

DIOCESE OF CORK AND ROSS

16th May, 2024

A Phríomhoide, a chara

As the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation draws to a close in our parishes, I write to thank you, your Confirmation class teachers, school staff and wider school community for all your support in making this celebration such a significant moment in the lives of your pupils.

Following our diocesan workshops last January and the introduction of new innovations to try and enhance the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, I would like to acknowledge the huge support that we received from school communities in these months. It was lovely to celebrate the Sacrament and to see the candidates sitting with their families and sponsors highlighting the role of their parents in their faith formation which we, as school and parish, are privileged to support them in.

The quality of the music and the number of choirs that were formed from different classes really enhanced the celebration and it was great to see the reintroduction post-covid of the singing parts of the Mass. I appreciate that all of this involved huge effort on your part and on the part of the teachers and school communities and I want to acknowledge that.

We had many lovely examples where the simplicity of the Liturgy supported the sense of reverence, enhancing the overall experience for the candidates and their families.

I appreciate that, for a small number of schools because these innovations were introduced late in the year, it was not possible for them to be implemented this year, but I do hope that by next year it will be possible for this to happen.

I am conscious that in those parts of the Diocese where the Sacrament of Confirmation was not scheduled this year they will not have been part of those workshops and so it is hoped that there will be a further diocesan workshop organised in the new school year for them.

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We will let you know well in advance the date of this diocesan workshop and for any other school who was not able to participate this year, there will be an opportunity to be part of this.

With renewed gratitude and thanks and wishing you and your students every blessing as you approach these last few weeks of term towards the Summer

Yours sincerely in Christ

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✠ Fintan Gavin
Bishop of Cork and Ross