



diocese
of limerick
our catholic community

April 20th 2020

Dear Young Friend,

I am writing to let you know that, with the Covid-19 crisis, the date for your First Holy Communion has been changed. Because the best and safest thing for everybody is not to meet in big groups, this means that First Holy Communion cannot take place until later. Your teacher or priest will be able to tell you the new date of your First Holy Communion but it might take a while yet.

I am sure you are a little sad about this. I know you were really looking forward to it. The important thing to remember, however, is that you will one day make your First Holy Communion. It's just that, for now, you have to wait a little bit longer.

The Good News is that Jesus has plenty of patience and he is always faithful to his promise: he will come to you in Holy Communion.



You know that Jesus is already with you. So, already now, as you are waiting for your First Holy Communion, every morning and night time you can say prayers to Jesus and to Mary. You can say the "Our Father" prayer and the "Hail Mary" prayers. You can tell Jesus that you are really looking forward to receiving him someday soon in Holy Communion.

The important thing, of course, is to make sure you continue to live like Jesus. And you can do this by showing love to everyone. Can I make a suggestion? That you do many little acts of love for other people

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

during the day. Even when you are at home, you can help others, listen to them, give them a smile, don't fight with them, go for a walk with them if that's what they would like you to do... You can always be the first to love, not waiting for others to love you. Why not build a little house out



of cardboard and every time you do an act of love, put a small piece of paper inside this house. When the rest of your family see this they will see how everyone can fill the house with acts of love.

If you would like to write to me and send me in a drawing I am happy to receive your letter. That too is an act of love for me!

Please say "hello" from me to the others in your family.

And don't forget to say a prayer for me and I will say one for you.

Remember, God loves you very much and has a special plan for you. When your First Holy Communion Day will arrive, you'll see, it'll be extra special.

Let's remember to say a prayer for one another,

+ Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick

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