



Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois

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30th April 2021

Dear Father,

The Council of Priests met to consider the Government's announcement that public worship may resume, with restrictions, from 10th May 2021.

From 10th May, Mass resumes with a congregation of no more than 50, respecting 2 metre social distancing. Weddings may have up to 50 guests and Funerals up to 50 mourners. There is no clarification yet on the 'pod' system that operated for larger churches.

The Government stated "It is advised that other religious ceremonies such as Communion and Confirmations should not take place at this time".

In view of this advice all Confirmation ceremonies are deferred until the 12th June, at the earliest, subject to Government advice. First Holy Communion ceremonies are deferred until September.

In consulting with the school and parish about the Confirmation ceremony it is important to state that the date agreed may be subject to change and will depend on public health advice at that time.

Additional advice on the resumption of public worship will be issued shortly.

With every good wish,
Yours sincerely,

Francis Duffy
Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois