



## **Sacramental Preparation for the coming year**

We are now planning our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes for 2021.

Obviously, the current pandemic makes all planning more difficult than usual. Due to external circumstances, we may be forced to make changes at short notice – and any families signing up for the programmes this year need to be fully aware of that.

Nevertheless, parish life needs to continue – not least because it is very uncertain how long the present situation may last, or when life may ‘return to normal’. Current Government guidance allows catechesis to take place, as it counted as formal education. It is our intention that classes be held on site, with social distancing and other appropriate measures in place – since sacramental preparation is not something which can be adequately carried out on-line.

We know that the process of registering your children for sacramental preparation is more difficult this year than normally. Undoubtedly, the preparation itself will be more complicated too! This is simply a reflection of the difficult times we are all experiencing. Please be assured we want to do our very best to help your children on their journey of faith, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we try to find the best way forward.

Bearing that in mind, please read on...

### **First Holy Communion Classes**

Parents of children in Year 3 (or above) who do not attend either Holy Ghost School or Oliver House School, and who would like them to receive their First Holy Communion in 2021, are invited to express their interest now (**PLEASE NOTE: parents with children at Holy Ghost School or Oliver House will be contacted via their schools, and arrangements for them will be made separately**).

To be eligible to join the First Holy Communion Classes, children must already have been attending Sunday Mass regularly at Holy Ghost, and their families must be registered with the parish.

To express your interest, please email Fr Richard at [richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:richardwhinder@rcaos.org.uk) – it is ESSENTIAL to put ‘First Holy Communion 2021’ in the subject box. Those expressing an

interest will then be invited to a meeting where registration will take place and the course will be explained. **Please note, due to the present situation, we need to be sure of numbers, and therefore attendance at this meeting will be by invitation only.**

Expressions of interest must be received by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

### **Confirmation Classes**

Parents of children in Year 8 (or above) who wish to be confirmed are invited to express their interest now.

To be eligible to join the Confirmation classes young people must already be attending Mass regularly at Holy Ghost and their families must be registered with the parish.

To express your interest, please email Fr Giovanni at [giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk) – it is ESSENTIAL to put 'Confirmation 2021' in the subject box. Those expressing an interest will then be invited to a meeting where registration will take place and the course will be explained. **Please note, due to the present situation, we need to be sure of numbers, and therefore attendance at this meeting will be by invitation only.**

Expressions of interest must be received by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October

With best wishes,

Fr Richard and Fr Giovanni