# **SACRED HEART OF JESUS - NEWSLETTER**

Parish Priest – Fr Graziano de Palma

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Office Hours: Mon, Weds & Fri 9am -1pm sittingbourne@rcaos.org.uk

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**Parish News**

**R.I.P.**

A requiem Mass will be celebrated for the life of James Heyes R.I.P on 8th September at 12.30pm in the Sacred Heart.

**THANK YOU AND WELCOME HOME**

A huge thank you to Fr Etienne and Fr Tom for celebrating Mass during the month of August. It was a pleasure to welcome you to the Sacred Heart. And a huge welcome back to Fr Graziano. We have all missed you!

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

As you know the pandemic has caused disruption to many aspects of life, and most of our parish sacramental programmes have been significantly impacted. Our First Holy Communion preparations were put on hold completely during lockdown restrictions and have only recently been reintroduced to the parish calendar.

This situation has meant that we now have a number of children waiting to make their First Holy Communion, and while we are keen to offer each child a place on the preparation programme as soon as possible, I know you will appreciate we are unable to cater for all children at the same time. Thus, we are offering the older children from years 5 and 6 (as of autumn term 2021), to join the first programme commencing in September 2021, followed by year 3 and 4 children (as of autumn term 2021) to join our second programme commencing in May 2022.

Please contact the office sittingbourne@rcaos.org.uk to register your child if you have not already done so. Parents for those children already registered, and of the age to be starting September 2021 should already have been contacted. The remaining parents will be contacted in due course.

As there are no weekday Masses during August and the first few days of September, and in light of the fact that the Office Staff are also on holiday at times during the month, this newsletter is to cover the remaining Masses in August. A separate sheet will be available weekly for the readings.

Saturday **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

28th  August 5pm People of the Parish

Sunday 29th August 9am Mo Lewis R.I.P.

Saturday **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

4th  September 5pm People of the Parish

Sunday 5th September 9.30 am Wellbeing of Hazell Wilson

 5th September 11.00 am Czeslaw Stodulski R.I.P.

**COVID-19 MEASURES – PLEASE NOTE THAT MOST MEASURES REMAIN IN PLACE: UPDATED AS OF 16/7/2021**

* Booking for weekend Masses is still required before attending Mass by email or calling the Parish Office (Monday, Wednesday, 9am - 1pm, Friday 9am - 3pm) providing full name, contact number and email/home address. This is to follow the NHS “Track and Trace” system imposed by the Government
* Body temperature check with the help of a steward
* Proper wearing of face coverings is now personal choice, but it is strongly recommended that you continue to wear your face covering.
* Using the “ONE WAY SYSTEM” entering the main front door and leaving by the side door of the church
* Congregational singing will return in September
* Sign of the peace is omitted
* Children are not allowed to wander around the church for their own protection and other people’s safety
* Votive candles are available
* The congregation is invited to leave immediately after the Holy Mass allowing the stewards to sanitize the church
* Following the Social Distancing rule of 1 metre or more, we can now accomodate 86 people. (The seating areas have green signage). Please follow the guidance of the stewards.
* We have reintroduced bidding prayers
* The Offertory Procession is reintroduced with those involved sanitising their hands immediately before they touch the sacred vessel or other gifts
* The Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and the Minister will continue to wear a face covering and it is permitted to announce “the Body of Christ” for each communicant. Communion is recommended to be distributed in the hands, but if people wish to receive on the tongue, then they should wait until the end of the communion line and receive then. Communion on the tongue exposes the ministers’ hands to their aerosol and inccreases the possibility of viral infections. He will have to sanitize his hands again immediately after.

# **PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES TO THE COVID PROCEDURES UNTIL FR GRAZIANO HAS RETURNED FROM HIS HOLIDAY AND ASSESSED THE SITUATION AND ADVICE FROM THE DIOCESE**