

**Webcam Broadcast C-19 20**

**Hello Everyone! I hope you continue to be safe and well.**

**It's Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020.**

**My grandnephew made his First Holy Communion yesterday. There are 11 in his class in school – a small class in a rural area. Both parents along with their child were allowed to attend the church – no one else, due to the restrictions on numbers, apart from me. The attendance of less than 40 people in the church made it a lovely, easy occasion. It was simple, straightforward, no frills and just right.**

**Afterwards we went to a local venue for food, but more importantly just to meet as a family. We haven't met since Christmas. I know we are not unique in this. We all felt good about being able to gather again. We spent most of the time outdoors. Like most people, we want to have some kind of normality again. Not meeting has been difficult.**

**What unnerved me a bit was the presence of other people at the venue who may not have been as respectful of the Covid-19 restrictions as we were trying to be. I know it is wonderful that people feel able to gather again after such a long time, to relax and have fun. But I have something akin to a foreboding telling me that we may be fast-forwarding a little too prematurely in our relaxing of restrictions in our desire to have fun.**

**All the while Government is warning us to proceed with caution, not abandon, to exercise restraint and to respect fully the various restrictions. We are reminded by the HSE that this is not a time to drop our guard. We need to maintain a prevention mind-set.**

**This week we begin Confirmations in the Parish. 2 weeks of Confirmation will be followed by 2 weeks of First Communion. The task is daunting and I approach it with a degree of trepidation.**

**Bishop Eamonn, who retired last September, had kindly offered to help out with Masses during this month of August.**

**Please pray for the Candidates for Confirmation, their parents and families, that they will come to know the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives as their helper and guide.**

**I conclude for now with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit:**

*Holy Spirit, spirit of love, fill our hearts with love.*

*Holy Spirit, spirit of peace, make us instruments of your peace.*

*Holy Spirit, spirit of God, be our leader and guide.*

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your spirit and they shall be created,  
and you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful  
by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
grant us in the same spirit to be truly wise,  
and ever to rejoice in his consolation,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Until next time.**

**Slán agus beannacht.**