



diocese
of limerick
our catholic community

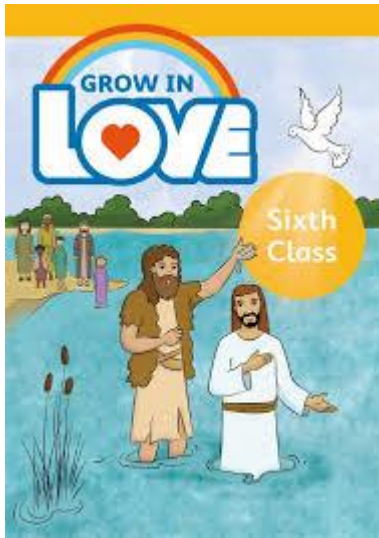


20 April 2020

Dear Young Friend,

As you probably know by now, the date of your Confirmation has changed. Because of the Covid-19 crisis, the best and safest thing for everybody is not to meet in big groups, so this means that Confirmation cannot take place until later. Someone from your parish will let you know the new date of your Confirmation but it might take a while yet.

I imagine you were really looking forward to the big day so it's a disappointment for you. Can I suggest you offer Jesus this sacrifice? But remember your Confirmation Day will eventually take place. What's important now is to keep looking forward to it because Confirmation will mean a lot for you and for your family.



What might you do between now and your Confirmation Day? Maybe we could say it's like preparing for a big match, we need to do some training, so I would like to make three recommendations to you. *First*, I know that in school you had been following the *Grow in Love* book. I would really encourage you to keep reading the book. Get to know more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Sometimes we think we know all about it but really we can always learn more, think more about it and then live it better. Why don't you find out more, for example, about the Mass? Or about some of the saints? Or about Pope Francis? Your parents might also like to explore with you the on-line resources available on the Veritas website. You can access them by going to <https://app.growinlove.ie/en/login>. The details you need to get into the material are: Email: trial@growinlove.ie Password: [growinlove](https://app.growinlove.ie/en/login)

Second, as well as saying the "Our Father" and "Hail Mary" prayers in the morning and at night time, I encourage you to memorize and say the following prayer every day:

Limerick Diocesan Centre, St. Munchins, Corbally, Limerick
Tel: (061) 350000. Email: office@ldo.ie
www.limerickdiocese.org

"Come and see the works of God tremendous his deeds among us" - Ps. 66 (65)

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

This is a great prayer and loads of people all over the world say it every day. Try it and you'll see it makes a difference!

Third, I would like to suggest to you to take a motto that you can try and keep in mind between now and your Confirmation. It is a motto from Jesus himself: "love your neighbour as yourself". There are all kinds of ways you can put this into practice by asking yourself when you are with others: how would



I like to be treated?

Perhaps you see someone who needs a hand and you realise I would like to be helped so you help them. Is there someone at home feeling a bit down and you know you could cheer them up so you make an effort to smile for them, be with them, talk to them, listen to them. Maybe there's someone who annoys you but you can decide not to start a row! Remember Jesus takes anything we do to another person as done to him. He said: "whatever you do to the least, you do to me". So I encourage you to take this motto "love your neighbour as yourself" and try putting it into practice and maybe writing down any experience you have of doing this.

Confirmation is about making you strong in witnessing to Jesus. So it makes sense to take this time practicing to live like Jesus. Then, at Confirmation, the Holy Spirit will come on you in a new way and it will be extra special. God loves you very much and has a special plan for you.

Please don't forget to say a prayer for me and I'll say one for you. If you want to send me a letter or an e-mail telling me how you're getting on, or if you want to ask me any question, I am happy to hear from you. You can send it to: Confirmation@limerickdiocese.org

In the meanwhile, say "hello" to your folks at home for me, won't you? All the best,

+ Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick

Limerick Diocesan Office | Social Service Centre | Henry Street | Limerick

Tel: (061) 315 856 | Fax: (061) 310 186 | Email: office@ldo.ie

www.limerickdiocese.org

"Come and see the works of God tremendous his deeds among us" - Ps. 66 (65)

Limerick Diocesan Office | Social Service Centre | Henry Street | Limerick
Tel: (061) 315 856 | Fax: (061) 310 186 | Email: office@ldo.ie
www.limerickdiocese.org

"Come and see the works of God tremendous his deeds among us" - Ps. 66 (65)