

Webcam Broadcast C-19 22

Hello Everyone! I hope you continue to keep safe and well.

It's Monday 17th August 2020.

Well, it's been an interesting week in the Parish of Kilnamanagh and Castleview, here on the western edge of the city of Dublin. The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered in St Kevin's church on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

When I was confirmed so very long ago now, the Pledge to abstain from Alcohol until 18 years of age was part of the Confirmation Ceremony.

Some decades ago the Pledge was taken separately, and in more recent times extended to included Dangerous Drugs.

Last year we decided to extend the Pledge further to include the responsible use of the Internet.

So, at Confirmation this year I decided to invite the Candidates to take the Threefold Pledge. They were free to do so or not. It would have taken place at the Ceremony of Light, which could not take place this year because of the Pandemic. The Pledge included the following promise by those who were confirmed:

***I promise always to use the Internet in a responsible way -
to keep myself safe online,
and to always avoid using the Internet to hurt other
people.***

I ask the Holy Spirit to help me to keep this Promise.

The need for this Pledge has become regrettably apparent in recent times, including in our own Parish.

The record of derogatory comment is there forever, done to people, and even against the Parish.

Ignorance is no longer an excuse.

We now know that untold and irreparable, reckless and even tragic damage is being done to people by the irresponsible use of the Internet, and what it makes possible through social media Apps like Facebook, Twitter and others that I have never heard of.

The technology is truly wonderful, but the abuse of the technology to hurt people is reprehensible.

To quote something I read some time ago:

What was billed as the democratisation of knowledge has turned into the death of truth.

Living online is disconnecting people from consequences.

Hopefully moving on from that mire:

Children from St Kilian's Junior School will celebrate First Communion during the week ahead.

Unfortunately, access to the church is restricted to the children accompanied by one parent or guardian, due to the number who may gather in the church.

Across the Parish we have 7 classes for First Communion with one class for each First Communion Mass.

We are fortunate that we have been able to proceed with Confirmations, and now First Communions.

Please keep the children, their parents and families in your prayers.

As the number of people contracting Covid-19 continues to be high, the advice of the Chief Medical Officer is that we all need to be aware that Covid-19 has not gone away, just because we are tired of the restrictions.

People in vulnerable groups should take care to limit their number of contacts with other people, and to carefully practice social distancing. This includes yours truly.

The European Centre for Disease Control recently stated that there is a true resurgence in cases of Covid-19 in several countries as a result of physical distancing measures being relaxed.

We thank our Volunteers who steward and clean our 2 churches. We need to be aware that without them, the church cannot open. Without them, Confirmation could not have taken place last week. Without them, First Communion could not take place this week or next week.

Until next time.

Keep safe and avoid situations of risk regarding your health.

Slán agus beannacht.