

Fr Michael's Monday Message – 13-04-2020

Hello everyone! It's Monday of Easter Week, 13th April 2020.

To state the obvious, it's been a strange Holy Week and Easter Sunday. I did my best to communicate via the Webcam the Mystery we commemorate and celebrate at Easter, the death and Resurrection of Jesus from the dead – and how what happened at the First Easter can impact on us right now, bringing light into the darkness that is around us, transforming all our tombs into places of new life.

It's a strange experience not having a visible and audible congregation before me at Mass. The quiet all about has an eerie sense to it. Most of the sounds I hear are from nature or are the ones I make myself, and I'm almost afraid to do anything that might make me heard for fear of breaking the silence.

No sounds of children passing by on their way to and from school. No doorbell.

I hear plenty of birdsong. I've noticed bees and butterflies. We have been fortunate with lovely weather since the restrictions began.

I want to thank people who have got in touch and who have sent in Easter Greetings and messages of appreciation. That helps me know that at least some people are tuned in on the Webcam.

I have a sense that there are many people in the Parish who do not know we have a Parish Website or Webcam. Could I ask you, please, insofar as is possible, to let people know that both Website and Webcam are there and that they are the service of parishioners.

It is quite moving to read the Prayer Intentions that have come in, reflecting people's fears, anxieties and concerns at this testing time. I place those intentions on the Altar and I bring them before the Mercy Seat of God at Mass.

Funerals are such important occasions for the bereaved. We do funerals well in Ireland and the funeral is a key moment in the grieving process. The restrictions now imposed pose a great challenge to the bereaved, to funeral directors and funeral ministers.

Arrangements now have to be made over the phone.

A maximum of 10 people only can attend any part of the Funeral Service.

None of the usual participation can take place at the Funeral Mass.

All of this adds to the pain and sadness of grief.

But as with all the restrictions, this is the sacrifice made of us at this time in our common fight to control the spread of Covid-19.

Even though we are in a dreadful predicament with the Coronavirus Pandemic, I believe that a better future is possible, and a better future will eventually emerge.

It was this kind of disposition that motivated Jesus and sustained him through the horrors of Good Friday.

The project of his life was to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth. And the outcome was stupendous.

The world will get through this Pandemic.

We will get through this Pandemic.

So, keep positive.

Continue to do what we have been asked to do:

Keep yourself safe.

Wash your hands frequently and properly.

Keep physical distance, and stay at home.

Look out for your neighbours who may need help.

God bless you all.

Slán agus beannacht.