25 June 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

**Celebration of First Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation 2020**

Before the close of our schools for well merited summer holidays, I wanted to communicate to you our new plans for the celebration of your children’s First Sacraments which were postponed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions.

Both **First Communions and Confirmations will now be celebrated in your local parish churches between September and November**.  Each of these will be given by your parish priests. I am happy to delegate the Sacrament of Confirmation to your parish priest to administer.

Our Head Teachers in both our Diocesan Primary and High Schools have committed to continuing the formation of our young ones to be ready for these Sacraments in support of our local parishes.

May I take this opportunity to thank our Parish Priests, Head Teachers and Diocesan Education Officers for their wonderful work in arranging a full consultation on this process in order to come up with the best solution for your families. Amid all the business of lockdown arrangements they gave generously of their time and talents to ensure your children will not miss out of the joyful celebration of our Sacraments.

May I also commend you in your amazing commitment to the partnership of our schools and parishes to ensure the peaceful formation of our young people in faith and character in these unprecedented times. May God reward your good work.

With every good wish and blessing,

Bishop John