

MEMO

TO: PARENTS OF CONFIRMATION CHILDREN

FROM: FR. JOE

Cc. PRINCIPALS, CONFIRMATION CLASS TEACHERS, CONFIRMATION TEAM, PARISH
CHAPLAINS, DEACON

It is with a heavy heart that I pen this memo.

It is something that I had hoped I would not have to do.

It is with sincere regret that I wish to inform you of our decision to postpone the celebration of the beautiful sacrament of confirmation until spring of next year.

This decision comes after much prayer and deliberation.

It is difficult to see us being allowed significant numbers in our churches in the near future. I am also cognisant of the Archbishop's recently expressed desire that both parents be facilitated in being present at this special moment in our young people's faith journey.

Even now with the county restrictions lifted we would still have to at least double the present number of planned ceremonies. The work involved in this is not a problem but it would lead to the break up of class groups and with all that the question remains how safe would it all be.

For your information when we decided earlier this month to postpone our First Holy Communion ceremonies some parents approached me with the idea of presenting their child to receive their First Holy Communion at any of our public Masses. I see no problem with this. Once we are again open for bookings for a place at Mass, some parents may decide to avail of this. It is possible we may be able to offer something similar with regard to Confirmation for those families who really do not want to wait until next Spring.

I am truly sorry to be the bearer of such news.

Early in the new year we hope to deliver some method of refocusing the children in preparation for the sacrament.

Meanwhile I pray you all remain safe and well. Let us continue to keep each other in prayer.