

**Webcam Broadcast C-19 26+2**

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

**It's Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

**What's it like being back a week after Staycation?**

**A bit scary in a way. Like everyone else, I do not find the continued restrictions all that easy to bear. And by the looks of things, it may get worse before it gets better! But this is where we are at, and we have to all continue to do our best.**

**When it all started back in March we might have felt we needed to slow down a bit anyway, but we didn't figure an enforced slow-down would last quite so long.**

**The trend, we're told, is that the number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 continues to rise at the present time. The number in the North of Ireland is at the highest level yet recorded. These are concerning trends giving rise to worry for many of us. There is also that overall sense of uncertainty. Our plans are all up in the air.**

**And there's talk of a Second Wave having begun.**

**Despite this doom and gloom, there is also much hope. This time round we have the great benefit of much more information, knowledge and experience. We have a better sense of what to do and what not to do and what works best, based on all the scientific research that has taken place and that continues to take place in our own country and worldwide.**

**We also need to acknowledge that we are not on our own in this. The whole world is in the grip of this virus and countries across Europe are struggling. Some are doing well and some are doing not so well.**

**We need to acknowledge too that we in Ireland have a very fine team of scientists and experts in various relevant fields who**

**together have the expertise to show us the way through this health crisis.**

**Of course, we miss our churches being open. This is part of the sacrifice we are called on to make for the sake of the Common Good at this difficult time.**

**As I have said before, even though our churches are closed for public Mass at the moment, our Parish remains open. The gates at St Kevin's may be closed over. However, they are never locked.**

**The Parish Office can be contacted as usual by phone or email.**

**We continue with Mass Online during the week ahead.**

**I encourage everyone in the Parish to join spiritually in the celebration of Mass from their own homes by means of our Parish Webcam.**

**Thanks to all who contribute to the 3 Collections at Weekend Masses.**

- Be aware that you can contribute electronically at any time using the Donate facility on the Parish Website.**
- You could also contact the Parish Office to make an arrangement to bring your Offerings to the church.**
- Sincere thanks to those who already do so.**
- As you can imagine, finance is now becoming a very serious matter for all parishes.**

**As others have said, it's shaping up to be a winter like no other. Dealing with it will firstly be a matter of keeping the practice of the basics.**

**We continue to be advised by our Public Health Officials that it is more important now than ever for us to adhere fully to the public health guidelines and restrictions in order to stop the spread of Covid-19.**

**If we are to stay safe, we need to continue to keep our eye on those basics, and put them into practise:**

- **Wash our hand properly and frequently and use sanitiser**
- **Practise proper coughing and sneezing etiquette**
- **Keep a safe distance from everybody of at least 2 metres**
- **Wear face covering where appropriate**
- **Limit the number of social contacts we have to a bare minimum**
- **We are also asked not to travel across county boundaries unless absolutely necessary.**

**Pope Francis has given us this Prayer to help us through this difficult time:**

**Loving God, ...**

**Be present to those in need in these difficult times, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.**

**Help us to show creative solidarity as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.**

**Make us courageous in embracing the changes required to seek the common good.**

**Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent...**

**Amen.**

**Until next time.**

**Keep safe.**

**Slán agus beannacht.**