

**Webcam Broadcast C-19 23**

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

**It's Monday 24th August 2020.**

**Well, it's been another interesting week in the Parish of Kilnamanagh and Castleview, out here on the western edge of the city of Dublin, just outside the M50.**

**Last week Children from St Kilian's Junior School celebrated First Communion.**

**It was a joyous occasion despite the restrictions. The restrictions are difficult, but they are the reality we have to live with at this time in order to keep ourselves safe in the context of Covid-19.**

**This week we celebrate First Communion with Children from St Kevin's Boys' and Girls' Schools on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.**

**During the preparation for First Communion, which is normally in the month of May, I tend to recall my own First Communion, which took place a long time ago now.**

**There were some unusual circumstances surrounding my First Communion Day.**

**I made my First Communion with a cousin. There were just the 2 of us on that particular day. His uncle, my mother's first cousin, had just been ordained a priest, and now he was on his way to serve in a parish in South Africa.**

**My cousin was 7 years old on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1959, and that was the day chosen for our First Communion. I was 6 1/2. I have 2 black and white photos from the day, one of myself taken in a photo studio later in the day - I was all dressed in white; the other is of the family group that gathered. My mother was there. My father was at home minding my younger brother. My older brother was there, and my eldest brother was at school. It was a Wednesday.**

**My memories of the day, which are helped by the photos - it being so long ago now - is that it was a happy time and a happy occasion.**

**I found myself reflecting recently, how privileged I am to have known the time when simple joy and happiness were part and parcel of the First Communion experience. I truly hope that children today get some of that.**

**We all look forward to the Parish being a better place because so many more can receive Holy Communion.**

**Equally we rejoice in the challenge to those recently confirmed in the Parish to join in a fuller way in the life and mission of the Church in the Parish of Kilnamanagh and Castleview.**

**Please keep the children, their parents and families in your prayers.**

**I thank our Volunteers who steward and clean our 2 churches. We need to be aware that without them, the church cannot open. Without them, Confirmation could not have taken place. Without them, First Communion could not take place. Only one parent of the hundreds who have children in our 4 Parish schools signed up to volunteer to clean.**

**The week ahead will see the reopening of schools. This is a huge challenge for all teachers and for all concerned. We pray that all the preparations will bear fruit and that the great effort to reopen schools will go well for children, parents and teachers. Signs at the moment in that regard are all good.**

**Until next time.**

**Keep safe and avoid situations of risk regarding your health.**

**Slán agus beannacht.**