



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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May 7, 2020

Reverend James R. Gould
Saint Francis de Sales Parish
37730 St. Francis Court
Purcellville, VA 20132-9600

Dear Father Gould,

Please know that I remain united with you in prayer during this difficult time and thank you for all that you are doing to remain spiritually and pastorally connected with your parishioners. Due to the current COVID-19 precautions, we have been unable to gather with our parishioners in person for the public celebration of Confirmation for the prepared Spring 2020 classes. We are unable to reschedule the Spring confirmations due to other diocesan commitments already on the Fall and Spring schedule.

Therefore, I ask you to reschedule the confirmation on a date most convenient for your parish and, in accord with Canon 884, I hereby delegate to all pastors and parish administrators the faculty to Confirm those baptized Catholics who were properly prepared. This general delegation extends through December 31, 2020.

The candidates are to be reminded to receive the Sacrament of Penance prior to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. Their churches of Catholic Baptism are to be notified of their Confirmation date. The Confirmation registries are to be annotated with the following note:

“Reverend James R. Gould was granted the faculty to confirm by
Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge on May 7, 2020.”

For those parishes who have scheduled for the Fall of 2020, the bishops are prepared to celebrate as planned, circumstances permitting.

Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your priestly ministry. May our Risen Lord bless you with his peace throughout the Easter season and always.

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the word "Michael".

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

c: Very Reverend Jamie R. Workman, J.C.L.,
Vicar General