



Thurles,
30th April 2021

Dear Father, School Principal, Parents and Guardians

Please find below a Statement from the office of the Taoiseach received today, April 30th, 2021

Religious Services	<p>Currently Services remain online and Places of Worship open for private prayer.</p> <p>From <u>10th of May</u> 50 are permitted to attend Places of Worship for recommencement of Religious Services. As with previous reopening for services, the following protective measures continue to apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2m social distancing guidelines adhered to (members of the same household can sit/stand close together)• Wearing of face coverings• Where possible separate points of entrance and exit, clearly marked.• No congregation by people outside the premises before and after any service• Stewards on site to assist in this regard. <p>It is advised that other religious ceremonies such as First Holy Communions and Confirmations should not take place at this time.</p>
Attendance at Funerals	<p>The maximum attendance at funerals is currently 25.</p> <p>From <u>10th May</u> 50 mourners permitted at service.</p> <p>Related events, either before or after, should not take place</p>
Weddings	<p>Up to 6 guests are currently permitted.</p> <p>From <u>10th May</u> 50 guests permitted at service (civil or religious).</p> <p>For celebrations/receptions, a maximum of 6 people are permitted for indoor gatherings and 15 people for outdoor gatherings</p>

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,

+Kieran O’Reilly, SMA,

Archbishop of Cashel & Emly.

