



Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois

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21st May 2020

Dear Students preparing for Confirmation and Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well during this very long lockdown. I'm sure you have been keeping in safe contact with friends over this time.

By now many of you would have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in your home parish.

We know that it is not possible to have Confirmation until the restrictions on gatherings of people are lifted and when it is safe for us to meet again in larger numbers.

Sometime before Confirmation a Ceremony of Light is held. It has been suggested that I host a Ceremony of Light in Saint Mel's Cathedral, Longford. I am very happy to do so.

I invite you and your families to join in this ceremony, in a virtual way, by means of the Cathedral webcam located at www.longfordparish.com. It will be held on Saturday 30th May at 7.00pm, the eve of Pentecost Sunday.

It will involve two readings, prayers for students, families and teachers, and a Renewal of Baptism Promises. I will light a candle from the Paschal Candle and hold it out. In the spirit of the ceremony, I invite you to light a candle and pass it to your son or daughter, as a symbol of passing on faith and all those good gifts and values.

I hope that you will be able to join in this short ceremony as a means of preparing for Confirmation.

With every good wish and blessing,

Francis Duffy
Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois