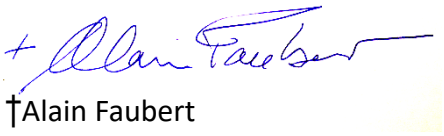
Brothers and sisters, the season of Advent 2026 is given to us, not merely to celebrate the first Christmas of 2,000 years ago. And certainly not to allow ourselves to be dazzled by the lights and the 'bling' of superficial joys and easy pleasures! But rather to hear anew and welcome together the radiant promise that comes to us from the Scriptures: 'Love and truth meet; justice and peace kiss; truth shall spring from the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven. The Lord will bestow His blessings, and our land will yield its fruit. Justice will go before Him, and His footsteps will mark the way.' (Psalm 84)

The psalmist and the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah. We Christians know that it is Jesus who is the Truth that sprang from the earth, when the justice of Heaven looked down upon His humble handmaid, the Virgin Mary. And it is He who, through His Resurrection, says to us: 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age! I am with you to bring the ages to their fulfilment. I am with you to bring about the new world!' (cf. Mt 28:20)

God with us, for ever! Jesus has come, He will come again, He is with us. Promises that shine. A promise of light yet to come. A promise that sets us alight! A promise that invites us during this Advent, from Sunday to Sunday, to keep our lamps burning; to seek, with Saint John the Baptist, the justice of the Kingdom; to open ourselves, with Mary, to the unexpected coming of the Saviour.

Through us, the Lord's promise can become a light for others. With Him, in our small and great commitments to justice, we help peace—His Peace—to grow in our world, all around us. Even through the simplest of gestures: a kind word that 'calms' heated discussions; a step towards forgiveness and reconciliation with those we have hurt; sharing our resources with families who are feeling the pinch, both emotionally and financially, as Christmas approaches. Gestures filled with His Light!

Brothers and sisters, on behalf of the entire diocesan team, I wish you a fruitful Advent, a time of His Coming, a time of our future… one that is open!



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