



St. Mary's Presbytery
The Fairgreen
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16th April, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of children in preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

The restrictions in force due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 crisis have obvious implications for the planned celebration of the Sacraments for which your children are preparing.

As you know, the current restrictions are in force until midnight of the Bank Holiday Monday 4th May. However, it is not possible at this point to know if schools will return on Tuesday 5th May or if gatherings in churches will be permitted from Tuesday 5th May.

Therefore, Navan Parish wishes to announce the following:

- First Holy Communion ceremonies scheduled for Saturday 25th April (Scoil Naomh Eoin, St. Anne's, Gaelscoil Eanna) **are postponed** and will be rescheduled when schools resume AND when gatherings in churches are permitted.
- At this point in time, in the absence of any clear indication about when schools can resume and when gatherings in churches will be permitted, we must accept that **it is highly unlikely** that the Confirmation ceremonies planned for 9th May and the First Holy Communion ceremonies planned for 1st May (St. Ultan's), 16th May (St. Joseph's Mercy, Scoil Mhuire, St. Oliver Plunkett) and 23rd May (St. Paul's, Scoil Bhríde Cannistown) will take place as scheduled.

We know that you and the children have been looking forward to these special days for a long time, and that you will already have had preparations in place for celebrations with your families. As priests, we assure you that we share the disappointment that you and your children will feel. Once again, we wish to emphasise that Navan Parish will provide the Sacraments to all children who are already in preparation **as soon as it is possible to do so.**

In the meantime, we encourage you to stay connected with Navan Parish through our website www.navanparish.ie, our social media platforms on *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *Instagram*, and above all, to join the parish community with your child for Mass *via* webcam from St. Mary's Church on www.navanparish.ie/webcam. We also hope to be in touch with you to offer resources to help you and your child to continue your preparations for the Sacraments.

At this Easter time, we pray that the Risen Lord will bless your children and your homes with his peace and his joy.

Fr. Declan Hurley (Chaplain to St. Oliver Plunkett's and Scoil Naomh Eoin)

Fr. Robert McCabe (Chaplain to Scoil Bhríde Cannistown, Gaelscoil Éanna, and St. Ultan's)

Fr. Shane Crombie (Chaplain to St. Anne's, Scoil Mhuire, and St. Mary's Special School)

Fr. Louis Illah (Chaplain to St. Paul's and St. Joseph's Mercy)