

Webcam Broadcast C-19 26+1

Hello Everyone! I hope you are all safe and well.

It's Monday 5th October 2020.

I'm back from the Staycation. To say 'I'm back' is not quite the right word because due to Level 3 Restrictions I didn't go very far. I went for walks in nearby Tymon Park as well as in the Phoenix Park, and the Botanic Gardens, on many days of lovely sunshine.

My holiday practice for many years was as follows: to fly for say 2 hours, and then to walk for say 50 km over 2 days, and then on day 3 my feet would be so sore that I'd forget all my troubles, and then a real holiday mood would have kicked in.

Staycation, in context of Level 3 Restrictions, didn't quite do it for me. Returning back home each day to the mess I left behind didn't quite allow my mind to disengage fully. However, Staycation is better than Nocation.

I want to thank Bishop Eamonn for his generosity in filling in for me these past 2 weeks.

It's Natalie's turn now to experience Staycation. She hasn't had a break in a very long time.

There's a Deanery Meeting taking place today from 11 to 1. Deanery Meetings take place 4 times a year. The Deanery is the grouping of local parishes. We are in the Tallaght Deanery. The meeting will take place via Zoom. Those attending are the priests, deacons, pastoral workers, catechists and chaplains serving in the deanery. The Agenda includes items of pastoral interest to us all at the present time, such as: parish finances, which at this time are in very serious crisis, and the celebration of the sacraments, rendered so complicated by the restrictions.

We in our own parish have scheduled Baptisms for the end of this month of October.

As you know, there is uncertainty at the moment whether this can happen due to Dublin being placed at Level 3 of Restrictions, which means no Baptisms can take place.

Those Restrictions may be brought to Level 2 on 9th October. But the Numbers to allow that do not look good at this time.

We in our own parish will now be turning our attention to First Reconciliation and First Communion for 2021, and the challenge that Covid-19 presents in that regard. The prayerful support of all Parishioners matters greatly during this crisis.

During Staycation I came across the following challenging reflection:

The moment the pilgrim decides to settle down, the pilgrim dies.
Perhaps one of the graces of this dreadful time is that we are being challenged to have the mind of a pilgrim and to set forth on a journey.

Interestingly, the recent RTE sponsored Survey, The Next Normal, found that more than half of the respondents (58%) said they are looking for some kind of change in their life post-Covid, not a big change, but things like being able to give a greater priority to family, children, nature and the environment, while also being more prudent about money.

This sounds like a description of a real pilgrim journey.

Until next time.

Keep safe, and follow public health advice on hand and respiratory hygiene, on keeping safe distance, on limiting your number of social contacts to a small few, and wearing the face covering where appropriate.

Slán agus beannacht.