

**Webcam Broadcast C-19 5**

**Monday 20 4 20**

**HELLO Everyone!**

**Today I want to speak to all the children who would have been going back to school today after the Easter Holidays.**

**In particular I want to speak to children from our 4 Parish Schools, St Kevin's Boys and Girls, St Kilian's Junior and Senior, who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.**

**It's Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

**It's over 5 weeks now since the schools were suddenly closed.**

**We are still all feeling the shock.**

**A word first for children preparing for First Holy Communion.**

**Children: You, as well as your parents and family are wondering:**

**When will I be making my First Holy Communion?**

**Will it be in the month of May?**

**Well, none of us really knows the answer to that question yet.**

**And I know it's difficult not to have a clear answer.**

**All I can tell you is that Jesus wants to come to you in Holy Communion, and he will;**

**but the dates may not be the dates that were originally planned.**

**As things stand at this moment, we are not really able to make any certain plans. We have to wait for guidance from Government and from the Diocese.**

**In the meantime I want to give you a special mission to do 2 important things each day:**

**No 1 is to pray for the sick and for all who are caring for them. They need your prayers.**

**No 2 is to continue your preparation for the Sacrament of the Eucharist.**

**Ask your parents to help you with the material on the Parish Website: click on Our Digital Parish and then on Family Corner.**

**These on-line supports are there to help your parents to help you to continue to prepare for your First Holy Communion.**

**And now a word for our Confirmation Candidates.**

**Dear Friends: You, your parents and your family have questions about when Confirmation will take place.**

**Unfortunately, it is not possible at this stage to say anything for certain. The Diocese does the planning for Confirmation. So we have to wait to hear from the Diocese, and the Diocese will have to follow whatever guidance will come from Government on 5<sup>th</sup> May.**

**In the meantime I want to give you a special mission to do 3 important things each day:**

**No 1 is to pray for the sick and for all who are caring for them. They desperately need your prayers.**

**No 2 is to continue your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

**Ask your parents to help you with the material on the Parish Website: click on Our Digital Parish and then on Family Corner.**

**No 3 is try your best to reflect on the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit. 7 Gifts. 9 Fruits.**

**As part of your Night Prayer before you go to bed each night, reflect for some time back on your day, and notice how you used one or other of the fruits or gifts of the Holy Spirit during the course of the day.**

**Then thank God for that Gift or Fruit,**

**and ask him to help you be ready to live by the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit tomorrow, and every day of your life.**

**And now a word for all the parents.**

**Parents: I know it is a challenging and difficult time for all parents. I can't imagine how difficult it is to be confined at home for so long. However, this is the sacrifice that is being made of all of us at this time for the common good in the fight to contain the spread of Covid-19.**

**Great good will come of this sacrifice, and we will be glad we did it after it is all over.**

**The scientific fact is that we together by our efforts are saving hundreds of lives that would otherwise have been lost to Covid-19. We are now being asked to redouble our efforts to keep our sacrifice going for a further 2 weeks.**

**This is what Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said in a recent email of Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April:**

***I am being asked about First Communions and Confirmations. We can only begin to speak of timetables for these Sacraments when it will be possible once again to hold large gatherings of people, especially children and this is unlikely for some months.***

**A word for all.**

**Keep up the good work. We cannot at this stage allow ourselves to become complacent. So, please keep doing the simple things we are being asked to do:**

**Continue to Stay at home; Keep physical distance; Wash hands.**

**Stay safe.**

**And keep each other safe.**

**God bless you all.**

**Slán go fóil.**