

Webcam Broadcast C-19 25

**Hello Everyone! I hope you continue to keep safe and well.
It's Monday 7th September 2020.**

You may notice that since last Monday I have managed to get my hair cut for the second time since lock-down was lifted. It's a bit of a relief to me to have an easy maintenance hair do again!

Our friend the mouse is still about.

I mention this because I hadn't noticed him for a few days and I began to wonder had he fell prey to possibilities he was exposing himself to on the bird feeder?

Apart from the magpie which I had observed, there are also cats waiting, and even a fox. I have seen a kestrel pick off a blue tit from the same feeder for lunch. It too would be partial to the variety provided by a mouse.

Perhaps he or she, as the case may be, was busy tending to a young family somewhere else on the premises, and this accounted for his apparent absence.

These were my thoughts about the fate of the mouse until Wednesday evening last, 2nd September, at 7.51 pm, when I observed the mouse ascend the pole to the feeder again. It was a little windy that evening and quite overcast. I thought it would be a brief visit by way of a snack before bedtime on a dull evening. But I had to wait until 8.20 pm to observe his departure, moving swiftly head first down the pole.

The Scottish poet Robert Burns wrote a poem with the long title: *To a Mouse, on Turning Her Up in Her Nest With the Plough, November 1785.*

Apparently, Burns was ploughing in the fields and accidentally destroyed a mouse's nest, which it needed to survive the winter. He composed the poem to express his concern. He wrote the poem in Scots Dialect, and it's famous for the line often paraphrased in English as:

*The best-laid plans of mice and men
Go often askew, ...*

Here is the final verse of the poem, again in English paraphrase:

*Still you are blessed, compared with me!
The present only touches you:
But oh! I backward cast my eye
On prospects dreary;
And forward, though I cannot see,
I guess and fear.*

These observations may provide some background to, what is now called, The Season of Creation, inaugurated by Pope Francis when he published his wonderful document called *Laudato Si'*, five years ago, on the urgent need for every human being on Planet Earth to take steps immediately to care for our common home, Planet Earth.

Human impact on our fragile Planet is proving too much for the survival of many species of plants and animals. Since all life on Earth is interconnected and interdependent, the destruction of species by us humans is contributing to the prospect of our own demise.

The Season of Creation extends from 1st September to 4th October each year, Feastday of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology. Its purpose is to encourage all human beings to make protecting the environment a priority, before it is too late.

In the words of Pope Francis:

This Season offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation, raising to God our thanks for the marvelous works that he has entrusted to our care, invoking his help for the protection of creation and his mercy for the sins committed against the world in which we live.

Pope Francis has also invited the entire Church to pray for the people of the Lebanon after the dramatic explosion in Beirut a month ago, which caused such vast devastation and death and an uncertain political situation.

May the faith of the people of the Lebanon and Beirut give them courage to start anew and rebuild their city in hope and solidarity.

Until next time.

Keep safe and avoid situations of risk regarding your health.

Slán agus beannacht.