

The Parishes of St. Mark's Springfield / St. Aidan's, Brookfield / St. Thomas the Apostle, Jobstown

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Dear young people from 6th class, St. Aidan's School,

I know many of you have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in our parish on Friday 29th May. You are greatly disappointed that we have not been able to proceed at the moment, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Myself and the whole parish team share your disappointment, along with your teachers, school staff and families.

Unfortunately, we can't say when we will be able to proceed with Confirmations but rest assured that, while it might take time, we are committed to the class of 2020 receiving the Sacrament when and however it is possible. This is a testing time for all of us, including with our life of friendship with God. Faith in God is always about trusting in 'a bigger picture', especially when life is tough. That's exactly what Jesus did on the cross; trusted God despite the awful; suffering and unfairness of it all. This trust led to his resurrection and God's promise of new life for all of us.

My dear young people I want to ask you to continue to prepare to receive the Holy Spirit at Confirmation by praying each day – Talk to God. Thank him for all that is good in your life. Tell him what you need (not what you want!!). Pray especially for all those who are still working, including your teachers, and all who work in our hospitals and nursing homes.

- Try to stay cheerful and happy, even though you miss your friends and school community.
- Do what you can to help out at home, in other words..... be the BEST version of yourself.
- Look up the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Pick one each day and ask yourself what that gift/fruit of the Holy Spirit looks like in your life at the moment. What might you do differently to help that gift/fruit to grow. When you've gone through all the gifts/fruits ... start again. We can never exhaust the gifts God wants to give us.
- Be gentle and kind (two fruits of the Holy Spirit) with yourself and your family.

I'm really aware that this is also a big year as you graduate from primary school and move on to new adventures in secondary school. Don't be afraid. Dream Big and enjoy life opening up before you.

Myself and all the parish team will continue to pray for you all each day. Will you pray for us too, please? Please God, as things start to settle down a little, we will be able to plot a new way of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation for all those who want it.

God's Peace and Blessings,



Fr. Pat McKinley
and the Parish Team