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24th May 2019

Graduates,
College of the Immaculate Conception,
Summerhill
Sligo

Dear Graduates,

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you this evening for your Graduation Mass. This is due to a meeting that I am attending in Rome on behalf of the Irish Bishops. I do want to take this opportunity to wish you every blessing as you come to the end of your time in secondary school. I know that you are probably experiencing mixed emotions in these days, hope for the future that is opening up in front of you, a little twinge of sadness - perhaps, and - I suppose - a bit of anxiety about the challenges facing you in the coming weeks.

One of the things that people will tell you, quite rightly, is to have confidence in yourselves. The value of what you have achieved over your years of primary and secondary education is not primarily about the results that you have achieved or will achieve, it is about the kind of person that you have become. I encourage you also to have confidence in God who has given each of you many gifts and will continue to be close to you in the future, wherever you go. Most of you are Christians by Baptism and I encourage you to stay close to Jesus Christ, who, as the Gospel tells us, is the Way, the Truth and the Life. By following him, you will lose nothing and you will find the path that leads to your fulfilment as a person.

Most of you live around Sligo and I look forward to meeting you around the place. Some of you have been actively involved in your parish communities in recent years and I want to take this opportunity to invite you to continue and to develop that involvement over the coming years. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any thoughts on how, in my role as Bishop, I can respond better to the needs and concerns of young adults

Yours Sincerely

+ Kevin Doran
Bishop of Elphin

In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. (Rom. 12)