

**Webcam Broadcast C-19 6**

**Good morning everyone! It's Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020.**

**I hope you are well.**

**We may have arrived at the point where we can begin to reflect a little on the new situation we are in. Hopefully, the sense of being totally overwhelmed will ease even a little.**

**They say that every crisis brings opportunity. The fog we are all in at this moment may not allow us to see very far ahead. But the fog will eventually lift and opportunity will return.**

**It is important to acknowledge that we are engulfed in a grave and awful scourge that has been visited upon us, bringing so much loss and ultimate loss through death. But we will emerge from this crisis. It may take longer than we would like. Being able to roam freely may be a long way off. And there may be no going back to where we were before. Finding a new way to live that controls the spread of Covid-19 may have to be part of any future agenda. But we can emerge better people and more considerate of others. A better future is possible, a better society.**

**So, on that account I invite you to consider the possibility of even beginning to reflect on the life-changing experience we are now enduring. And maybe the first of the opportunities that this crisis is giving us is Time to reflect. We could, by degrees, each begin to ask ourselves questions like:**

**What opportunities does this crisis bring me?**

**How can we make the best use of this strange time we are in?**

**How can we emerge from this crisis better people?**

**How can we stay positive when we are surrounded by so much adversity?**

**These are questions we each could begin to ask ourselves, and then, bit by bit, search for good answers.**

**Covid-19 is taking us out of circulation, forcing us off the streets and back into our homes, and shutting the country down. And it's not just Ireland, but the whole world.**

**And as our outer world is shrinking, maybe we can focus a little bit on our inner world.**

**What resources do we have to deal with this crisis?**

**Questions will arise about choices and priorities:**

**What really matters in my life?**

**What adjustments do I need to make?**

**What cargo do I need to jettison in order to sail through these new waters?**

**What needs tidying-up in my life?**

**What relationships need attention or repair?**

**When running a marathon they say you should focus not on the number of kilometers still left to run, nor on the hill ahead, but on the next few steps.**

**So let's consider the immediate steps in our situation.**

**We hope that soon that magic R number will be pushed further away from 1 and towards Zero so that restrictions can begin to be eased. This depends on our collective national effort and our adherence to the HSE guidelines.**

**We also hope that this imposed experience will have taught us to value more and more what is most important in our lives: family, friends, and above all our faith.**

**We might also wonder what message the horrid event of this pandemic is sending to our world: On the one hand, we are locked down. On the other hand, the human race has never been more aligned than in the combat of this invisible enemy.**

**Here's a paragraph from the introduction to the Mass on RTE television last Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April read by a pupil from Roscommon Town CBS.**

***Is God sending us a message to stop and think, because the pace of life has increased to such an extent that it rushes by in the blink of an eye? Perhaps he wants us to pause and reflect on what is really important in life, to sort out our priorities. Is it more valuable to spend endless hours on social media or to connect with real people? How many of us are guilty of sitting at the kitchen table***

*for a meal with our family members, but instead of talking, we're engaging with a device? We're also concerned with accumulating many material goods. But again we must ask ourselves, is this out of need, or want?*

*Hopefully, Lockdown has taught us the value of conversation, of education, of employment, but above all, the value of our humanity and our faith.*

As well as relying on the expertise of medicine and science, we are also being confronted by our own limits, and our lack of respect for the natural world.

We know deep down that there is something big going on here, the likes of which we have never encountered before in our lifetime.

Have we become to the natural world something like what Covid-19 is to us?

The earth's immune system is rushing towards breakdown because of human activity. We have to hear the cry of the earth. Now added to discarded plastic just about everywhere, we may notice disposable gloves and face masks.

Our relationship with Mother Earth will have to change.

We are being given a unique opportunity to get our life in order. Hopefully, this disaster will lead us to live a more quiet way of life and a more considered and considerate way of life, what Jesus called *life to the full*.

As we reflect on where we find ourselves now, it is important for the person of faith to remember words that the Risen Lord Jesus spoke to his frightened disciples when he appeared to them:

*Peace be with you. Do not be afraid.  
I am with you always, to the end of time.*

Stay safe. Keep each other safe.  
God bless you all. Slán go fóil.