

Webcam Broadcast C-19 21-1

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

It's Monday 11th January 2021.

My basic Message this Monday is:

It may be a dark January because the spread of Covid-19 is out of control in our country. But for disciples of Jesus there is always hope. The lengthening and brightening of days, already apparent, is a harbinger of that hope.

I find it hard to believe that it's 3 weeks already since I recorded my last Monday Message on the Monday before Christmas Day. Before then, and since the Pandemic began, it was the strangest of times. Since then, it has been even stranger again, and indeed difficult and stressful.

Like many, I would say, I have reached a stage of exhaustion, fatigue and inertia in consequence of the Restrictions. Many things we treasure and that make life worthwhile have to be put on hold indefinitely. We know that the Restrictions are necessary because the disease is so rampant now. But the fact that there is no holiday from it brings a unique kind of lethargy and laziness. So many things have ground to a halt.

On the other hand, my mind is in overdrive trying to comprehend the state we are in and what it all means. We hear words like "precarious", "critical", "vigilant", and other alarms, sounding all the time.

I have the advantage of space, living on my own and with the church grounds around me. I can't imagine what it must be like sharing a house or apartment with others and trying to keep yourself and the others both safe and sane. I heard reference recently to people working from their bed and how their employers had provided them with special trays to sit on their bed to facilitate using a laptop.

I feel a sense of fear as well as disappointment, but not surprise, at the scary numbers. Each day seems to bring those numbers to a new highest level yet. As a community we have obviously let our guard down and have ended up in a bad place. This is what was predicted by the experts in the matter.

Now we, the wider community, are being asked to cop on to ourselves, to stay at home and to follow the measures. If we, and that includes everyone else, take this sobering message fully on board at last, the worrying numbers will be brought down and the current Lockdown will eventually come to an end. Otherwise we will limp on like this indefinitely.

The tunnel ahead is quite long. But there is light at the end of it in the form of the Vaccine. We also need to remember that we have to be still alive then for the Vaccine to be of any use to us.

Even though the Covid-19 Pandemic is turning everything upside down on us, I believe that the hand of God can help us bring something good out of it. My basis for saying this is Jesus whose birth among us we have just commemorated and celebrated. His mortal life ended in total disaster with his ignominious death on the cross. But that was not the end of the story. God had the last word:

“On the third day he rose again from the dead.”

This is the heart of the Christian Mystery.

The hand of God can and will rescue us too.

He can make the darkness bright again.

Part of the challenge before us, as we will emerge from the horror of these times, is to do what Jesus did on the cross: commend ourselves and our predicament in trust into God’s hands.

We can only do this in the Faith of Jesus the Christ.

God will take it from there.

If we make the time to reflect, we will gain further insight into what our world is, and what our mission in it is.

**These are our preoccupations at this present time. But in the wider world there is also concern about the bigger picture, which includes:
people dying of hunger,
increasing numbers of people displaced because of migration,
those at the bottom of the ladder suffering the consequences of climate change.**

When I began the Monday Message back when the First Lockdown began, the idea behind it was quite modest: to keep in touch with the Parish and to help Parishioners be informed about what was happening parish-wise because of the Pandemic and Lockdown. At that time no one could have predicted that we would be in lockdown as we begin 2021.

I'm not sure whether the Monday Message achieved its purpose or what purpose it could serve best now.

If you have any ideas in this regard, please get in touch via email at kcparishoffice@gmail.com. I'd love to hear from you.

You may notice that there is a stretch in the evenings now. Days are beginning to get longer and brighter. This turn of nature is God's gift and a harbinger of better things to come.

Until next time.

Keep safe. Keep each other safe.

Slán agus beannacht.