



Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

My dear brothers and sisters,

As another week dawns and we move even closer to the birth of Jesus, I hope and pray that you and your families are well in mind, body, soul and spirit.

The third Sunday of Advent is formally known in the Catholic Church as Gaudete – meaning ‘rejoice’ and the candle itself represents joy. With this in mind, I have been pondering on these two aspects and so I invite you to internalise these two words for yourself. What do I have to rejoice about in my life and what do I have to be joyful about? Can I resonate with this? Does my family, work, friends, hobbies make me joyful or is my glass half empty? As I was praying, I stumbled across this interesting reflection:

Where is my key?

One night a man was crawling around on his hands and knees to look for something underneath a lamppost. When his friends saw him, they asked him what he was looking for, and he told them that he had lost the key to his house. So they all got down to help him look, but without any success. Finally, one of them asked him where exactly he had lost the key, and he replied, “In the house.”

“Then why,” his friends asked, “are you looking underneath the lamppost?”  
The man replied, “Because there’s more light here.”

In truth, it made me realise, we are not very different from this man. We are doing the same thing all the time – always seeking fulfilment in pursuit of pleasure because that seems the obvious place to look, believing it to be the place where joy is to be found. But is it? As I said last week, we are always in a state of anticipating and waiting. This week, look back, search for yourself, by yourself. Do not allow others to make your path for you. It is your road, and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one can walk it for you. Identify the people in your life that bring you joy and let them know. Note, I am talking about people and not materialistic things. Because, it is the simple and most obvious acts of human kindness that can turn our lives around.

To smile is to be cheerful in a wonderful, contagious, and effortless way. Try it! Spread a little joy wherever you go this week and do something unexpected for someone and then stand back and watch the miracle of Christmas unfold in your life!

As I sign off, I wish you a blessed and fruitful week ahead. May all your burdens be light and may you carry your cross with a renewed sense of joy and anticipation. Anticipation of good things to come.

Yours,

Rev Fr Nicholas Nwanzi