



Our Lady of Compassion Formby

10th Dec 2023 – Advent Week 2

Sundays Year B, Weekdays Cycle 2, psalter week 2

School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Archdiocese of Liverpool In. Reg. Charity No: 1199714



Upcoming Events

- **Liverpool Bach Collective**
10th December at OLOC – 6.30pm
- **Monday Morning Movies**
11th December 11am, at the Gild Hall
Activity Centre
- **Formby Village Nativity**
Sat 16th Dec 11am Formby Pool Gardens

Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. John M Walsh

Deacons: Rev. J P Moreland and Rev. J A McCarthy

Parish Administrator: Sharon Bedford – 01704 –
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Gild Hall Manager: Eileen Sheridan – 01704 872279 /
07970 720967

Newsletter



Mass Times

Day	Time	Location	Intentions
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
Saturday 9 th Dec	6.00pm	Our Lady of Compassion	Nigel Tootill
Sunday 10 th Dec	9.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Parish Community
	11.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Bobby Jenkins
	6.30pm	Liverpool Bach Collective – OLOC – Doors open at 6pm	
Tuesday 12 th Dec	No Mass or Service		
Wednesday 13 th Dec	No Mass or Service		
Thursday 14 th Dec	09.15 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	10.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Marie Mousley
Saturday 16 th Dec	6.00pm	Our Lady of Compassion	Edward Connolly
Sunday 17 th Dec	9.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Parish Community
	11.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	William Birch

Weekly Collection £1,237.19. Thank you!

Christmas Fayre – The final profit to the Parish from the Christmas Fayre is **£2,817.91**. Our deeply grateful thanks go to Steve and Toni Drury, the UCM and all those who worked on the stalls, to achieve the amounts raised for the Parish.

Mass Intentions Received w/c 4th Dec – Mary Davis.

■ **Please pray for the lately Dead including;**

Robert (Bobby) Jenkins, Thomas Williams, Teresa Campbell, Patricia Wynne, David Robinson, Sheila Elliott, Charlie Mills, John Chalcraft, Sister Paulinus, Maureen Simmons, Marian Seddon and all their families.

■ **And let us pray for those who are sick including;**

Stephanie Harrison, Ann Long, Ged Cunningham, Margaret Nutall, Mary Pinkman, Terry Otty, Anita Sattar, Eddie Evans, Maria Murray, Les Forest, Alan Wright, Beryl Prescott, Kathleen O’Gorman, Deacon Joe Moreland, John Holland, Nell Piggott, Bill Evans and Fr Joe Whelan MHM.

Parish Notices

THE PLACE OF CHILDREN IN OUR SUNDAY MASS

The 11.00am Mass on Sunday mornings has for a long time been known as the 'Family Mass'. This came from a time, before the pandemic, when families were very much more in evidence at this Mass. Family numbers have been slowly increasing over the last few months. It is wonderful to see! For a long time, the 'Children's Liturgy' has also been part of the 11.00am Mass. Again, strong numbers attended before Covid. Slowly, we have been seeing a recovery. We have been very blessed to have good, committed and faithful parishioners at both Our Lady's and St Jerome's, who for many years have taught the Scripture to our children and accompanied them. May the Lord reward them for their generosity!

I have been reflecting for a long time on how best to make our children's experience of Sunday Mass more meaningful and fruitful. Many have asked me, over the years, whether removing the children entirely from the community for a large part of the Mass is the best solution. 'Why can't the children be more directly involved in the Mass itself?' 'Aren't we giving the impression that the children are unwelcome at an adult celebration, taking them away because they get quickly bored and so become a distraction?' Others, especially some parents, have expressed appreciation for a time set aside in a child friendly environment, where the children can learn something of the Word of God, appropriate for their own age. These are all good questions and important points of view. But times are changing. One example of our new reality are the more stringent requirements for safeguarding, and restrictions on who can and cannot be present in the meeting room when the children are present.

I have come to the realisation that there is a deeper issue that needs to be addressed. The place of children in the celebration of the Mass itself. The celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is THE community event, THE most important time of the week and THE place where we come as close to God and one another as we ever can in this life. Every word, every action and every gesture of the Mass carries weight and profound meaning. Such is the grace and power of this Sacred Celebration, that we are given all we need and more, to live happier, more fulfilled, meaningful and joyful lives. This is the inheritance that we are handing on to our children. Children see and hear everything. They notice every movement of their parents, every joy, every sorrow, every change of mood. It is from their parents, or from those who bring them to Mass, that they learn the Mass itself. They learn to pray, to be reverent, to listen, to be open, to sense the presence of God and to be more aware of their neighbour. They imitate what they see and a deep impression is made on their hearts. This takes time, patience, understanding. It is a task of years, not months. But it forms, directs and changes young lives.

I feel the time is right to try a different way of including our children in the celebration of Mass on Sunday morning. It demands a change of outlook and culture on the part of all of us. Firstly, our children are a precious and wonderful gift from the Lord, not only for their parents, but for the entire community. 'Let the little ones come to me' said Jesus. 'Do not stop them, for of such is the Kingdom of heaven'. Our children are not problems to be solved, but privileged bearers of the presence of God.

In the first place, I want every parent to feel welcome, loved and comfortable at each and every celebration of Mass. Do our parents feel that they have to stay at the back of church because their children might disturb the Mass? Bring them to the front. There is much more going on there visually that the children can see and engage with. Do parents feel that they are being judged, looked at or criticised if their child is noisy? Maybe. But we all need to grow in patience and gratitude that our children are with us.

I want to try a new path. On the third Sunday of Advent, our 11.00am Mass will directly involve our children in the celebration. We are planning the Mass at the moment. The meeting room gathering will be suspended for the time being, as we seek to grow this new idea. I want our children to be seen, involved and welcomed. Let's see if it works.

But above all, I want to encourage a change of culture and a change of outlook. If children are genuinely welcomed with their parents, if families feel that they are a privileged part of our community, if we show by our words and actions that we are delighted that they are among us, then surely more will feel that they too can find a home in our church and in our community. This is a task for each and every one of us. Are we willing to try, to perhaps step a little outside our comfort zone and rejoice with the families the Lord sends us? If so, I believe we will see great fruit in our community.

Please pray for this new approach and ask the Lord to bless it with success.

Fr John

■ Christmas Mass Times

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday and Christmas Day on Monday. This means a Sunday Mass obligation on Christmas Eve and a Christmas Day obligation the day after. To ensure the number of Masses over these days remains manageable, the Christmas Mass times are as follows:

Day	Time	Location
Saturday 23 rd	6.00pm	Our Lady of Compassion
Sunday 24 th Dec (Christmas Eve)	10.00am <i>(Please note change of Mass time)</i>	Our Lady of Compassion
	5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas	Our Lady of Compassion
	8.00pm First Mass of Christmas	Our Lady of Compassion
Monday 25 th Dec (Christmas Day)	10.00am Christmas Morning Mass	Our Lady of Compassion

■ Formby Village Nativity – Saturday 16th December 11am

Starting at 11am at Formby Pool gardens, free entry, all welcome. See Church noticeboard for information.

■ Parish Mass for Sister Paulinus

The Parish Mass on the morning of **Tuesday 19th December** will be offered for the repose of the soul of Sr. Paulinus who died on November 22nd. Fr. John Bradley will concelebrate and will deliver a homily in appreciation of her long and generous life to the Church and her religious community.

All are welcome to attend and it is hoped that many of the former parishioners of St. Anne's will be able to be present and give thanks for the years of service she gave to our local community. Please spread the word about this special Mass especially to those who might not see this notice.

■ Monday Morning Movie: 11th December, 11am at The Gild Hall Activity Centre

This month's film will be "It's a Wonderful Life", starring James Stewart. This Christmas classic will get you in the festive spirit, with its timeless and heart-warming message. The film was originally released in black and white, but we will be watching the colourised version which really brings it to life on the big screen. As this is our last film before Christmas, we will be serving mince pies with a festive tippie, as well as the usual tea and coffee and homemade cake. Free entry and refreshments. Open to all adults.

■ St Jerome's School Events

Parish Seniors Christmas Party- Monday 11th December 2pm hosted by Class Six in the School Hall

If you would like to come and join us for a few games, tea and coffee and some delicious refreshments provided by our Year Six pupils we would love to see you! *Please contact the school office 01704833211 to let us know you are coming so that we can cater for everyone.*

Infant Nativity – Wed 13th Dec at 2pm St Jerome's School

■ Special Bereavement Mass

Thanks to those families who came to the special Mass for the bereaved, it was great to see you there. If anybody wants the photo of their loved one returning, you can either pick it up after Mass or email the parish with your postal address and we will endeavour to return it to you. The Bereavement Team would like to thank the UCM for their invaluable help after the Bereavement Mass, it was very much appreciated by us all.

■ UCM News

A reminder to all UCM members attending the Christmas Meal on Tuesday 12th December to arrive at Dolce Vita Restaurant in Ainsdale at 12.30pm.

■ Inner Wheel Coffee Morning – Thank you.

Many thanks indeed to all who supported the Inner Wheel coffee morning at my house on Wednesday to raise funds for Mary's Meals, Water Aid etc. We made the absolutely fantastic sum of £560. It was so good of everyone to venture out on such a cold icy day and to give so generously, we are all most grateful. Andrea Burton.

■ OLOC Facebook Page

Our Lady of Compassion Parish has a Facebook page which is managed by parish volunteer, Siobhan Farnell, on behalf of the parish. If you would like something included on social media you can contact Siobhan via the parish page or via her mobile 07988810564 <https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofcompassionformby>

■ Feeding Liverpool

"This Christmas, we are asking people to join together to support Feeding Liverpool's Christmas Appeal to help us and the 70 member charities we support that provide emergency and community food support in the region as we work towards #GoodFoodForAll. Your support will help us continue to put good food on tables this winter and beyond, at a time when Government Statistics indicate that 132,000 people in the Liverpool City Region – or 9% of the population – are having to turn to emergency food charities to feed themselves or their family."

Launch Day: Tuesday 28th November 2023 · Feeding Liverpool's donation page: [Help Feed Liverpool this Christmas - JustGiving](#)