**Seanmóir: Teachtaireacht agus muid ag fanacht leis an gCóineartú a cheiliúradh**

Sa Soiscéal inniu, dúirt Síomóin Peadar le hÍosa, *"Cé eile atá ann le go leanfadh muid é?"* nuair a d'iarr Íosa ar na hAspail, *"An bhfuil sibhse chun tarraingt siar uaim chomh maith?"* B'in tar éis go leor deisceabail eile a rá, *"Is crua an chaint í seo."* Níor aontaigh Peadar leo; níor thaispeáin aon duine eile bealach níos fearr do Pheadar.

Na daoine óga (cúigear is tríocha sa bparóiste seo; na mílte sa tír!) a dhéanfaidh an Cóineartú (nuair a bheith sé sábháilte é a bheith againn), tá sé intuigthe sa gcéim sin **go bhfuil siad chun na buanna bunúsacha daonna agus diaga a spreagfaidh an Soiscéal iontu a chleachtadh ina mbeatha**. Ar bhealach, beidh siad a rá linne a réitigh iad - idir teaghlaigh, scoileanna agus paróistí - nár thaispeáin aon duine eile bealach níos fearr dóibh chun a saol a chaitheamh!

1. Na daoine óga atá ag fanacht le sacraimint an Chóineartaithe, tá siad réidh le rá go poiblí go bhfuil siad chun an tsíocháin, maithiúnas, dóchas, misneach, cineáltas, athmhuintearas, féinsmacht - agus go leor buanna eile a spreagann an Soiscéal ionainn a chreideann i nDia - a chleachtadh ina mbeatha.[i] Ba cheart go gcuirfeadh sé seo an-áthas ar chuile dhuine de 'lucht dea-thola'[ii] - idir a chreideann agus nach gcreideann.

2. Go bunúsach, spreagann an creideamh Críostaí ardchaighdeán sa mhaireachtáil i bpobal na hEaglaise. Cothaíonn sé aontacht. Treoraíonn sé muid. Tugann sé míniú dár saol. Spreagann agus neartaíonn sé muid chun an rud atá ceart agus go maith a dhéanamh, go speisialta nuair a bhíonn sé deacair.

3. Rinne muid comhghairdeas leis na buaiteoirí ag na Cluichí Olimpeacha. Ceiliúrfaidh muid buaiteoirí an chluiche ceannais san iománaíocht agus sa bpeil. Ceiliúraimis chomh maith na mílte daoine óga ar fud na tíre a déarfaidh sa gCóineartú i mbliana go bhfuil siad chun a saol a chaitheamh go Críostúil agus na buanna Críostaí a chleachtadh ina mbeatha. Déanaimis comhghairdeas leo! Is dea-scéal é seo do mhuintir na tíre ar fad!

4. An gaisce sa spóirt, baineann sé le blianta ar leith i saol an duine. Tá na ranganna Cóineartaithe ag cur ceangal orthu féin ar feadh an tsaoil! Lá i ndiaidh lae, is í an Chríostaíocht a threoróidh a mbeatha le go mairfidh siad go hiomlán agus go sona sásta.

5. Bhí orainn an Cóineartú (agus an Chéad Chomaoineach) a chur siar cúpla uair mar gheall ar Chovid 19, agus is ceart é sin a dhéanamh.[iii] Ach nuair a chuireann muid rud éigin siar arís agus arís eile, seolann sé amach teachtaireacht nach bhfuil sé chomh tábhachtach sin, b'fhéidir. Níl aon duine a rá nach bhfuil na sacraimintí agus deasghnátha an chreidimh tábhachtach, ach d'fhéadfadh an teachtaireacht sin dul amach trí thimpiste.

6. Tá na mílte Caitliceach óg réidh chun iad féin a thabhairt chun na luachanna Chríostaí a chleachtadh ina saoil, na bunluachanna céanna sin lena n-aontaíonn 'lucht an dea-thola uile'. Aontaíonn an uile dhuine ar an bpointe seo: gur mhaith linn domhan a fheiceáil ina maireann chuile dhuine faoi shíocháin, i gcairdeas, agus an ceart agus an chóir agus go leor bunluachanna daonna eile atá Críostúil chomh maith á gcleachtadh.

Domhnach 21 B 2021
"Cé chuige a rachaimid? Is agatsa atá briathra na beatha síoraí."

Nuair a bheidh sé sábháilte an Cóineartú a bheith againn, bheadh sé go deas ár gceannairí sibhialta a chloisteáil ag déanamh chomhghairdis leis na daoine óga ar fad i gceist, agus iad a mholadh sa gcéim a thógfaidh siad ar lá an Chóineartaithe; agus bua, beannacht, dea-ghuí agus buíochas a ghabháil, mar, **sa mhéid is go n-éireoidh leis na daoine óga sa ngealltanas seo** (agus sa mhéid is go n-éiríonn le chuile dhuine againn), **beidh an tír seo againne níos fearr, níos deise, níos grámhaire, níos trócairí, …….. do chuile dhuine sa tír.** B'in rud mór le ceiliúradh!

**Message as we await the celebration of Confirmation**
In today's Gospel, Simon Peter said to Jesus, "Who else is there for us to follow?" when Jesus asked the Apostles, "Are you also going to withdraw from me?" Many other disciples said, "This is a hard teaching." Peter did not agree with them; no one else showed Peter a better way.

For the young people (thirty-five in this parish; thousands in the country!) who will make Confirmation (when it is safe to have it), it is implicit in the step that they are about to take **that they will practise in their lives the basic human and divine values that the Gospel will inspire in them**. In a way, they will be saying to those of us who prepared them for Confirmation - families, schools and parishes - that no one else has shown them a better way to live their lives!

1. The young people who are waiting for the sacrament of Confirmation are ready to say publicly that they are for peace, forgiveness, hope, courage, kindness, reconciliation, self-discipline - and many other values and virtues that the Gospel inspires in us who believe in God – and that they will put them into practice in their lives. This should bring joy to all 'people of good will' - believers and non-believers.

2. In essence, the Christian faith encourages a high standard of living in those who belong to the community of the Church. It fosters unity. It guides us. It gives meaning to our lives. It encourages and strengthens us to do what is right and good, especially when it becomes difficult.

3. We congratulated the winners at the Olympics. We will celebrate the winners of the All Ireland Final in hurling and football. Let us also celebrate the thousands of young people across the country who will say in Confirmation this year that they will live the Christian life and practice the Christian virtues in their lives. Congratulations to them! This is good news for the whole country!

4. Achievement in sport pertains to a particular number of years in one's life. The Confirmation classes are making a commitment for life! Day after day, it will be the Christian Gospel that will give direction to their lives so that they may live fulfilled and happy lives.

5. We had to postpone Confirmation (and First Holy Communion) a few times because of Covid 19, and rightly so. (That doesn't stop us from practising our faith and living out the Gospel.) But when we postpone something again and again, it may send out the message that what is being postponed may not be that important. No one is saying that the sacraments and rituals of faith are not important, but that message may be communicated unintentionally.

6. Thousands of young Catholics are ready to commit and devote themselves to practising the Christian values in their lives, the same values upon which all 'people of good will' agree. Everyone agrees on this point: we all would like to see a world in which all peoples live in peace, in friendship, doing what is right and just, and many other core human values that are also Christian.

When it is safe to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, it would be nice to hear our civil leaders congratulate all the young people involved, and encourage them in the step they will take on the day of Confirmation; wishing them success, blessings, good wishes and gratitude, because**, to the extent that the young people live out the commitment given in Confirmation** (and to the extent that all of us who profess faith in Christ, and live out of that faith, succeed in the same endeavour), **our country will be a better place to live, more loving, more merciful, …… for everyone in the country**. That is something really worth celebrating!

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[i] Luachanna agus buanna eile a spreagann an Soiscéal ionainn: *Láchas, grá, lúcháir, macántacht, foighid, flaithiúlacht, dílseacht, ionracas; chun an fhírinne a inseacht; go bhfuil an obair go maith dúinn; cúram na mbocht; meas ar an mbeatha uile; meas ar ár sinsir; meas ar an uile phearsan agus ar aon ní is leis; dualgas sibhialta chun páirt a ghlacadh sa bpobal*

[ii] An Ghlóir: *People of good will*

[iii] Ní stopann sé sin muid ag cleachtadh ár gcreidimh agus ag maireachtáil ón Soiscéal.

Other values and gifts that the Gospel inspires in us: Joy, love, joy, honesty, patience, generosity, loyalty, integrity; to tell the truth; that work is good for us; care of the poor; respect for all life; respect for our seniors; respect for all persons and anything belonging to them; a civic duty to participate in the community