

BUNCRANA PARISH

19 October 2020

Re. Celebration of First Penance for Children in Third Class

Dear Parents

I hope this note finds you safe and well.

I write at this time to update you on how the parish hopes to facilitate the celebration of the Sacrament of First Confession/Penance/Reconciliation for your child, now a member of Third Class 2020.

These are challenging times for all of us. But the children are so resilient and up-beat; we can learn so much from them. When I had a meeting with teacher and parent representatives from each of our schools a few weeks ago, I mentioned then that, all things being equal, we might begin the celebration of First Penance this week. We still intend to fulfil this.

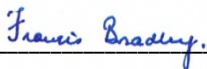
The Sacrament of First Penance will be celebrated for the children very simply in the school, in a space and in a way that is safe and dignified. Your school will let you know when the Sacrament will be celebrated. We are beginning this week and will complete the celebration for all the children after the mid-term break. This is all based on the premise that tonight's Government update on the regulations will not make this impossible. It is also in an effort to support and sustain the children themselves and you as their families in your faith, especially in trying circumstances.

While it was originally hoped that the celebration of First Holy Communion would then follow at the earliest possible time, even under current regulations, the First Holy Communion ceremonies cannot proceed as previously hoped. As soon as it is safe and convenient to do so, we will proceed – but there will be further updates on this both from me and from the schools later in November.

Over the next few days, video resources and little items to help you and your child prepare for this significant moment in their faith journey will be posted on our parish Facebook page and on the website; they will also be forwarded to you through the schools.

With renewed thanks and deep appreciation for your patience and all you are doing amid the difficulties we experience, for the children's joy and excitement, and asking the protection of Mary, the Mother of Perpetual Help over us at this time, I remain

Yours sincerely



Father Francis Bradley
Parish Priest