

# St Mary's Parish, Navan

Fair Green • Navan • County Meath • C15 XoA3

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5 October 2020

*Dear Parents and Guardians of children preparing for First Holy Communion,  
and dear Principals, Religion Co-ordinators,  
and Teachers in our Parish Primary Schools,*

The announcement by the Government this evening, Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, that the country as a whole will move to Level 3 restrictions has come as a huge disappointment to us all.

Unfortunately, the First Holy Communion ceremonies scheduled for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October must now be deferred. We will email you again in the coming days to inform you of new dates pending the lifting of restrictions at the end of the 3-week period.

It would not have been possible to celebrate the remaining ten First Holy Communion ceremonies tomorrow (Tuesday). We believe that it would also have been unseemly to rush what should be a moment of joy, purely to “get it done” before the restrictions kick in at midnight. Your children deserve a more dignified and joyful celebration of this beautiful Sacrament.

Your disappointment is shared by the Priests of Navan Parish. Since the end of June, with the help of many volunteers, we have been able to celebrate the Eucharist with a congregation in our churches, subject to protocols. As of midnight tomorrow night, we are once again required to offer Mass via webcam only.

Let us pray that our efforts for the next three weeks will be successful in slowing the spread of the virus. We place your children and your families under the patronage of St. Bernadette of Lourdes who faced a long delay in her desire to receive her First Holy Communion. Through her intercession, may your children grow in their desire to receive the Lord who hungers and thirsts for their faith.

St. Bernadette, pray for us.

Fr. Declan Hurley,  
Fr. Robert McCabe,  
Fr. Louis Illah  
Fr. Sebi Tulbure

