

Webcam Broadcast C-19 15

Hello Everyone! I hope you are safe and well.

It's Monday 29th June 2020.

As we continue to emerge from lockdown, and as we take steps to Return to the Public Celebration of Mass and the Sacraments, we need to be alert and cautious because the path ahead is unsure. And we still have our new passenger and companion Covid-19 to contend with.

This week, beginning today, we are going to begin to reopen our 2 churches, first for private prayer, and then over the next few weeks for public Mass.

What will happen will depend in large part on the number of Volunteers who sign up for Stewarding and Cleaning.

Based on the number of Volunteers who have signed up so far, we will open for private prayer this week as follows:

St Kevin's, Monday and Wednesday, from 11 am to 1 pm.

St Kilian's, Tuesday and Friday, from 11 am to 1 pm.

In the event of a funeral, times may vary.

It is best that we start with small steps and learn as we go. As we plan to reopen for public Mass over these next couple of weeks, we will only be able to do so if we have adequate numbers of Volunteers to steward and clean in both churches.

Our objective has to be to offer parishioners a safe environment in our 2 churches, given the reality of Covid-19 still in our midst. No one is safe until everyone is safe. We need to be able to assure people that hygiene and safety are to the highest standard in our churches. This is a matter that concerns us all. And this can only happen if we are all involved.

I wish to thank all those who have signed up so far, and all who turned up for the general cleaning of our 2 churches during the

week, and those who are about to embark on the service of Stewarding.

This is for the long haul. We are beginning a process that we are going to have to sustain indefinitely if we want to keep our 2 churches open.

We can only achieve this if we collectively put our shoulder to the wheel, and help out any way we can. This is how we are being called to keep our Parish alive at this difficult time.

To make sense of what is required of us at this difficult time we need to look to Jesus and consider how he saw his own life:

I am among you as one who serves. (Lk 22:27).

I came not to be served but to serve. (Mk 10:45).

A particular dilemma I have as we look ahead is how to proceed with the other Sacraments given the restrictions of Covid-19.

I'm thinking of Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation.

From today the maximum number who can congregate in churches is 50. The 2 metre distancing continues to apply. And in order to reopen our churches at all we have the stewarding and cleaning requirement.

We have 7 classes for First Holy Communion, and 6 classes for Confirmation, across the Parish.

There is 1 priest, namely myself. There are 2 churches.

We are told by the health authorities to avoid crowds as one measure to help keep ourselves safe and stop the spread of Coronavirus.

I know some parents are anxious to know what is going to happen. 'Give us dates', they demand.

If anyone has ideas, suggestions or insights on how to proceed, respecting the norms, I'll be glad to hear from you.

Thank you for listening. Until next time.

Slán agus beannacht.