

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PRIMARY SCHOOLS
CASHEL
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5 May 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of **2nd Class Communion & 6th Class Confirmation** candidates,

We write to update you on developments in relation to the celebration of Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Attached below is the recent correspondence to schools from Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly.

The letter makes clear that no ceremonies will take place in May and this will certainly be the case in Cashel.

In truth, it seems unlikely that any ceremony will take place in June. However, the Archbishop does leave the door open somewhat on the possibility of late June ceremonies.

Like you, we can only speculate but if there are no ceremonies this side of the summer holidays, then we would assume that Communion would be celebrated in Sept/Oct (like last year) and there's the possibility that Confirmation could take place over the summer holidays. However, we must stress that no plans have been made as yet.

We'd like to acknowledge the disappointment that families may feel with this news. We too are disappointed but we look forward to better days ahead.

Rest assured that any news we receive will be relayed to you.

First Penance will go ahead in school as planned either next week or soon thereafter, weather permitting.

Thank you all for your ongoing support & understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Andrews & Will Ryan

See letter below ↓

Confirmation

In my statement on the 16th April, on the administration of the sacrament of Confirmation in the Archdiocese, I stated that no dates should be set for confirmation "in the coming weeks".

Reading the above statement from the office of the Taoiseach it is now the recommendation of the government that the Sacrament of Confirmation should not take place "at this time". With this in mind, I ask that no confirmation ceremony be planned for the month of May. Furthermore, it is also probable that it may not be possible to plan any dates for June, especially early June – all subject to the situation at the time and the spread of the virus. This will be held under review.

First Holy Communion

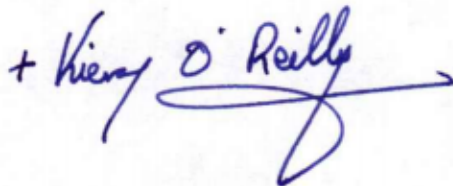
Reading the above statement from the office of the Taoiseach it is now the recommendation of the government that First Holy Communion ceremonies should not take place "at this time". With this in mind, I ask that no First Holy Communion ceremony be planned for the month of May. Furthermore, it is also probable that it may not be possible to plan any dates for June, especially early June – all subject to the situation at the time and the spread of the virus. This will be held under review.

I realise that many were hoping to hold the Confirmation and First Holy Communion ceremonies in the coming weeks, but it is clearly not advisable now.

Also, further clarification is being sought around the number of 50 at church services. I shall inform you when we have more information.

I thank you for your understanding and patience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, starting with a cross symbol and the name "Kieran O'Reilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.