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17th June 2020

Dear Principal,

Re: Sacraments for 2020 which have been postponed due to Covid19.

I hope you are safe and well. Since I wrote to you a few weeks ago, I want you to know that I have remembered you each day in prayer.

What a difficult situation this pandemic is for so many people, not least our school communities. I have been getting several queries here about Confirmation and would love to hear your views. The office has only got back to full secretarial services on 8th June. So please excuse the delay in getting to you. Some of the suggestions coming in are that:

- Confirmation ceremonies could be held during or after the summer probably in small groups.
- Ceremonies (without Mass) celebrated by the local priest in the evening time. (The reason for not having Mass is because the distribution of Holy Communion is complicated by Covid19.)

It is important that the significant groups in the diocese give their feedback on how the celebration of First Communion and Confirmation can take place in the coming weeks. I would be delighted to hear your thoughts on these or any suggestions you may have by Friday 26th June. Please email your suggestions to info@waterfordlismore.ie

The Registration Form for Sacraments on our website pertains to ceremonies happening **this year 2020** not 2021. It is hoped that Confirmations and perhaps First Holy Communions can happen as soon possible, but this is dependent on the Covid19 situation. It is hoped that families can be accommodated in small groups for the ceremonies and each parish would need the contact details of each family putting forward a child for First Holy Communion or Confirmation. Because of the much smaller numbers being allowed into each Church there will be a lot of ceremonies for each parish to conduct. Confirmation is more complicated than First Holy Communion since the children will be scattered in various different secondary schools and it would be extremely difficult without contact details to arrange a Confirmation ceremony.

My kind regards,

Most Reverend Alphonsus Cullinan, DD
Bishop of Waterford and Lismore