

The Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary

Bexhill-on-Sea

St Mary Magdalene's, Town Centre & St Martha's, Little Common

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22nd April 2020

To: Our Parish *Confirmandi* 2020,

Dear Candidate,

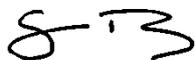
Re: Celebration of Confirmation – Postponed and Delegated.

Thank you for all you have contributed to the Sacramental Preparation Programme this past seven months. With the Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions on public gatherings our formal preparations, like many other activities, are suspended. Ghislaine has provided you with an online platform of resources on 'Edmodo', which I invite you to make use of, as formation is never meant solely for sacramental programmes, but as an on-going part of our spiritual life.

In the same way, public celebrations of the Church's Liturgy and Sacraments are also currently suspended. Even if these strict restrictions are lifted or eased on Thursday 7th May, and not further extended, it seems likely that the restrictions on public Masses will remain for some time to come. As such, the Bishop has taken the decision to formally cancel all the scheduled Diocesan Confirmation Masses (*which were due to begin this weekend*) for this academic year. Therefore, for the avoidance of any doubt, our St Leonard's Deanery celebration due for Trinity Sunday, 7th June 2020 will now not happen. I realise that this will be a disappointment, but I am sure it does not come as a surprise.

The bishop has also come to the view that it will be impossible to reschedule these twenty-five deanery celebrations into his diary, and so he has now granted faculty to administer Confirmation **to Parish Priests**. Again, this will be a disappointment to those wishing to receive the sacrament from the bishop, but it is understandable and unavoidable. So, when will this revised celebration take place? At this time, I cannot give you a date. Only once we get the clearance for public Masses can we schedule a date for the celebration of Confirmation, and it is likely that we will also have to reschedule three First Holy Communion Masses along with the Baptisms & Receptions from Easter which have also been delayed.

With the assurance of my prayers and best wishes,



Fr Simon Dray, Parish Priest