

Sunday 4th December 2021



My dear brothers and sisters,

I extend my warm greetings to you and your families. We are now at our second week into Advent. Last week, I spoke of the coming of Jesus and that we together as one family are preparing ourselves for his birth.

Christmas is of course a time of celebration with our families, friends, acquaintances and colleagues. It is indeed the season of goodwill yet we once again find ourselves in the throes of political confusion with new Covid-19 variants and the implications of this on our lives.

Many of us thought that the restrictions were behind us and we had firm plans in place to make up for the past year. However, we now find ourselves contemplating what this season will look like. It is difficult to anticipate what is coming other than more uncertainty and frustration.

This week, I invite you to reflect on a well-known story which perhaps encapsulates our feelings, mood and thoughts.

The Elephant Rope

As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

My brothers and sisters, this is a powerful read. This passage speaks volumes in relation to our current state of affairs.

Please, you have it in you to move! Do not let fear or complacency stop you from thinking outside of the box. You have a choice. This advent, do the things you want to do albeit differently. Where there is a will, there is a way.

As always, I end my message with prayers for you all. May God bless you and your families with all his graces and favours.

Continue to stay safe.

Yours Rev Fr Nicholas Nwanzi