



St Mary's Church, Athlone
Our Lady, Queen of Peace, Coosan, Athlone

14th May 2020

To all the children preparing for their First Holy Communion,

We hope this letter finds you and all your family safe and well.

Over these weeks, we would normally be busy celebrating First Holy Communion Masses for the girls and boys in Second Class. First Holy Communion Day is a very special day, not only for you but for all your family, teachers and school. Sadly because of the Coronavirus, it is not possible at the moment to receive your First Holy Communion until the restrictions on gatherings of people are lifted. As you may know, Bishop Francis has written to all schools to say that *"I cannot give any indication of when Confirmation or First Holy Communion may take place because it is uncertain what the next few weeks and months will bring in terms of restrictions."*

As the priests in your parish, we too are disappointed but like you, we look forward to the day when the restrictions are lifted and when we can celebrate your special day. We decided to write to you to say that we haven't forgotten you and that you will be especially in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Once, it is safe to gather and we get the word from the Bishop, we will happily then organise your First Holy Communion.

So, in the meantime, stay safe and well and continue to prepare for your First Holy Communion by saying your prayers. We will continue to pray for you and all your family and friends and we look forward to the day when we will come together again.

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr. Declan Shannon

Fr. John Eze

Fr. Padraig Kelliher

Fr. Pierre Pepper

