



## Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois

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24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians and Students preparing for Confirmation,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

It is over six weeks since schools closed in order to curtail the spread of this terrible virus. I'm sure over all those weeks you have missed your friends at school and would like to be back as soon as possible.

I usually visit every school a week or so before Confirmation to meet with you and wish you well in your preparation and in your enjoyment this important event. This year I was only able to visit a few schools and celebrate only two Confirmations out of thirty-two. I know you are disappointed that Confirmation ceremonies are postponed. I am disappointed also, as I was looking forward to meeting with you and your families.

It is not possible to have Confirmation until the restrictions on gatherings of people are lifted. Confirmation will be celebrated when it is safe for us to gather again. We cannot say just yet when that will be.

In the meantime it is important for us to keep safe and to pray for the many people who are ill, and also for all those who are working in hospitals and nursing homes, and all who are working in essential services. I remember you all in my prayers at this time.

With every good wish and blessing,

Francis Duffy  
**Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois**