

Webcam Broadcast C-19 12

Hello Everyone! I hope you are safe and well.

It's Monday 8th June 2020.

We are all looking forward to the reopening of our churches and we have been given a new date from which this may be possible, 29th June. This does not mean that churches return to full service straight away. There will have to be a gradual approach, perhaps opening for personal private prayer at first, and then bit-by-bit for weekday and Sunday Mass. It may be necessary to focus only on one of our churches for now, in order to increase the attention on safety.

As we enter this new moment, we need to remember that the virus has not gone away. It is still out there; it is still contagious, it is still dangerous. And we don't know what way it will manifest itself in the future. So, it's not a matter of return to pre-coronavirus practices. It's more a question of, based on what we know so far about how Covid-19 behaves:

What is it safe for us to do?

How can we live along-side Covid-19?

What measures can we put in place to make going to church and going to Mass, in the context of Covid-19, safe?

The medical advice remains the same, that hand-hygiene and physical distancing are key. The WHO is now also advising that we should be wearing face coverings.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin has said: *The advice that is given in other countries is: Be ready by the date. If you are not fully ready, wait until you are ready. If it is not possible to apply the guidelines, remain closed.*

He also said: *It may not be possible for all churches to open and provide the supervision needed.*

In order to develop a Plan, a Plan which will be vetted before it can be put into practice, there are 2 key services that we as Parish need to be able to provide to Parishioners so as to safely reopen our churches, namely stewarding and cleaning. Stewarding will involve helping people to keep physical distance as they come into the church, as they take a seat and as they leave the church etc. Cleaning will involve sanitising the church building after each use so as to make sure it is safe for next time.

To this end, we need Volunteers. The Parish relies on volunteers of all sorts. Otherwise it cannot function. So, if you are willing and able to help out in either of these 2 key areas, stewarding and cleaning, please fill in the Volunteer Form on the Parish Website.

**Training for the role will take place.
We will need to make a Rota for each church.**

I am also appealing to all Parishioners to fill out the Parish Register Form. We have no Parish Register of Parishioners. The Parish needs to be able to communicate with Parishioners directly. So, please fill out the Parish Register Form on the Parish Website.

As I said last week, I think that our overall approach has to be one of caution, because this is a life and death matter. Hence the lockdown and all the sacrifices we have been making these last months. There is a great tradition in our Faith of sacrifice, sacrifice for the Common Good.

However, we do need to keep a sharp eye on how to avoid a second lockdown. Charity and understanding are asked of all the faithful during this time.

A phased approach to reopening our churches, therefore, would seem to be wise to help us get used to what is entailed in living with this deadly virus in the context of Mass. All this will have to

be matched to our resources and capacities, both physical and personnel-wise, and what the Parish can afford.

I will be glad to hear your thoughts. You can email me at kcparishoffice@gmail.com.

A not unrelated matter is Pope Francis' Letter about Care for our Common Home, planet Earth, published 5 years ago. Pope Francis has recently given us a Special Prayer which he is inviting us all to say during the year ahead which has been designated Laudato Si' Year, and runs from 24th May 2020 until 24th May 2021.

Prayer for 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si'

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them:

you created us in your own image and made us stewards of creation.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.

**Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.**

Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future generations,

and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.

May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

**Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.**

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity,

so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

**Help us to show creative solidarity
in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed
in search of the common good.
Now more than ever may we feel
that we are all interconnected and interdependent.
Enable us to listen and respond
to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.**

**Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,
we make this prayer through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.**

**As you can see, the task before us is a mammoth one.
A whole-community effort is required to have the whole parish
pull together in a new way.**

Until next time.

Slán agus beannacht.