



# DIocese OF KILLALOE

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25<sup>th</sup> of February 2021

## ***Re: Preparation for the Sacraments in Killaloe Diocese 2021***

Dear Parents/Guardian,

I hope you are keeping very well in these very challenging times. I am writing to you with an update on the Sacramental Preparations and Celebrations in the Killaloe Diocese 2021.

### ***Timing of the Sacraments***

It is difficult to say when it might be possible to celebrate the Sacraments, despite the fact that practically all students will be back to school after Easter. As a result of meetings in the past week indications are that it might not be safe to do so for some months yet. It will depend on numbers of infections and successful roll-out of the vaccines. I am sure the uncertainty surrounding the arrangement of dates has been a cause of stress and anxiety for many, but in the circumstances I am sure you understand the challenges posed. As you are aware there is more leeway for possibilities with First Holy Communion, but Confirmations have more urgency, seeing that students will be in a different school system after the Summer holidays. If and when it is clear that it is appropriate to do so, the three partners of home, school and parish would need to collaborate on setting dates and organising practices for the ceremonies.

### ***Registration***

Thank you for registering your interest in having your child prepare for the Sacraments. However, some of the forms have yet to be completed. If you have still to complete yours it would be appreciated if you could do this at your earliest convenience.

### ***Building on the experience of 2020***

We would like to build on the positive developments from the 2020 celebrations where the feedback was very positive around the celebration and simplicity of the ceremonies with small numbers present and less fuss.



### ***Importance of Family Involvement***

Many parents acknowledged the cooperation of the school, the community and parents as being essential to ensuring that the ceremonies took place and the role of the families as very significant. Restrictions proved challenging and the children did miss the presence of Grandparents from the ceremonies. I would like to build on this experience for 2021: therefore, *Family Involvement* is key.

### ***Points for Reflection***

I am asking parents/guardians who want to present their child to go forward for a sacrament in 2021 to reflect on:

- The importance of handing on the faith to their child
- The importance of faith in their family life
- The importance of helping their child with *Grow in Love* lessons and resources sent home
- The importance of engaging (face to face, phone, zoom, or other platforms) with the clergy, or other parish personnel for ongoing formation if being offered.
- The importance of and giving serious consideration to attending Mass on a weekly basis with your child, even if online is the only possible way of doing so.

Some other dioceses have held webinars to assist in the preparation for the Sacraments and we are looking into possibilities of doing that and will send information relating to that in due course.


### ***Conclusion***

We are living in uncertain, difficult and challenging times. However, the vaccine along with great community solidarity offers great cause for Hope and a good future. It will take time to return to a degree of safe normality again, but with patience, faith and collaboration we will pull through together.

I assure you that we, in the Diocese Killaloe, will do our best to ensure that your child receives the gift of the Sacraments in 2021 in a timely and safe manner at the appropriate time.

Wishing you and your family continued good health, blessing and happiness and all the best for the Sacramental celebration and always.

Yours sincerely,



✠ Fintan Monahan