

Webcam Broadcast C-19 26+12

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

It's Monday 21st December 2020.

My basic Message this Monday is:

A joyful, healthy, happy Christmas to you.

This time last year I went to an exhibition of 100 small cribs from around the world. It took place in Blessington Parish Centre. I was struck by the one from the Philippines, made from various brushes. It's the image you saw at the beginning of this recording.

Now, a year later, what a journey it has been through the Covid-19 Pandemic, so far! And it looks like we may have a long way to go. But light is beginning to appear on the horizon with the development of a Vaccine.

What an extraordinary and challenging year 2020 has been! We couldn't have imagined it this time last year. Never before have we seen so much change or such rapid change. In many respects there is no going back to where we were before.

It will take time for us to absorb and process and adjust to all the change.

The feature that makes me most sad is not being able to meet people properly, and in fact having to avoid meeting people in order to stay safe.

Among the good things of the year is that it brought out our capacity for resilience and generosity:

**resilience in coping with the restrictions,
generosity in caring about others.**

We have grown in our awareness of how interconnected and interdependent we are.

We have a new appreciation of the common good.

We thank God for the benefits of technology, which helped ease the burden of the year.

At Christmas we commemorate and celebrate the Birth of Jesus, who came that we might have life, and have it to the full. (Jn 10:10).

He gave himself totally for us, leaving us an example of how to live life to the full.

May we grow in our awareness that he is still with us through his Spirit, to help us live fully, even with the restrictions of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We can now today entrust ourselves to his care for he is with us for all time.

We will have an outdoor Crib at each of our 2 churches this Christmas. Many people may not want to go into the church building to the Crib inside. The figures are all white and in silhouette. There's a prayer at the railings in front of the Crib which you could say as you pass. This is the prayer - you could use it at home as well; the text is on the Website:

Prayer at the Crib

**God our Father,
You sent your only Son, Jesus, as a little child
to love us and to be our Saviour.**

**Your Holy Spirit came down on Mary
and gave wisdom to Joseph
so that they could prepare for His birth.**

**As we pray here around the Crib, open our hearts
to His love and to His gentle care.**

**Take away our fears and fill our hearts with joy.
Guide and care for our families
and help us to care for one another,
so that we can live as the people of God.**

**May we know his presence with us
and find deep peace in our lives
during these days of Christmas,
and in the year ahead.
Amen.**

**I wish you and all your loved ones joy, health and happiness this
Christmas and throughout the New Year ahead 2021.**

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir.

**I'm not sure when 'next time' will be - hopefully early in the New
Year.**

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