Every year there is a great debate about when we should put up our Christmas lights and decorations. The answers vary depending on who you are and how you feel. For some, mid-November seems appropriate, others wait until the first or second weekend of December, and then there's the hardy few who hold-out until the couple of days before Christmas.

But why do we decorate our homes and cities with lights at this time of the year? Is it just to make them bright and appealing? Are we in competition with our neighbours to see who can get the better display? Or do we use our displays to raise funds for charitable causes?

This tradition stems from candles that were used as decorations on Christmas trees which later evolved into the electric lights that we know today. This practice of lighting candles was used by early Christians as a symbol of Jesus Christ as the Light of the World. Light is still used symbolically in this way today.

Light dispels all darkness. It is the source of life. It is the spectrum which brings colour into our lives. A good light brightens the path that we tread so we can see any potholes and avoid tripping. This is the perfect picture of Jesus – He is the source of life, the One who dispels all darkness and brings colour and illumination into our lives.

Are you living in darkness? Is your way ahead unclear? Turn on the light in your life by receiving Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. This is the reason He came and why we celebrate Christmas. "*I am the Light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*" (words of Jesus from the Bible, John 8.12).