

March 2021

Dear parents,

This past year has been a strange and challenging one for everybody. I hope that you and your family are coping well with the restrictions that have affected all of our lives, especially with the long interruption to classroom-based education for your children. One of the big changes we are dealing with in the parish is coming up with a new way of planning, preparing and celebrating the sacraments that have traditionally been school-based. The move away from school-based sacraments has been talked about for a long time but the reality of Covid 19 has speeded up the process.

We are writing to you now as your child in sixth class is at an age when you might be thinking of the Sacrament Confirmation for him/ her. At this stage, with all the disruption there has been due to Covid 19, we are unable to give any dates for when the sacrament may be celebrated. However, it will happen at some stage and it is important that for those who want to take part we at least begin the process of preparation.

While the sixth class religion programme will continue through school, the enrolment and celebration of the sacraments will take place in the parish. All parents who want their children to receive their Confirmation will be expected to take part in both the school and parish-based preparation. We want to invite you, then, if you wish to enrol your child for the sacrament that you do so on our new on-line enrolment system. You can enrol very simply by clicking on to the link below.....

<https://forms.gle/bGATfnCDcGjrEis9A>

and fill in the necessary details by

WEDNESDAY 24th March

As part of this year's preparation Bishop Denis Nulty is inviting all the 6th class children and their families across the Diocese to join in a Prayer Service via webcam on:

THURSDAY March 25th at 12 noon

Bishop Denis will lead a short Prayer Service in Carlow Cathedral, broadcast live through the webcam. This is something that he would normally do to mark the beginning of his journey of Confirmation around the diocese. This year the emphasis will be different, it will be about marking the beginning of the journey for those who are choosing to be confirmed in very different times in a very different way. There will be an opportunity for him to answer questions from a number of candidates from around the diocese and to talk about the Oil of Chrism with which the candidates will be anointed. This Prayer Service will also be recorded and I will send the link to families to watch together if they are not able to join during the day It is hoped that the 6th Classes will be watching live from their classrooms.

Please set these dates in your diaries but we will remind you closer to the time and will send the Cathedral and the Parish webcam links. If you have any queries please contact the parish office on 045 878 008 or by email to sacraments.killprish@gmail.com In the meantime, we wish you and your family a safe and peaceful return to school life.

Yours sincerely,

Fr Willie O'Byrne PP

Fr Matt Kelly

Ms Jean Roche
Sacramental Coordinator