

# HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS



## Advent Stations:

The season of Advent allows us a few weeks to recall and prepare for the Christ's Child coming and God's promises to the human family. To help us reflect on the season, each week represents a train station on our journey of life.

**HOPE** This candle is called the "Candle of Hope." It symbolizes faith in God keeping his promises to humanity.

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

The season of waiting helps us to contemplate how the Word became human and lived amongst us.

*Light of the World, we enter this season of Advent with hearts full of longing for your coming*

**LOVE** This candle is called the "Candle of Preparation," reminding Christians to "get ready" to receive God.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant – eg. Our siblings, friends, children and even the love of your life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves

*Rest your Spirit upon us, O good and gentle God! Prepare us to receive your gifts, as we long for your coming. Teach us, through the example of Mary pregnant with Jesus, to cherish the new life within us.*

This candle is the "Candle of Joy." It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ.

**JOY**

The mystery to everyone is: we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

*You sent Jesus to be one of us, God, so that we could take the risk of approaching you. We praise you for his presence, a tangible sign of your love for us. May our preparation for the celebration of his birth encourage us to a more faithful imitation of his life.*



This candle is "Candle of Love," reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth.

As we approach the fourth station of the 'Advent Train' I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey. Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on the Mukuru Promotion Centre train in 2018.

*Your creation, O God, is intricate and diverse, and yet it is one in you. As we experience this unity, may we be moved to break down the barriers that separate and fragment us. As one holy people, may we make ready for the coming of your reign, where we will know one another as sister and brother, without class or distinction. We make this prayer in confidence, for you have promised to hear us. Amen.*



*Some of the 70 sponsored pupils from St Catherine's Primary School 2018 by Friends of Mukuru WA.*

*Thank you for giving hope and the gift of education to these children.*

We, at Mukuru Promotion Centre, are very grateful for your sacrifices during the year to help thousands of children and parents from the slums. Since November, when the schools closed, Sr Barbara and her office have distributed food parcels of beans and maize to over 500 families and we are still counting.

Blessings to you and your families who have provided much care, funds, materials, resources, clothes, shoes and especially hope to the Mukuru children and families. Their 2018 train journey has been a little easier.

A blessed Christmas to you and your family, with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation

Sr Kathy