

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE
DUBLIN 9

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2 June 2021

Dear Father,

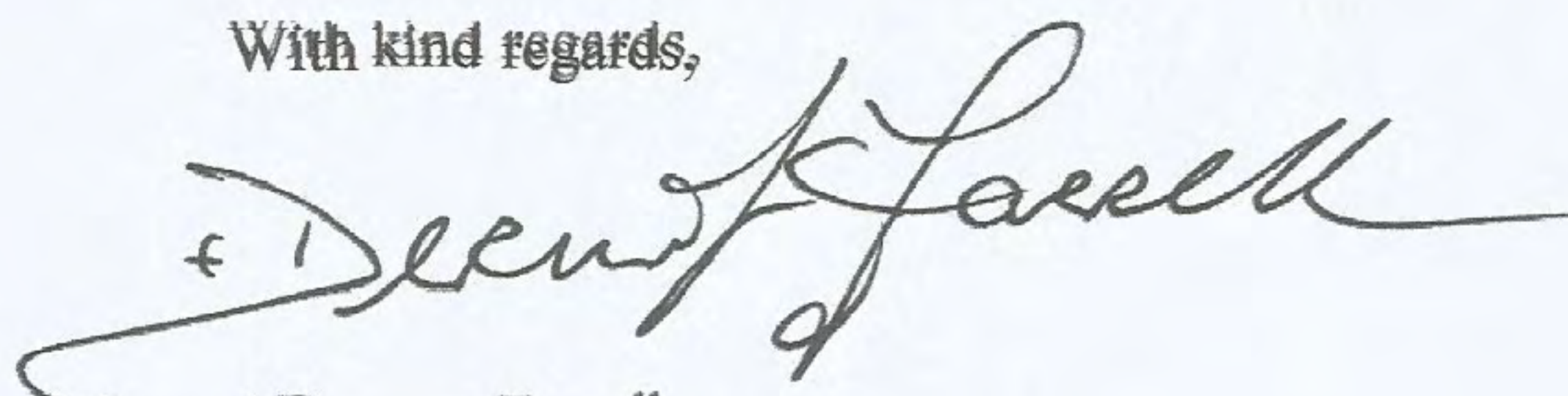
I acknowledge your support and commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of individuals and parish communities during this difficult time. We have been exiled from our 'normal' lives for the last fifteen months. The safe return to the celebration of the Eucharist with a congregation has been heartening.

Public health advice is that special religious ceremonies, including First Holy Communion and Confirmations should continue to be postponed for the month of June. In line with the gradual reopening of society, from 5 July onwards, these ceremonies, and Baptisms, may take place while complying with Covid-19 guidance but ideally, where possible, should be rescheduled for the Autumn when it will be safer to do so. The Gov.ie Covid-19 website has been updated accordingly.

As you know, the more serious concerns relate to the social gatherings which typically follow the celebration of these sacraments. It should be stressed to families that these events must be planned in line with prevailing public health advice on household mixing and indoor and outdoor gatherings, for the health and safety of all concerned.

It is understandable that children and their families have been looking forward to celebrating these sacraments and postponement is upsetting, but the priority is to protect the child, their family and the wider community.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dermot Farrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

+Dermot Farrell
Archbishop of Dublin