The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Naboth Manzongo
The 14th Bishop of Rupert's Land

Advent 2026

"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." (Mark 13:37)

Dear friends,

Advent calls us to be attentive. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we are also awaiting his coming again in glory. Our hope is in the crucified and risen Lord who will bring God's purposes to their full realization.

For some, the very approach of Christmas is an anxiety. There may be an empty chair at the table following the death of a loved one. For others, the worry is about providing for their families. I pray for all for whom this season is difficult. In Advent we bring our grief and our longings before the God who has promised to be with us- Emmanuel. I ask our parishes to be especially sensitive to those who are quietly carrying sorrow and to offer them both companionship and practical help.

At our most recent Synod, under the theme "Team Rupert's Land: Courage, Connection and Change", I challenged us to be a listening Church. Advent is the season for the winter work I described: prayerful listening and discernment. I urge you to set aside time each day for prayer. Slow down, read the Gospel for the coming Sunday, and sit in silence for a bit. That will help us hear what Christ is asking of us. It's also an outward-facing practice. In my charge, I asked each parish to identify an outward-looking mission priority and commit to feeding our neighbours as part of it. Advent is a good time to start or build on that. Listen to those in difficulty and let their experience inform your response. A shared meal can build friendship while also meeting a food need. A personal invitation can be a very effective way to help someone find a place in the parish.

During the 16 Days of Activism against GBV (November 25 to December 10), we are asking our parishes to pray and act to end violence. Our 4th Mark of Mission is to transform unjust social structures, challenge violence at every level, and work towards peace and reconciliation. Let's listen to survivors and help to make our churches and our communities safe.

On Nov 30, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of women being ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada. We give thanks for their ministry, particularly here in Rupert's Land. We recommit ourselves to honouring women's vocation and removing all barriers to their full participation.

Thank you for your faithful service in Rupert's Land. Pray for our clergy and our lay leaders. May this Advent season deepen our trust in God and our welcome of one another.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

With every blessing,

+Naboth

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Team Rupert's Land: Courage, Connection& Change