



The Waiting Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Advent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm the cocoon and

so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly's wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel's encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need. ●

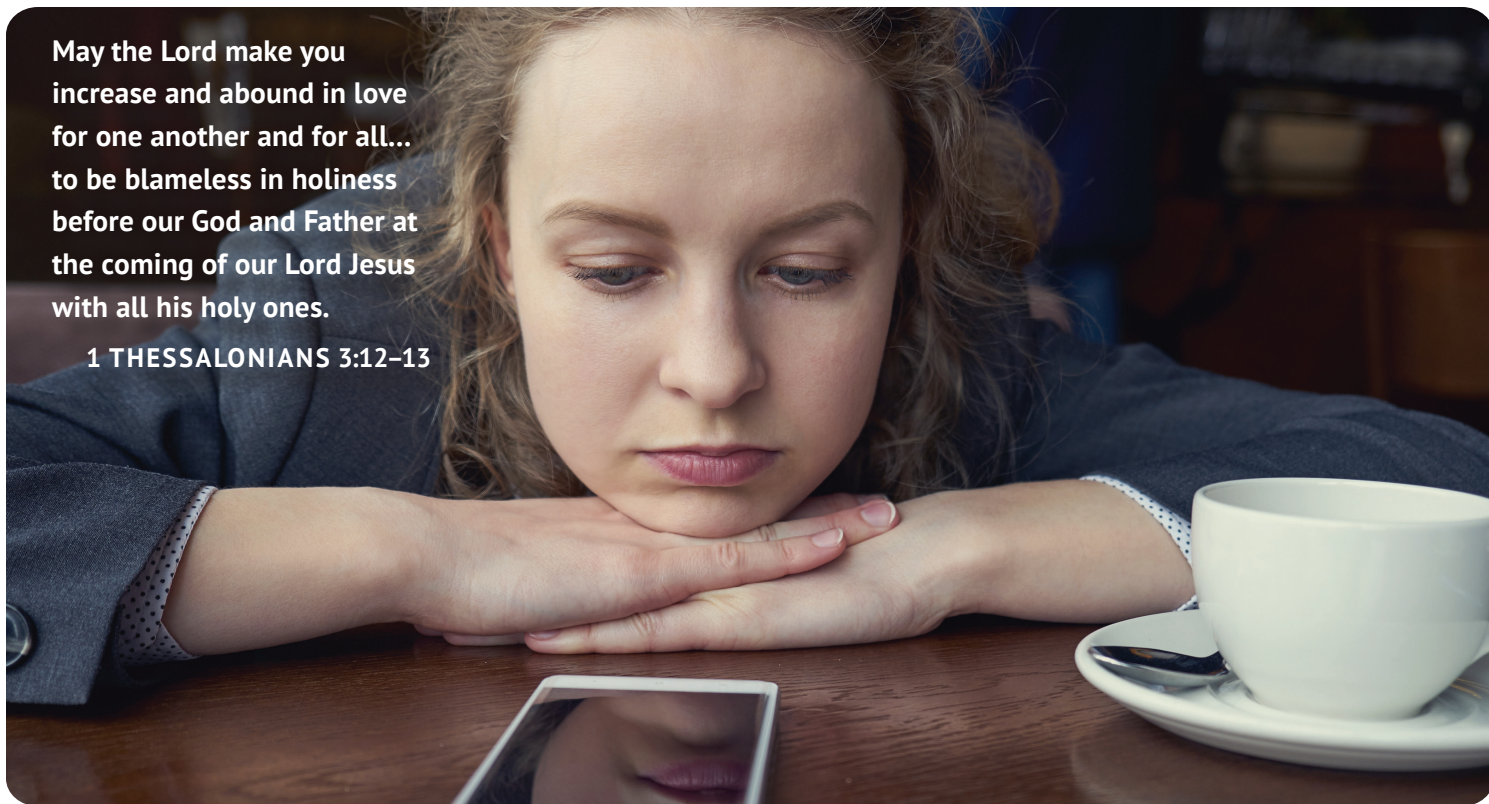


Reflect

How can you better enjoy times of waiting?

May the Lord make you
increase and abound in love
for one another and for all...
to be blameless in holiness
before our God and Father at
the coming of our Lord Jesus
with all his holy ones.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12–13



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

53 South Road, Paget PG 03 | P.O. Box HM 727, Hamilton HM CX

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley • Cell: 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us | **Diocesan Webpage:** www.romancatholicbermuda.bm



Parish Administrator:

Karen Marsh
email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com
(c) 799 0842

Pastoral Council Finance Chair:

Reenu Reji
email: reenuzj87@gmail.com
(c) 518 3087

Pastoral Council CCD Coordinator:

Patricia Carreiro
email: pcarreiro1976@gmail.com
(c) 737 1047



Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES...

NOVEMBER 30/DECEMBER 1st - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Fred Anderson
10:15AM Lector: LaVerne Lau EM: Pat Robinson
 Collection: LaVerne Lau, Pat Robinson

DECEMBER 7/8th - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Lector: Laura DeFrias EM: Karen Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: Madelena Almeida
 Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS...

NOVEMBER 30/DECEMBER 1st - THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM Mary & Benjamin Botelho ++
 Adelina & Jose DeFrias
10:15AM In Loving Memory of Baby Chloe +

DECEMBER 7/8th - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00PM The Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners
10:15AM The Sick and Suffering

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at

St. Theresa's - 7:30AM Mon.—Fri.

St. Anthony's - 8:00AM Tues.—Fri. | St. Patrick's - 8:00AM Mon.—Fri..

ST. THERESA'S Daily Mass - 7:30am



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

November 23/24th Collection: \$770.00

Christmas Flower Memorials: \$50.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
 to St. Michael's Church's

BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction.

5 WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HEART THIS ADVENT

- 1. Prepare room at the Inn**
Make room in your heart for Jesus
- 2. Clean out the cobwebs**
After an Examination of Conscience, go to Confession
- 3. Hang new curtains**
"decorate" your heart with joy and hope.
- 4. Get out the fine china and set the table**
Let your attitude be one of enthusiastic expectation.
- 5. Open the front door and wait**
Wait for Christ's arrival silently and in a spirit of prayer



Bishop's Corner...



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament are a religious community of blind women. They cannot see, but they are still actively involved in the glory of God and the good of humanity. Sister Mary Veronica always wanted to become a nun, but had difficulty finding an order that would accept her because of her visual impairment. "This congregation of blind sisters is unique and one of a kind in Kenya," says Sister Mary Veronica. "Our founder, Fr. Luigi Orione, was a person full of mercy and asked us to be mothers and sisters of the poor. We offer our lack of sight to God for our brothers and sisters who do not know the Truth, so that they may experience God, the light of the world."

Although the blind Sacramental Sisters are a contemplative congregation, they are also very active. They teach catechism in their parish, visit people in the neighbouring village, and offer their help online. "In our charism as the Sacramental Sisters", Sister Mary states, "we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and talk to Jesus about humanity. We meet with people and talk to them about God's love. We bring souls to Jesus and Jesus to souls."

The sisters alternate between attending the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and other community activities, such as farming, poultry farming, making rosaries and knitting. These are activities that help them earn a living. Sister Mary comments that, "We come to the congregation to give and receive; we don't come to be helped. We try to be autonomous in everything we do. We need opportunities, not pity." The sisters admit, however, that the challenges make them complete. Sister Mary Rachael also comments that, "We face our challenges with joy; being blind does not take away our talents and abilities."

Have a restful weekend and a blessed Advent!

+ *Wes Jurek*
 Bishop Wes



Word of Life: December 1st

"The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

Pastor's Point

Dear Parishioners,

In time of suffering for the people of Judah, Jeremiah looks forward with hope to God's fulfilling of the promise of the Davidic covenant. The time is coming, says he, for God to raise up His Anointed One from the line of David to redeem Israel and return justice to the land and its people. The psalmist follows, developing the essence of this covenantal relationship of petitioning God to continue teaching His ways and remember His fidelity, righteousness, and mercy. The hope is for an abiding, life-giving relationship, made manifest in the coming gift of the Christ.

The New Testament readings spring from the lived reality of this relationship in history. Paul pleads for help for God's people to abound in love, manifesting that of God the Father in the gift of Jesus the Son, through loving care for creation and one another. How we choose to act and interact with one another should reflect this relationship. The hope now is for the time to come, as Jesus expounds in Luke's Gospel. Jesus calls disciples of all time to stand strong in the face of fear and distraction. Life in covenant relationship with the One who created us and the One who redeemed us in the longer, possibly harder road, but the journey is worth the effort in hope for a destination in union.

Apocalyptic signs abound in the world today, and can leave us fearful, anxious, and looking for escape. Let us lift our eyes toward God and trust that He will lead the way, but it is up to me to follow Him.

God bless,

Fr. Joe Pastor, Vicar General of DOHB



Dear Padre,

I've been Catholic all my life, but I don't understand Advent. It's too much like Lent and seems an odd way to prepare for the birth of a baby.

In a society that is primarily secular, one skill of the believing Christian is the ability to balance competing realities. From a secular perspective, Christmas is part of the period identified as the "holidays," beginning with Thanksgiving until New Year's Day, when it abruptly ends and stores begin advertising Valentine's Day.

For Christians, Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the great promise fulfilled after centuries of waiting and expectation. The creative energy of the Father is displayed in wonder and awe as the angels sing and people of good faith gather to celebrate. We join our ancestors in anticipation of this event through the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

The Christian holy day is a singular day, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas—but the Church continues the celebration of God's life and love through the days that follow, culminating in the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

We are invited to hold the secular and the liturgical experiences in an integrated balance. We can celebrate the secular holidays and we can enter the liturgical season that helps us contemplate something much grander and more spectacular. ●



KIPGODI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians"—and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness....

This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021



STEFANO DAL POLOZZO / CNS

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- Emmaus Bible Study reviews the three upcoming Sunday readings. TUESDAYS 3:00pm -4:30pm.
 - St. Charles 'Going Deeper', Bible Study. As the name suggests this takes an in-depth look at the Sunday readings. For further info call Fr. Joe at 705:0236. THURSDAYS 3:00-4:30pm.
- NO BIBLE STUDIES during December. Classes will resume in January.**

St. THERESA'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am and WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS at 12:10pm.

St. PATRICK'S

- The Rosary is recited every, WEDNESDAY at 10:00am.
- The Rosary followed by the PORTUGUESE mass every, WEDNESDAY at 7:00pm.
- Adoration at St. Patrick's on Thursdays during winter months will take place at 6pm.
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am.

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP is open, TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS 10:00am-2:00pm.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE

During the 2024 Advent season, parishes throughout our Diocese are asked to support a "Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive". Each day of Advent, add one item to your collection box. By Christmas, you will have a food basket which will be donated to those in need. See the flyer for details of items to be collected. Drop off details are also included in the flyer. Collection of the food baskets in each parish will be coordinated by the parish St. Vincent de Paul representative for this project is Karen Marsh, stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Kelly at 236-4613 or email: ekelly@ibl.bm.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Christmas Food Voucher Programme - 2024

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is providing Christmas Food Vouchers again this year for those less fortunate and would like your help in registering people of your parish needing assistance. Please provide the person's name and telephone number, along with your name and telephone number in case we need to follow up with you. You can call 525-1191 and leave a message on the SVDP voicemail or speak to your SVdP parish representative, Karen Marsh 799 0842.

Deadline to receive names is 1st Dec 2024. Distribution takes place Saturday, December 7, 2024.

Many thanks and God bless. SVdP Society Committee

**UP COMING
EVENTS** in our Catholic community...

- **12th of December**, Thursday: 6:30pm - Stella Maris Parish Liturgical Feast
- **17th of December**, Tuesday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Theresa's
- **18th of December**, Wednesday: 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Patrick's



DECORATE the Church

Please consider helping, thank you!

The Altar Society volunteers will be decorating the Church for our Christmas season and would like to invite anyone who would like to participate in helping to bring our Church into this festive season is invited to come and join us

We will meet on Saturday December 7th at 9:30 am.

All are welcome.

NEXT SUNDAY - Dec 8th



Coffee Social

Please join us on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th** following the **10:15am Mass** for our Christmas Coffee Social. Please consider sharing your favourite savoury or sweet offering, we would be very grateful.

Please make every effort to support and enjoy this social.



Our Sunday Readings

JEREMIAH 33:14-16
PSALM 25:4-5,8-10,14
1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-4:2
LUKE 21:25-28,34-36

The Day

JEREMIAH 33:14-16

Reading closely

1. What promises does the LORD make?
2. When will these events occur?
3. For whom are these words spoken?
4. How might people have responded to this prophecy?

Living the word

5. What promises have been made to you?
6. Have you received promises that were kept, but not in the way you expected?
7. Do you keep your promises?

THE FIRST READING

A brighter future

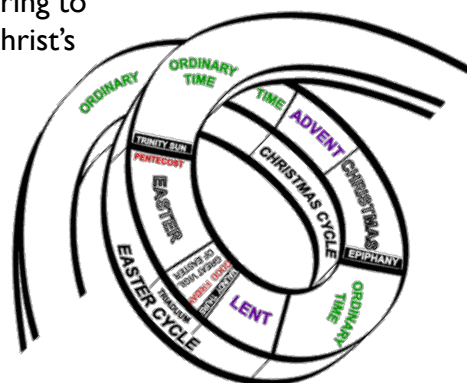
The reigns of King David and his son Solomon were a high point in the history of Israel. This particular prophecy was given centuries later, after the nation had been conquered several times and forced to endure hardship and humiliation. After these centuries of oppression, God's people longed for the peace and prosperity that their ancestors had enjoyed.

A just shoot

Because King David had been both an able leader and devoted to the LORD, God promised that his descendants would always reign over Israel. This passage renews the hope that God would bring forth a ruler who would be as just, pious, and competent as David was. This new ruler would protect the people and help them follow God's law.

ADVENT

Advent comes from the Latin *ad venire*, which means *to come*. Advent has a double meaning. Our liturgical year ends and then begins with readings on the end times. As we enter the season of Advent, we're reminded not only that we're preparing to celebrate Christ's birth, we're also preparing for his return in glory.



LUKE 21:25-28,34-36

Reading closely

1. How do you react to such imagery?
2. What word or phrase most captures your attention?
3. How should people react to these events?
4. Do we know when “the day” will come?

Living the word

5. What things lure you away from Christ?
6. What challenges to your faith have you already faced?
7. What do you need to do in order to stand confidently before Christ?

THE GOSPEL READING

Cataclysmic events

Most Jews expected violence and chaos to increase dramatically right before God established the fullness of his kingdom. The upheaval would be the result of the forces of evil trying to stop God from completing his transformation of the world.

People expected the entire cosmos to become part of this upheaval.

- celestial bodies would no longer give light
- the oceans (symbols of death and chaos) would become dangerous again
- heaven itself would shake at the enormity of what happens

In a cloud

Clouds were signs of God’s presence.

- the Israelites followed a pillar of cloud out of Egypt and into Canaan (Exodus 13:21, 40:34-38)
- a cloud surrounded Mt. Sinai when God made a covenant with his chosen people (Exodus 19:9)
- a cloud descended upon the Jerusalem temple at its dedication (1 Kings 8:10-13)

In Daniel 7:13-14 we hear how *one like a son of man* ascends *on the clouds of heaven* to receive power to bring about God’s kingdom. This person is the opposite of the evil, monstrous figures that oppose God’s reign. The son of man will vanquish such evil and establish *an everlasting dominion*.

In this Gospel passage Jesus is the Son of Man who now *descends* from heaven to vanquish evil and establish God’s reign. Jesus’ first coming was marked by suffering and death. His second coming will manifest his *power and great glory*. Such language and imagery alludes to God’s powerful presence in the history of his people.

Have no fear

Some people will be so frightened by Christ’s return that they will *die of fright* (v.26). The changes that will be evident when God’s kingdom comes in its fullness are so dramatic that some people will recognize and dread how radically different their lives are about to become.

Despite the events that will happen, those who remain faithful to Jesus have nothing to fear. On the contrary, they are to *stand erect* (rather than cower in fear) and *raise their heads* (v.28). God will bring them into the fullness of his kingdom.

Until then

There is no indication when these events will occur. Instead, Jesus’ followers hear how they must conduct themselves until *that day* comes. People must avoid becoming absorbed in fleeting, mind-numbing pleasures. Even the things people have to do as part of daily living shouldn’t distract them from remaining hopeful and faithful.

PRAYER

adapted from a prayer by St. Thomas Aquinas

Give me, O Lord God,
an ever watchful heart so that nothing
may ever lure me away from you.
Give me a noble heart that no unworthy affection
shall ever draw downward to earth.
Give me a heart of honesty that no insincerity
shall warp.
Give me a heart of courage that no distress shall
ever crush or quench.
Give me a heart so free that no harmful or
thoughtless desire shall ever claim me for its own.
Amen.



ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

P.O. Box HM 1191

Hamilton, HM EX

Bermuda

525-1191

ST. VINCENT de
PAUL SOCIETY

1st December 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Grace Lovecchio
President
St. Theresa's Parish

Patricia Rodrigues
Vice President
St. Anthony's Parish

Sandra Neal
Treasurer
Stella Maris Parish

Helen Cooze
Treasurer
St. Theresa's Parish

Joanne Judd
*Chair – Loaves &
Fishes*
St. Theresa's Parish

Daphne DeSilva
Committee Member
St. Theresa's Parish

Thomas Sinclair
Committee Member
St. Theresa's Parish

Vanessa Turner
Committee Member
St. Theresa's Parish

Dcn. Matthew Arnold
Chaplin
St. Patrick's Parish

Dear Friends of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

It is Advent, an excellent opportunity to increase our prayer life in anticipation of the birth of Christ. With our world experiencing the catastrophic events of wars and natural disasters, offering prayers, especially for those affected areas, appears to be our only weapon against these evils at this time. Having said that, Advent also gives us an opportunity to pray for and help those closer to home. The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP) continues to strive to ease the burdens of those suffering in Bermuda wherever we can be effective. This is only possible because of the love and support of people like you: That is, for the support of the L&F volunteers; for those who assist in the spontaneous projects and collections that take place throughout the year, and the generous support of all our donors. To everyone, we say **THANK YOU!**

As reported in last year's 2023 letter, the following ministries continue to take place throughout the year:

The Loaves & Fishes Feeding of the Vulnerable Programme. Since 2009 the weekly distribution of hot meals continues each Sunday, serving between 130-135 people weekly. We are grateful to the Portuguese Bakery for their support. We are equally grateful for the approximately eighty adult and fourteen student volunteers for their support. Now is an excellent time - if you are interested in participating in this rewarding activity, and it is rewarding - please contact Joanne Judd, the programme director, on 337-6625 for further information.

The General Food Voucher Programme – A host of seniors, homeless, and vulnerable families with children are provided with food assistance throughout the year in a bid to fill the gap with the rising cost of food. Committee Members take turns managing the daily SVdP Cell phone requests from those experiencing food insecurity. This is another eye-opening experience that benefits both the persons managing the phone and the recipients of the food vouchers.

The Christmas Voucher Programme - Christmas "Hamper" Food Vouchers are distributed to over three hundred individuals in December. A daunting but rewarding task. In the spirit of Christmas Giving the provision of food is given to as many vulnerable members of our community as possible where most needed with the hope of brightening their lives, even if only temporary.

Hardship Assistance Programme - Additionally, in a crisis situation, SVdP provides relief for BELCO, Medical, Rent, and other urgent expenses on a case-by-case basis throughout the year.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Committee wants to increase its reach-out ministries and the SVdP Committee Membership. If you are a Roman Catholic; have a strong sense of compassion, empathy, and love of the poor and vulnerable; have a generous spirit and would like to participate in giving back to the Community by joining this group, please call Grace Lovecchio, our President, at 505-0703 and have a chat. Our Committee Members are listed at the side of this letter. Any member will also be happy to share further information with you. Pray on it and get in touch! This is an important part of our Faith life, and your participation would be much appreciated.

Our previous year's Financial Report is included with this letter for your review. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us. If you wish to make a monetary contribution, envelopes have been placed in each of our six Churches and are also attached to your Church bulletins. Drop these into the Collection Basket in your parishes or place them in the Poor Boxes of your church. Alternatively, and more efficiently, a direct deposit can be made to the **Butterfield Bank – SVdP Society Account No. 20006060476711100.**

On behalf of the many clients we assist and our SVdP Committee, we wish you a happy, healthy, joyful, and prayer-filled Advent as you prepare for the birth of our Lord. We also take this opportunity to thank you all again and to wish you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

The St. Vincent de Paul Society

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Statement of Income & Expense
Years ended 31st December 2023 – 2022

	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 22</u>
Income		
Donations		
Diocese - Reserved Fund	15,000	15,000
Donations-in-kind (Vouchers)	1,000	0
General	49,083	62,458
Parishes - Poor Box	17,963	17,189
Interest income	10	11
Total Income	<u>83,056</u>	<u>94,658</u>
Expense		
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Bank charges	211	196
Cell Phone (SVdP) & Laptop	432	120
Dues: Nonprofit Alliance of Bermuda	100	100
Printing Expense	186	0
Registered Charity Fee	275	275
SVdP Committee Retreat	100	0
Total ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	<u>1,304</u>	<u>691</u>
 CLIENT ASSISTANCE - Hardship	 6,044	 8,669
DONATION - Hall Usage	1,200	1,200
FOOD VOUCHERS		
Christmas Voucher Programme	37,350	41,350
General Voucher Programme	20,000	19,900
Total FOOD VOUCHERS	<u>57,350</u>	<u>61,250</u>
LOAVES & FISHES - FEEDING PROGRAMME	<u>24,757</u>	<u>22,712</u>
Total Expense	<u>90,655</u>	<u>94,522</u>
Net Loss/Income	<u><u>(7,599)</u></u>	<u><u>135</u></u>