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12th January 2021.

Dear Father,

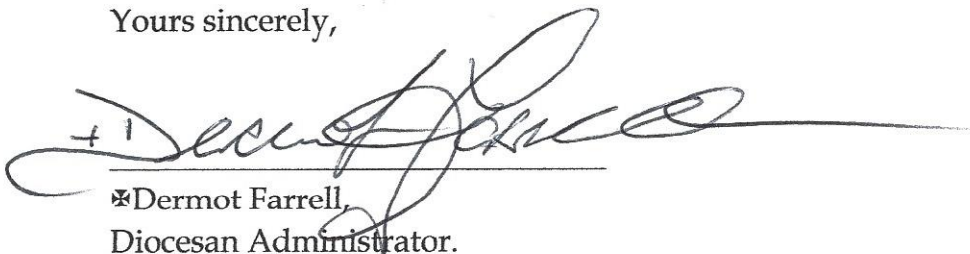
These continue to be difficult days for us all of us. The pandemic is in a new place given the high numbers and the virulent nature of the so-called third wave. We are all doing what we can to contain its spread in our communities. I thank you for all that you have done in the parishes to continue to accompany people through a variety of means.

Some questions have arisen about the celebration of sacraments, and particularly that of Confirmation, which was scheduled to start in February. So as to avoid doubt, and so that people can plan accordingly, I am writing to ask that there be no celebration of sacrament of Confirmations in Ossory before Easter.

This time will allow, I hope, the infection number to come down, our schools to reopen, proper parish-based programmes of preparation for the sacraments to be completed, and our churches to be once again open for public worship. After that time, and in accord with the guideline extant at that time the celebrations can take place. We can, in time, plan rescheduled dates, but for now this decision will allow for clarity.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



✠Dermot Farrell,
Diocesan Administrator.