

*NEWS FROM THE PEWS*  
*MAYNOOTH MADAWASKA*  
*PASTORAL CHARGE*  
*WINTER 2020 NUMBER 97*



**Advent and Christmas Greetings**

**From Marilyn**

Advent and Christmas in the year 2020 will unfold for most of us like no other in recent memory. Our gatherings, if we have them at all, will be small and intimate. Many of us will likely be alone more than we're accustomed to being.  
The darkness may feel darker.  
The nights may feel longer.

Into the loneliness  
Into the dark  
Into the long night

We are promised hope, peace, joy, love, and the light of Christ's birth.

Hope, peace, joy, and love are not things we manufacture from nothing, just by telling ourselves to feel better.

All of these things are gifts of the Spirit.

They are gifts of God, just as the birth of that baby was a gift long ago.

That baby represented the hopes of the people, born the Prince of Peace.

He brought joy to his young mother and love to the hearts of all who encountered him.

I pray this Advent and Christmas that you receive these same gifts, - hope, peace, joy, and love.

In the worship services of the Maynooth, Madawaska Communities of Faith, whether online or in person, we are dreaming a dream of hope, peace, joy, and love for all.

I pray that you will be blessed by our offerings of worship and allow these things and more to be born in you today.

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**Advent and Christmas Offerings from the Maynooth Madawaska Pastoral**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> Advent 2** – online resource and in – person –

**Worship leader:** Rev. Marilyn

**9:30 am** St. Andrews Bethel United Church in Maynooth

**11:30 am** St. Paul and St. James United Church in Madawaska

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Advent 3** – online resources and in – person –

**Worship Leader:** Linda Crick in both venues  
**9:30 am** St. Andrews Bethel United Church in Maynooth  
**11:30 am** St Paul and St. James United Church in Madawaska  
Musicians Doris Hollingsworth and Carol Peterson

**Live Nativity Service December 19<sup>th</sup> & December 20<sup>th</sup>** 3 pm – 5pm – A CoVid safe  
Outdoor “Live Nativity” presentation on each day at the home of Marilyn and Svinda:  
470 East Road Loop, south of Maple Leaf east of Musclow Greenview.

You need to contact Marilyn 613-334-0668 to sign up for a time slot during those hours. You can come with people from your social bubble for a 30-minute leisurely walk through the story. Please contact Marilyn to sign up for a time between 3 and 5 on either day.

**No In-Person church services in the United Churches in Maynooth or Madawaska, Lake St. Peter, or Whitney on December 20, 24, 25**

**December 21<sup>st</sup> – Longest Night Service** (also known as a Blue Christmas Service)  
Provided online. Prepared by Erin Morlock and Rev. Marilyn

The Longest Night Service, also known as Blue Christmas, is for anyone who finds the festivities at this time of year painful or difficult because of grief or loneliness associated with the holidays or the loss of someone you have loved. This year in particular has been challenging on so many levels and if that challenge has occasionally left you feeling lonely, sad, or even despairing, this may be an important service for you. We honour the sadness and pain at the same time as we hold out hope that the coming of the Christ child is a balm for sore and weary souls. The longest night gives way to shorter nights here in the northern hemisphere as the earth tips towards the light after December 21. We hope that this service will allow you to lay down some of the burden of loneliness, sadness or pain and allow your spirit to be bathed in the love and light of Christ Jesus at his coming.

**December 24 and 25 – We will be sending a separate list of services that we encourage you to participate in Online.**

**December 27<sup>th</sup>** – Online service only. Worship resources provided by Wendy Lavalley. No formal church service in the United Churches in Maynooth or Madawaska

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Worship Leader: Erin Morlock with musicians Doris Hollingsworth and Carol Peterson

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If you see someone falling behind, walk beside them.  
If you see someone being ignored, find a way to include them.  
Always remind people of their worth.  
One small act could mean the world to them.

## **St. Paul & St. James, Madawaska**

*By Jean Jessup*

Our fall theme of 'Spiritual Practices' was chosen to help us face these hard times. The first one, 'Random Acts of Kindness' was practiced by many during the pandemic, as they helped a neighbour, a friend or a senior get their groceries and medications or just gave a friendly phone call to bring some cheer in their isolation.

Due to COVID, Rev. Marilyn and our charge did not get to formally celebrate her full admittance to the United Church of Canada, after all her hard work in finishing the necessary courses. Therefore, there was just a small 'celebration of ministry to officially welcome her on September 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark United Church in Cannifton.

Beautiful weather arrived for our outdoor service held behind the church on September 27<sup>th</sup> with Rev. Marilyn. She presented the 'spiritual practice of comfort and humility', for us to realize that we are only human and make mistakes in life, but we always know that God is with us for comfort and strength. The practice of lighting a 'good news candle' was also started, for anyone to bring forth their good news story during the pandemic.

The October 4<sup>th</sup> service that was to also be outdoors was rained out, so Rev. Marilyn delivered her 'Solidarity' service online.

The 'Leadership Team' and the 'Protocol Team' worked to follow all the health and safety protocols to prepare for our congregants to gather for inside church services, beginning on Thanksgiving Sunday. It was also decided that services would only occur in the Maynooth and the Madawaska churches. Whitney shares space with the Anglicans and there could be uncertainties about sanitation and safety there. Dorothy Wilson led that service of giving thanks for all the blessings around us and especially thanks for our good health at this time.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Linda Crick led worship with a religious and political theme, with the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus with many questions. But Jesus outsmarts them by finally saying, "pay the Emperor what belongs to him and pay to God what belongs to God". We also wished a Happy 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary to Ken and Jan Begbie.

The next 2 Sunday services with Rev. Marilyn were delivered online, while she self-isolated after travelling to a 'hot – spot'. Her reflection included another 'spiritual practice', so we could honour the greatest commandment of all, 'love God with all your might and love your neighbour as you love yourself'. We can do this by just practicing 'listening'.

We owe Doris Hollingsworth and Vivian Bloom a big 'thank you' for producing a wonderful presentation on our veterans for a 'Remembrance Day' service on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Dorothy Wilson's reflection showed us that we do not have to be rich to do good in the world. Every little donation given, multiplies to give help where needed and every little task of goodness done for others means so much. Small things do make a difference!

Rev. Marilyn and Erin Morlock did a great presentation to the Hastings Highlands council on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, on behalf of the Maynooth Madawaska Pastoral Charge. This was concerning the defacing of the

anti-racism signs posted at the Maynooth Church in the summer. They proposed that the council create a 'Diversity and Inclusion' committee to address this anti-racism and try to produce ways to build a more diverse and strong community.

We are definitely missing a long-time church member at our Sunday services, but Elvin R. Towns would like to remind everyone that he is thinking of us all and wishing us all the best. With winter weather and his mobility not like it used to be, Elvin and Derrick will play it safe and enjoy the online services in the comfort of their home.

With all the turmoil in our world this year, the Advent theme of 'Dream a Dream', seems to be what all of us are feeling. Therefore, for the first Sunday of Advent with Jon Williams, we dreamed the dream of our hope for a better future. Then on the second Sunday, Rev. Marilyn dreamed a dream for a world of peace and security while making way for the coming of the 'Prince of Peace'. On the third Sunday of Advent Linda Crick led worship and lit the candle of joy for our dream of joy in the coming of the baby Jesus. So, let us keep dreaming a dream of what can be in a world with dreams of hope, peace, joy, and love.

This year the usual traditions and excitement that we generally experience around Christmas, might not be like other years, but hopefully the spirit of the season and the true meaning of Christmas will be felt in our hearts. So, enjoy a healthy safe and happy holiday season!

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**St Andrews Bethel Maynooth**  
*By Margaret Canning*

And now it is Christmas and Margaret Canning is still covering for Marj Ciana who is now spending several months staying quietly at home recovering from her successful hip replacement. With her daughter, Angela, there to help keep the fires stoked and their spirits high, we know she is in good hands and we wish her all the best.

The Church building is still open for services each Sunday as the worship hub for the Lake St Peter and Maynooth congregations. We have a band of regular attenders who enjoy the ability to be physically together for worship. We can hear the hymns, hum along with the music while seeing the words, join in responses and prayers and visit with friends – all from behind the security of our masks. For many of us, it is one of a very few opportunities to see friends other than in passing. It has been a good experience. Do consider coming to join us.

As winter goes underway, we suffered a casualty in the windstorm in November. Our sign was blown from its base. While it will be reinstated in the spring, it was decided that, in the meantime, a sandwich-board sign would be used outside on weekends to let the community know that we are still there every week. Thanks to May Allison and Sharon Watson, we are also decorated inside and have a lighted tree outside to join the community in festive decorating. Although we will be outside for the Live Nativity on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of December and online for the Longest Night Service on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the final service of the year on December 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be present in the Church again each Sunday starting with January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We look forward to the opportunity to start the New Year together.

## **St. Paul's, Lake St. Peter**

*By Wendy Lavalley*

Well, wasn't this another exciting quarter thanks to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic!

Worship services continue to look different in the face of a pandemic. The church doors have reopened in Maynooth & Madawaska with restrictions. Our thanks to Marilyn & all who have had a hand in the 'Worship Resource' that we continue to find in our inboxes every week. Our thanks to those who have led in-person Sunday services.

The song says, "It's never easy to say goodbye" ... deaths during COVID -19 continue to be made that much harder because we couldn't say 'goodbye' with funerals or offer a hug of comfort to those left behind. Our sincerest condolences to anyone who lost a loved one during this quarter.

"Wasn't that a party ..." no, it wasn't. Still no large gatherings meant there were no parties this quarter, but we still send out our best wishes to anyone who celebrated a birthday or anniversary this quarter.

What would the United Church be without food? The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month St. Paul's hosts a potluck at the Lake St. Peter Community Centre ... or we would if the Community Centre was open. There *would* be a place at the table for anyone who'd like to join us if we could *have* the potluck, unfortunately, it's still on hold until the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Busy, busy, busy!! Anyone else's calendar filling up as 'elective' procedures and doctor's appointments open up and get re-scheduled?

Marlene Lavalley had her initial consult with the pain clinic in Kingston that resulted in her receiving injections that thankfully eased some of the pain, though it's not gone completely.

Wendy Lavalley's introduction to the pain clinic was the exact opposite to Marlene's, she walked out in more pain than she went in with ... plus a migraine! Initial consult take 2 with a different doctor, resulted in Wendy receiving injections in her neck and shoulders ... and appointments for back-to-back-to back days of diagnostic treatments before Christmas.

Christmas Eve will be a silent night this year with no Christmas Eve services thanks to the pandemic.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who are experiencing health challenges (some made more challenging because of the pandemic).

Isolation and physical distancing (we thank 2020 for adding this term to our vocabulary) is even more difficult for those who live alone, until our 'social circles' expand to where we can hug a friend we haven't seen since isolation began – or longer – remember, you're in our thoughts, even if we can't see you.

We look forward to when "we are one" again without restrictions and can all "meet together in this place" whether it's Lake St. Peter or Maynooth!

To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away ... To all good friends whose friendship means so much and those with whom we're somehow out of touch ... May the blessings of Christmas be yours!

Stay safe everybody. Stay healthy.  
Wendy

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### **Packing your parachute: A nice reminder during this pandemic mess...**

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience!

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down"! "How in the world did you know that"? asked Plumb. " "I packed your parachute," the man replied". Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude.

The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"  
"It sure did. If your chute had not worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb could not sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he had looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat; a bib in the back; and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything Because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor."  
Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent at a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he did not know.

Now Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?"  
Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory – he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, **recognize people who pack your parachutes.**

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**BEFORE YOU ASK GOD FOR WHAT YOU WANT, THANK HIM FOR WHAT YOU HAVE**

## **The Real Story of Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer**

It was 1949 when Rudolph was 'born'

A man named Robert L. May, depressed, and broken hearted, stared out his drafty apartment window into the chilling December night. His 4-year-old daughter Barbara sat on his lap quietly sobbing. Bob's wife, Evelyn, was dying of cancer. Little Barbara could not understand why her mommy could never come home. Barbara looked up into her dad's eyes and asked, "Why isn't Mommy just like everybody else's Mommy?"

Bob's jaw tightened and his eyes welled with tears. Her question brought waves of grief, but also of anger. I had been the story of Bob's life. Life always had to be different for Bob. When he was a kid, Bob was often bullied by other boys. He was too little at the time to compete in sports. He was often called names he would rather not remember. From childhood, Bob was different and never seemed to fit in.

Bob, after completing college, married his loving wife Evelyn and was grateful to get a job as a copywriter at the Timothy Eaton Department Store, in Toronto, during the Great Depression. Then he was blessed with his little girl. But it was all short-lived. Evelyn's bout with cancer stripped them of all their savings and now Bob and his daughter were forced to live in a two-room apartment in the poorer area of Toronto. Evelyn died just days before Christmas in 1938.

Bob struggled to give hope to his child, for whom he could not even afford to buy a Christmas gift. But if he could not buy a gift, he was determined to make one – a storybook!

Bob had created an animal character in his own mind and told the animal's story to little Barbara to give her comfort and hope. Again, and again, Bob told the story, embellishing it more with each telling.

Who was the character? What was the story all about?

The story Bob May created was his own autobiography in fable form. The character he created was a misfit outcast like he was. The name of the character? A little reindeer named Rudolph, with a big shiny nose.

Bob finished the book just in time to give it to his little girl on Christmas Day.

But the story does not end there.

The general manager of the T. Eaton Store caught wind of the little storybook and offered Bob May a nominal fee to purchase the rights to print the book. They went on to print, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and distribute it to children visiting Santa Claus in their stores.

By 1946, Eaton's had printed and distributed more than six million copies of Rudolph. That same year, a major publisher wanted to purchase the rights from Eaton's to print an updated version of the book. In an unprecedented gesture of kindness, the CEO of Eaton's returned all rights back to Bob May. The book became a best seller.



Many toy and marketing deals followed and Bob May, now remarried with a growing family, became wealthy from the story he created to comfort his grieving daughter. But the story does not end there either.

Bob's brother-in-law, Johnny Marks, made a song adaptation to Rudolph. Though the song was turned down by such popular vocalists as Bing Crosby and Dinah Shore, it was recorded by the singing cowboy, Gene Autry. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was released in 1949 and became a phenomenal success, selling more records than any other Christmas song, with the exception of "White Christmas."

The gift of love that Bob May created for his daughter so long ago kept on returning to bless him again and again. And Bob May learned the lesson, just like his dear friend Rudolph, that being different is not so bad. In fact, being different can be a blessing.? Eh?

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### **Smith Post Memorial, Whitney**

*By Ken & Jan Begbie*

It has been a difficult few months for many, but we are thankful that no one in our church family has contracted COVID-19. So far, our area has remained safe and for this we are grateful. We also thank those who worked to make the two churches in Maynooth and Madawaska safe for us to meet inside again.

We would like to congratulate Rev. Marilyn, who on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at St. Marks United Church, was welcomed and given the Formal Admission to the Ministry in the United Church.

We thank Wendy Lavalley for the September 20<sup>th</sup> internet service with the theme of 'Whoever Welcomes a Child, Welcomes Me,' and the Reflection on how we make others feel welcome. As with the other internet services, we also appreciated the beautiful flower arrangement from Doris Hollingsworth.

On September 27<sup>th</sup> we met as a group outside the Madawaska church. Rev. Marilyn introduced the theme of 'Spiritual Practices for Hard Times', which was appropriate for our current situation, not just locally, but around the world. The hymn of comfort was chosen by Erin, Carol, and Doris. It was a beautiful day for the end of September. We were so happy that Roger was well enough to attend with Dorothy.

October 4<sup>th</sup> was originally planned to be our last outdoor service in Madawaska, but the weather did not co-operate with our plans. The cool and rainy day made it necessary to celebrate the World Communion Sunday over the internet. Rev. Marilyn continued with her theme of Spiritual Practices for Hard Times with the 'Spiritual Practice of Solidarity'. We were encouraged to use whatever we had available for the communion part of the service. The hymn "Be Thou My Vision" was a beautiful version of this hymn.

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Sunday, we returned to inside services at the Madawaska church. Rev. Marilyn opened with a prayer and Dorothy Wilson led our worship service with the Refection 'There is a Time. We sang Happy Birthday to Roger. We were so happy to be able to see him inside again. We use hand sanitizers, wear masks, and go to our marked pews, and hum the hymns, but it is a joy to meet in the church again.

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, we met inside again. We would like to thank Linda Crick for leading our service. The reading from Matthew was 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. We appreciated the hymns played by Carol Peterson. Jean Jessup announced that Ken and Jan were celebrating an anniversary this week (53 years).

On October 25<sup>th</sup> service was on-line and continued the theme of Spiritual Practices for Hard Times, with the theme of the 'Spiritual Practice of Listening'. We would like to thank Catherine Khan who led the service and Dick Prince for making the internet connections. Rev. Marilyn was self quarantining after making a necessary trip to Toronto. The spiritual message of Matthew 22, 34-46, Love God and Love Your Neighbour as yourself is meaningful, especially now. Catherine's theme of 'Listen with Love and find ways to practice the spiritual practice of listening was very thoughtful.

For the service for November 1<sup>st</sup>, we would like to thank Sheila Stringer who delivered the service in person and Brian Peterson who posted it online. Shelia's reflection was based on Matthew 5 1-12, the Beatitudes, and reminds us that we are all blessed.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> we met together in the Madawaska church with the spiritual leadership of Doris Hollingsworth and Vivian Bloom with Remembrance of our veterans of the First and Second World Wars. We thank both leaders for a meaningful service.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, our service in Madawaska was led by Dorothy Wilson, sharing the conviction that We can all help each other. We were incredibly happy to see Erin and Dean at the service. We will also have Rachel and Bob with us this winter as they are not going to Florida this year.

Our service on November 22<sup>nd</sup> there was an internet service led by Allan and Mary Hobbs who shared some beautiful hymns, and the Reflection on the King is Coming, and through Jesus we are forgiven and accepted. Also, Sheila Stringer delivered an in-person service in the Maynooth church and Brian Peterson delivered an in-person service in the Madawaska church on this same Sunday.

We thank Jon Williams for leading the service on November 29<sup>th</sup>, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. We lit the Candle of Hope as we start this Advent season. We acknowledged Jean Jessup's 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the passing of Bruce Atkinson, a former church member. Rev. Marilyn announced the plan for a 'Live Nativity' at the home of Marilyn and Svinda on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the second Sunday of Advent, we lit the Candle of Peace. We acknowledged birthdays of Elaine Hare, and Linda Elliot. Carol Peterson played Happy Birthday.

We would like to thank Linda Crick for leading our service on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the third Sunday of Advent. We lit the Candle of Joy. Linda's Reflection, 'Dream a Dream of Joy' featured Mary's song of Praise and John the Baptist.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Christmas 1968

What happened to Spring? Also, Summer? The Autumn is gone, Winter is here.  
Time hustles along, the days simply fly, we've arrived at the end of the year.  
Christmas is just around the bend. Santa Claus sits in every store. And on every street corner.  
We see, yes, we see many more.  
But you know, it isn't his birthday we honour, come Christmas Day.  
But that Babe's, born there in Bethlehem, That Babe, sleeping there among the hay. So, while we make merry this Christmas, let's just keep this one thing in mind, that sweet Babe lying there in the manger, Is God's Christmas gift to mankind.

## Christmas Greetings

So now I take my pen in hand, At my wife's urging, understand, For I'm not really what you'd call A writing chap, no, not at all. But still there are such time, you know, when filled with Christmas cheer and glow, we gush and spill and overflow with life and Joy.

So, here's to you and to us here, We're getting younger every year, And may you feel as good as we, When gathered round your Christmas tree, And here's a hearty New Year's wish, May you ner'er see an empty dish, But always full of meat and fish, With turkey for your Christmas fare, And now and then throughout the year, Then, when you sit down at your board, Remember always, thank the Lord.

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## Make the Chili (by Pam Berg)

A good friend of mine unexpectedly lost her husband. A couple of months later we were running together, chatting about nothing. She asked what my dinner plans were, and I told her hubby wanted chili, but I did not feel like stopping at the store. We ran a few more minutes when she quietly said, "Make the chili."

It took me a few minutes to realize we were no longer talking about dinner. It was about going out of your way to do something for someone you love because at any moment they could unexpectedly be taken from you.

So, today, I am sharing with you that wisdom handed to me by my dear friend, that I have thought of many times since that day. Next time someone you love wants you to go for a walk or watch a football game or play a board game or just put your phone down and give them your undivided attention, just do it.

MAKE THE CHILI!!!!!!

Love deeply and selflessly

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I pray that happiness be at your door. May it knock early, stay late, and leave the gift of God's peace, love, joy, and good health behind.

**Prayer for putting on a mask** (written by UC moderator Richard Bott)

*Submitted by Rev. Marilyn Zehr*

Creator,

As I prepare to go into the world, help me see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth – let it be “an outward sign of and inward grace” – a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully – and full of care – to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.

In your Name and in that love, I pray.

May it be so.

May it be so.

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**Annual Meetings: 2021**

All of our annual meetings will have to be delayed because of COVID meeting restrictions. You will get news of how and when we will be meeting when it has been sorted out in the new year.

**Reminder for Treasurers**

M&S cheques and Calendar cheques to be dated for December 2020

I have to submit M&S before the middle of January in order to get credited for the year 2020.

Also, please email me your annual statements as soon as they are approved so that I can work on next year’s budget.

Elaine

**SPRING ISSUE DEADLINE: MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. 2021**

**Charge website:** [www.maynoothmadawaskapastoralcharge.org](http://www.maynoothmadawaskapastoralcharge.org)

The following prayer was submitted to ‘Gathering by *Gail Corbett, of Lakefield*

On this winter solstice,  
when dark and light balance on the edge of time,  
in this season wild with joy and sorrow,  
we journey toward the star.  
We wait expectantly.  
Come, Emmanuel,

tiny and powerful, be born among us.  
O Holy Christ Child,  
you the sheltering pine,  
you the fragrance of balsam and spruce,  
be with us this Christmas tide.  
Son of Holy Mary, thou door of joy.  
Golden son on hill.  
Light of sun, radiance of moon.  
Depth of sea, our rock of rocks.  
Christ Child.  
God with us.  
Be with us this Christmastide.  
Creator of land and sea and sky,  
babe in a manger burning with light,  
ignite us, sweet Son of God.  
Make us light-bearers in a shadowed world.  
Work wonders in us and through us.  
Wake us to celestial sounds.  
Make us jump for joy at your coming.  
Embrace us sweet Son of God.  
Encircle us with your love.  
Clothe us in robes of rightness.  
Feed and sustain us in your holiness. Amen.

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My Christmas wish for you.

That your heart be light as a snowflake; that your troubles melt away like snow, and a drift of blessing surround you.