

March 13, 2008

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ at St James, Leitrim,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As I pen these words I am struck with just how much of a gift Jesus' grace and peace is, especially when life and circumstance deals us a heavy load. In these last couple of weeks St James has entered into a time of transition and interim ministry. On the one hand, I am delighted that this situation has brought us together allowing me to serve you in this interim capacity. And yet, the circumstances surrounding this new season of life and ministry at St James raise huge questions about our future and the unity of our community. I'm sure many feel that this is one of those "heavy loads."

Yet, no other season of our Church calendar offers hope to those with heavy loads as well as Easter does. After walking through the Passion of Holy Week, Easter Sunday's empty tomb proclaims to all of creation that God can transform our darkest hours into his greatest glory. And with that empty tomb, with our resurrected Lord and Saviour, we find grace and peace overflowing. Twice Jesus says to his disciples on that resurrection day, "Peace be with you." My prayer is that each of us would experience such grace and peace this Easter season, and that we would come together on Sunday March 23rd to declare that God still moves stones.

Your brother in Christ,
The Reverend Paul Donison