

**Webcam Broadcast C-19 26+5**

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

**It's Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.**

**My basic Message this Monday is:**

**While the quest for meaning and purpose led humans of old to, as it were, discover God, the deeper reality is that God chose to reveal himself to the human race because of our need of rescue.**

**The month of November is upon us. November can be a difficult month for many people with short days, rough weather, and Spring a long way off. All that's happening in nature, such as the leaves coming down, reminds us of death.**

**Traditionally, for people of Faith, November is the month of the Dead. November begins with All Saints Day on 1<sup>st</sup>, and on 2<sup>nd</sup> November we have All Souls Day.**

**It can be a sad time of year for many as they remember loved ones who have died.**

**And this year, added in to everything, we have the Covid-19 Global Pandemic.**

**The flip side of all this, for the person of Faith, is the realisation that the reason Jesus came, sent by God, was to rescue us from death and all that death implies.**

**As November ends, we begin to trace the events that brought us Jesus. In the depths of winter Advent recalls the stirrings and yearnings of people of old for a Saviour who would bring them rescue, freedom and new life. We celebrate the birth of Jesus the Saviour at Christmas.**

**We need a guide to accompany us, a light to guide us, a destination to welcome us.**

**This is our great need. Jesus is the answer God has given.**

**For this month of November we have the suggestion of a Prayer Station at each of our 2 churches by the gate at the railings. There are prayers for the dead on display. The idea is that, if you are passing by the church, you might wish to pause for a moment and say a prayer for loved ones who have died. You'll notice a QR Code on the prayer. This enables you to access those prayers from the Parish Website where you will find further prayers that you may find helpful; for instance, one you could use on a visit to your loved one's grave, or at home before bedtime.**

**In last week's Monday Message I mentioned that over these weeks I hope to reflect a little with you, and in a very modest way, on where the Gift of Faith comes from and what it leads to.**

**We might note that from very early on in human civilisation people became aware of what we call the Transcendent, of a Big Reality outside ourselves, as well as deep within. That reality we name as God.**

**Conflict, struggle and war seem also to have been a constant feature of human behaviour and endeavour and experience from the outset.**

**In the Judeo-Christian tradition, which brought us our Catholic Faith, we say that God revealed himself over time to the human race. And that revelation took place in the context of the human need that arose caused by all the conflict that surrounded human beings.**

**It was in the context of oppression and slavery that God revealed himself to Moses. We find the account in the Jewish Scripture, the first part of our Bible, in the Book of Exodus, at the beginning of chapter 3. Here's the text, which refers to events that took place about 1,250 years before the time of Jesus:**

*Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.*

*Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up."*

*When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"*

*And he said, "Here I am."*

*Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."*

*He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."*

*And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

**This wonderful text may cause us to wonder.**

**How do we see the ground we stand on? Is it holy ground?**

**God speaks to Moses through the burning bush, perhaps an event of nature. Have we today the disposition and attentiveness to notice God speaking through nature, itself a kind of original Scripture?**

**What about the effects of our impingement on nature, which is causing climate change and the wide-scale destruction of the natural environment?**

**What is our response today to the voice of God, speaking to us through the cry of the earth?**

**These stirrings would, over time, give rise to the discovery of the comfort and consolations and challenge of religious faith.**

**Given where we are at this time, we today surely need, not only the evidence of science, but also the comfort and consolation of Faith in abundance.**

**Two pieces of music you may hear repeated on our Webcam Broadcast of Mass over the month of November begin with the words Calm Me, and, Shelter Me.**

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

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