Parish of Firhouse
CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
Presbytery No. 1, 1 Ballycullen Avenue, Firhouse, Dublin 24, D24 DH6N
Telephone: 01- 459 9855 Email:firhouseparishsaf@gmail.com Website: www.firhouseparish.ie

19th April 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings. For the last year we have been living through very strange times with a lot of uncertainty because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and it looks like very little will really change before the end of June in relation to the First Holy Communion Celebrations.

It is most unusual for me not to have been in touch with you prior to now in relation to your child's First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Even now we are unsure of when these celebrations may take place.

As Archbishop Dermot Farrell said in the recent YouTube video message, available on our Parish Website, that dates cannot be arranged presently. He said that when the time is appropriate, there will be an order in which the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, and Confirmation would take place and be Administered in the Dublin Diocese and Parishes. That order for us in the Parish of Firhouse is as below:

1. The First Holy Communion initially scheduled for of those who wished to receive it in 2020.
2. The Sacrament of Confirmation for those who wish to receive it in 2021.
3. The First Reconciliation and the First Holy Communion of those who wish to receive them in 2021.

As previously mentioned, no dates can be arranged for these with the present Covid-19 Restrictions and the ongoing uncertainty about 'in person' celebrations in churches, and whenever restrictions are eased, not knowing presently the number of people that will be allowed in a church at any particular time.

Your child's preparation with the 'Grow in Love' Catechetical Programme has been ongoing and I wish to acknowledge the work of the teachers both in the classroom and on online teaching.

Because of Social Distancing and Covid-19 restrictions, we have been unable to have the normal Parents Preparation Meeting with yourselves as parents or guardians. With that in mind, I encourage you to continue journeying with your child in the 'Grow in Love' Catechetical Programme, and whatever else you may be able to do in helping your child to prepare for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Many parishes currently are using Webcam to broadcast the Celebration of Sunday Mass, including the Parish of Firhouse. I encourage you to join in, either in your own parish or another parish, so that your child may experience the online Celebration of Mass. I know it is not the same as being in person in church Celebrating Mass, but it is better than nothing.

I would also request you the fill out the Application and Request Google Form for your child's First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We are doing this electronically this year and ask you to 'Submit' it immediately, or at the very latest by 30th April 2021. I am aware many of you have given the Class Teacher the Baptismal Certificates. If your child was not Baptized in the Parish of Firhouse, and the Class Teacher has not received the Baptismal Certificate from you from the parish of baptism, please contact that parish immediately to arrange a Baptismal Certificate. The Google Form will be sent to you by the Class Teacher and will be on our Parish Website www.firhouseparish.ie . Please use the email address firhousparishsaf@gmail.com if you wish to send the copy of the Baptism Certificate to me directly.

Whenever I may have more knowledge of the way forward, I will share it with you through the contact details on the Google Form which will include your email address.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

Peter J Reilly

Fr Peter Reilly PP