

# Cloughleigh Presbytery,

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February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well in these very difficult times. It is not easy and I am aware of the many extra pressures on you at this time. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you at this time.

I write in relation to the Confirmation Ceremony, which was originally scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup> of this year in Cloughleigh Oratory. Unfortunately, due to the current COVID-19 restrictions and Government and H.S.E. guidelines, we find ourselves in the unfortunate position of having to postpone the Confirmation ceremony until **May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. This is not a decision we have taken lightly and we apologise for the inconvenience that this will cause. However, the decision has been taken with the health and safety of the children, their families and school and parish personnel at the forefront of our minds.

In May we hope to be able to celebrate this beautiful sacrament with families present, and that it will be a joyful occasion for all concerned. However, we also need to be realistic and even at this early stage we need to indicate that there will more than likely be two ceremonies on that day, one at **11:00a.m. and one at 1:00p.m.** This is to allow for maximum attendance and also for church personnel to ensure that the church is thoroughly cleaned between ceremonies. I will be in contact again well in advance of the ceremony and will keep you updated on events as they unfold.

We, as a parish, understand the frustration and upheaval these decisions cause and we thank you sincerely for your understanding. You are the primary teachers of your children and we owe a lot to you. That is why we want to keep you all safe and hopefully, come May, to have a ceremony that you will remember for a long time to come. I will be in touch again.

Thank you.

Fr. Gerard Fitzgerald.

(Co P.P. Ennis Parish, Cloughleigh P.P.)