



December 2023

Dear People of God, and Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Once again, we have ended another church year and just about to start another with the season of Advent, when we await the coming of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as a New-Born Baby, the Protector of Our Souls.

The just ended year has been really challenging, and I am sure a whole number of us would like to see the beginning of a new year with the expectation and hope that things will change for the better. We thank God that He walked with us throughout our journey and has brought us safely to the start of another.

Advent remains a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord at Christmas, His return at His Second Coming and also the beginning of a new liturgical year. We celebrate Advent as a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy.

The message of Advent always remain 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 the age.

As we embark on this joy-filled anticipatory celebration of the arrival of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, let us remember His call to us to be our Brother's and Sister's keepers. Until we see Him in person, let us keep being Christ to others. And let

them be Christ to us. May we continue to walk in His footsteps and look out for each other. Let us be ready at all times to meet Him, so that when He comes unexpectedly, He will find us as worthy and blessed servants to be invited to sit with Him in His Father's Kingdom. BE ALWAYS PREPARED.

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

As we light the Advent candles, I pray that you will feel God's hope, peace, joy and love this season, and may this Season of Advent fill your hearts with Happiness forever. Amen.

Nash +

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

**Memorial Christmas Flowers** – Donations towards flowers are now being accepted.

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10 a.m.** – Service at Bridlewood Retirement Home

**Friday, December 15, 2023 6 p.m.** – Caroling starting at Bridlewood Retirement Home

**Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:30 a.m.** – Service of Carols and Lessons, Christmas pageant, and luncheon, Gift Basket Draw. **Please bring one favourite Christmas decoration to be blessed.**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023 7:00 p.m.** – Family Christmas Eve Service. **Note – there is no service at 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday, December 31, 2023 10:30 a.m.** – Christmas I service with a mini-choir