



24th April 2020.

Re: Confirmation and First Holy Communion Ceremonies

Dear Chairperson and Principal,

I am writing on behalf of Archbishop Martin to thank you for the support you are giving to pupils and their families during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The Archbishop is very grateful to you, the school secretaries and SNAs in the way the school is maintaining contact with the pupils by providing on-line learning and resources.

In particular, the Archbishop would like to thank you, the HSL teachers, teaching staff, SNAs, school secretaries and all the staff who are organising the delivery of school meals to the children in need.

A number of schools and parishes have been in contact asking about Confirmation and First Holy Communion ceremonies. We can only begin to speak of a timeframe for these Sacraments, when it is possible once again to hold large gatherings of people, especially children. This is unlikely for some months ahead and, therefore, it will not be possible to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion as planned during the months of May and June 2020.

I appreciate that this is a very difficult time for the pupils and their families, but we must follow the advice and guidelines from the Government and the HSE in the interest of the health of all.

I will be in contact at a later date when there is further clarity around the situation.

May God bless and protect you all and we place ourselves under the protection of Mary, Our Lady.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Monsignor Dan O'Connor