



December 1, 2024

Dear Family Members of St James, Leitrim, Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

A new liturgical year, Year C, in the calendar of the church, has just begun with us, starting with the season of Advent, a time when we await the coming of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as a New-Born Baby, the Protector of Our Souls.

Last year, a whole number of us started the new year with the expectation and hope that things will change for the better. Overall, things got better, and today, we thank God that He walked with us throughout our journey and has brought us safely to the end of the year.

Now as we begin the new season of Advent, we face uncertainty, but we urge all of us to hang onto our faith. We have seen this before and this too shall pass because Our God is with us and walks with us. **OUR GOD REIGNS!!**

Advent remains for us, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord at Christmas, and His return at His Second Coming. We celebrate Advent as a season of reflection, prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, peace, joy and love.

The message of Advent remains not only thanking God for His Son's first coming to Earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation and anticipation of his final coming at the end of this age.

As we embark on this joy-filled anticipatory celebration of the arrival of Our Lord, let us keep our faith in Him strong, be there for each other, be Christ to each other and continue to walk in His footsteps. Pray without ceasing. Let us always be ready to welcome Him, so that when He comes unexpectedly, He will find us as worthy to sit with Him in His Father's Kingdom. **BE ALWAYS PREPARED.**

We are privileged and feel credibly blessed and honoured to be your shepherds. Our prayers are with you always. Let's continue to walk together in Christ.

As we light the Advent candles, we pray that you will feel God's hope, peace, joy and love this season. May this Advent Season fill your hearts with happiness

forever, and may He grant us His courage to face the unexpected and uncertainties in the coming year. Amen.

A Blessed Advent to all of us,

Rev. Nash & Your Wardens.

### **Advent and Christmas at St. James Leitrim**

**Advent 1:** Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m. **(Hope)**

**Advent 2:** Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. **(Peace)**

**Christmas Carolling** will be held on Friday December 13. Details to follow.

**Advent 3:** Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. **(Joy)**

**Bridlewood Christmas Service:** Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. followed by caroling

**Advent 4:** Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. **(Love)**. Carols and Lessons Service, Christmas Lunch, Pageant, Tree Lighting, 50/50 Draw

**Christmas Eve Family Service:** Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (Holy Eucharist)

**Christmas I Service:** Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. with our mini-choir. (Morning Prayer)

**Note:** There will be **NO** service on Christmas Day

### **Follow-up to the Thanksgiving Letter**

We write with gratitude for the positive response that we received to our Thanksgiving Letter that focused on our deficit. A most sincere thank you. We are including with this letter, a Christmas envelope in the event that you would like to make a further donation to the programs of our church this year. Those donations received by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 will receive a tax receipt for the 2024 taxation year.

Again, a big thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Many blessings to you and your family during this Holy Advent and Christmas season.

Your Wardens,

Vic Wootton and Glenn Clark