

**Webcam Broadcast C-19 26+4**

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

**It's Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

**My basic Message this Monday is:**

**Remember that down through the ages people have had to deal with all kinds of adversity, which at times was as overwhelming as the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

**Many people found the support, guidance and wisdom they needed to navigate the storms and stresses that came their way in the Gift of Faith.**

**We tend to think that the Path of Faith was easier in former times. Today we have so much information at our fingertips about Life on Earth, the planets and the universe, that the insights of Faith seem to many moderns irrelevant. Many have abandoned Church in favour of something called spirituality. Many have abandoned Faith in favour of scientific explanation. Despite all the information at our disposal today, do we really have the Gift of Wisdom?**

**I propose to reflect with you a little over these next weeks, and in a very modest way, on where the Gift of Faith comes from, what it is, its history in the Catholic Tradition, and where to from here.**

**The Covid-19 Pandemic is surely calling on us all to reflect on everything and to question everything. This can only be a good thing. The Greek philosopher Socrates, who lived in the fourth century BC, gave us the great saying that “the unexamined life is not worth living”.**

**It's a very long time ago now since everything in the universe began. Scientists say it all began with a big bang roughly 13.7 billion years ago, the result of which continues today. It's impossible to grasp such a timespan and the vastness of the consequences. One result was the formation of Planet Earth roughly 4.5 billion years ago, and a billion years later came the appearance of Life on Earth.**

**Over time Life on Earth evolved into all the life forms we know today, including plant and animal. Many have been lost along the way, like the dinosaurs that disappeared about 200 million years ago.**

**Human beings were the last to appear in this chain of events.**

**The timeline of human evolution is a very long story.**

**While our ancestors have been around for about 6 million years, the modern form of humans only evolved about 200,000 years ago. Civilization as we know it is only about 6,000 years old, and industrialization started in earnest just over 200 years ago.**

**Struggle and battle are words that reflect the history of humanity – not only struggle and battle with the elements of weather, seasons and nature to ensure enough food to survive, but conflict among peoples. The history of humanity is sadly and frequently a history of war.**

**Perhaps a question to ponder is: why is this so?**

**In the midst of all this chaos, people also searched for meaning. Does life have a purpose?**

**Glimpses of that search can be seen in Cave Painting dating back more than 30,000 years in places like Lascaux and Chauvet Caves in France, as well as numerous other such caves right across our planet.**

**Where did we come from?**

**Why are we here?**

**Where are we going?**

**These are the questions human beings have been grappling with since the beginning. This has been part of the human being's search for meaning.**

**Since the development of civilisation, human beings have been open to the stirrings of what would eventually be called Faith. Perhaps as a result of grappling with the mighty forces of nature, human beings began to focus on the Transcendent. They sensed that there was more to life than what meets the eye. Respectful fear, reverence and awe surrounded the magnitude, the mystery and the surprise not only of what's out there in space but also of the life that is within, in the heart and soul and mind and emotions of the human being.**

**This is what all the great religions set out to explore, leading to the naming of the mystery that is God.**

**In the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC God spoke through the Prophet Isaiah and said: *Apart from me, all is nothing. (Is 45:6).***

**I wonder, what did he mean?**

**I hope to continue this reflection next time.**

**Be gentle and patient with yourself in these weird and uncertain times. Tóg bog é.**

**Stay in touch with the Parish Website. There you will find some proposals for honouring the Holy Souls in the month of November and supporting the bereaved.**

**An addition to our weekly Online schedule will be Evening Prayer on Saturday at 6 pm.**

**Join the virtual Parish Congregation for our Parish Webcam Mass. For the moment, this is one of the new ways available to us to express our Faith in worship.**

**Until next time. Keep safe. Slán agus beannacht.**