

On this special feast of St Kevin of Glendalough it is a good time to give some clarity around the sacramental life of our faith community here in St Patrick's and St Brigid's.

First of all sincere thanks for your patience and support. Special thanks for your continued engagement with our weekly program. I am also grateful for your continued financial support.

As you know our week has five key elements: Rejoice. Reflect. Renew. Remember. Rediscover. We begin with the dawn Mass at 5.30 am on Sunday and finish on Saturday with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, with Eucharist and Rosary.

Eucharist: (Mass) It is lovely to be back in our two beautiful churches again, albeit for the moment, with restricted numbers. The present Mass schedule, both in church and on line will continue until mid-September.

Weddings: We are working through our backlog of weddings. Many couples have had to reschedule their special day up to three times.

First Holy Communion: The repeated postponement of this beautiful sacrament has been distressing for everyone but perhaps there is some benefit from the children being a little older, and they, and their families, having had time to consider what exactly it is all about, namely, receiving the Body of Jesus for the first time. For those families who feel ready I intend to offer First Holy Communion during the month of November.

Confirmation: This is the sacrament of the young adult. This is when the young woman, or young man, says 'I want to be a part of this community of faith. I want to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help me mature as a follower of Jesus. 'Yes there has been disappointment, but when we keep in mind it's real meaning we realise, there is in fact, no rush with this sacrament. For those who freely decide they want Confirmation I hope to offer it from mid-September to the end of October.

Baptisms: this sacrament is core and is, in my view, urgent. The Archbishop has asked us to wait until July 5th and my hope is that after that we can make this sacrament our priority.

Let us remember each other in prayer. Have a safe and happy summer.

Fraternally, Fr Joe