

October 3, 2008

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all. By the time this letter reaches you, a Warden of St. James, Leitrim, will have read another letter to the church. That letter explains that The Right Reverend Bishop John Chapman has appointed me Priest-in-Charge of the Parish, commencing on October 5th, 2008. I am very happy to be here.

In this season of changing weather and back-to-school activity, of family feasts and our upcoming national election, the parish church of St. James, Leitrim, continues as a place of worship, community and praise to our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God that He has brought me to a place and time in my life where the offer of part-time priestly ministry is one I can thankfully accept. I am looking forward to reacquainting myself with those of you I remember from the parish picnics I've attended, and getting to know all of you. May God grant us many years of shared ministry, outreach and mutual support.

Over the next few weeks there are several events happening in the parish for which I would request your prayers and presence:

Wednesday, October 8th, Harvest Thanksgiving Potluck Supper and Singsong.

Monday, October 20th, Parish Council Meeting.

Saturday, November 1st, Annual Turkey Supper (at the Greely Community Centre).

For further information on events in the parish, please see your bulletin or the church web site, at www.saintjamesleitrim.com. You may contact the church by calling 613-739-9796 or by sending an e-mail to stjames@saintjamesleitrim.com. You can reach me at 613-440-0515 or margo.whittaker@yahoo.ca, though I may be the *least* able person to answer your questions about what's happening in the parish, while I'm St. James' newest member!

I am sincerely thankful for the ministry of those who have worshipped and served at the parish church of St. James, Leitrim, before us. I am thankful for all of you who have remained faithful through difficult times. I am also thankful for the annual events that allow the people of the parish to gather for food and fun and song, and for events held in the parish that reach out to the communities of people around us.

Please join me in filling the enclosed Thanksgiving Offering envelope with your Thanksgiving Offering and bring it to St. James Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday, October 12th. If you are unable to attend the service, please mail your offering for the support of the parish. I invite you to prayerfully consider increasing your regular weekly donations to the parish, and to consider using the automatic withdrawal donation program (known as "PAR") in order to ensure regular donations. Thank you and God bless you this bountiful season. My husband, Michael, and our children, Paul and Elizabeth, join me in wishing you all a blessed Thanksgiving.



Yours in Christ's Service,

The Reverend Margo Whittaker

Family Prayer: Thanksgiving (BCP 736)

O Most merciful Father, we humbly thank thee for all thy gifts so freely bestowed upon us. For life and health and safety, for power to work and leisure to rest, for all that is beautiful in creation and in the lives of men, we praise and magnify thy holy Name. But, above all, we thank thee for our spiritual mercies in Christ Jesus our Lord, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen