



Our Lady of Compassion Formby



Part of a Family of Parishes with

Our Lady of Victories Hightown, Holy Family Ince Blundell,
St John Stone and Sacred Heart Ainsdale & Woodvale

11th Jan 2026 – **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

Sundays Year A, Weekdays Cycle 2, Psalter week 1
School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Archdiocese of Liverpool In. Reg. Charity No: 1199714

Information & Events

- Liverpool Bach Collective – 15th Feb 6.30pm
- Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026 – 18th – 22nd May

Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. John M Walsh

Deacons: Rev. J A McCarthy & Rev. A Dell

Parish Administrator: 01704 873230

Parish Email:
ourladyofcompassionformby@rcaol.org.uk

Parish Website:
ourladyofcompassionformby.org.uk

The Parish Centre Contact: Karen Williamson
07547 800348





Mass Times

Day	Time		Intentions
FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD			
Saturday 10th Jan	6.00pm	Holy Mass	Karen Birch
Sunday 11th Jan	09.00am	Holy Mass	Parish Community
	11.00am	Holy Mass	Alan Wright
Tuesday 13th Jan	10.00am	Requiem Mass – Stephanie Harrison	
Wednesday 14th Jan	10.00am	Holy Mass – Attended by UCM	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday 15th Jan	10.00am	Holy Mass	John Uprichard
Saturday 17th Jan	6.00pm	Holy Mass	Noreen Egan
Sunday 18th Jan	09.00am	Holy Mass	Parish Community
	11.00am	Holy Mass	Ronald William Parker

Weekly Collections: £1,071.86 Thank you!

Forthcoming Funerals: Stephanie Harrison 13th Jan at 10am, Ann Long 27th Jan at 12 noon.

Mass Intentions Received w/c 5th Jan – None

Please pray for the lately Dead including: John Forrest, Pauline Gallagher, Ann Blackman, Shirley Myerscough, Doreen Gerrard, Eddie Evans, Mary Potts, Susan Meredith, Sr Marie Clune, Derek Sudlow, Eugene Gallagher, Stephanie Harrison, Ann Long, Michael Hall and all their families.

And let us pray for those who are sick including: Dominic Tomlinson, Beryl Prescott, Margaret Nuttall, Edward Schofield, Mary Turner, Nell Piggott, Nora Kilbane, Rachel Jones, Rod Maguire, Irene Forshaw, Bernard Philip.



Parish Notices

■ The Chattery

The Chattery re-opens this coming **Wednesday, January 14th**, with a Christmas catch up and information of events and speakers for the Winter and Spring sessions. Come along to our Parish Centre behind the Gild Hall, Church Road, Formby, from 2pm to 3.30pm. Tea/coffee/biscuits £2. All welcome.

■ UCM News

The UCM monthly Mass will be held on **Wednesday 14th January** at Our Lady's Church at 10.00am. Arrangements have been made for bacon barms to be served afterwards in the Bay Horse. This is our first meeting of the year so all members are welcome.

■ OLOC Fell Walkers

Our Lady's Fell Walkers have two walks on **Saturday 10th January 2026** from the medieval cathedral city of Chester. Both walks are flat the A Walk a brisk 12 miles walk around the outskirts of Chester and the B walk following a similar path but only 7.5 miles. The A walk is faster and higher, and the B walk lower and slower.

We are a friendly group and everyone is welcome. The coach leaves from the corner of School Lane and Church Road, Formby, at 8am on the day and you can book your place by ringing 01704 878548. There is always an early stop for coffee/tea/bacon barms and time after the walk to visit shops, cafes and pubs in the area. Please wear good walking boots or shoes, weather appropriate clothing and bring a packed lunch together with something waterproof to sit on. Sticks can also be helpful particularly at this time of year.

■ Justice and Peace Group

Thank you so much, everyone, for your generosity and support over Christmas. The Foodbank staff were particularly grateful for all the tins of potatoes that people rushed out to buy in response to their emergency appeal. They tell us that, apart from Tesco, our parish is their biggest donor of food week by week. We have now banked and distributed everything you gave us over the Advent and Christmas period, and this is how it worked out: The Foodbank for Christmas £700; St. Joseph's Sisters in Kenya contribution (little brown envelope collection) towards an X-Ray machine for Health Centre £860; Christmas carol singalong at Tesco and Waitrose, with Churches Together, for local homeless and hospices £936.

The next Justice and Peace event is nearly upon us! The Annual **Quiz** will take place on Friday 30th January 2026. Doors open 7.00pm for prompt start at 7.30. Peter Connor will again host this Annual Quiz in the Parish Centre (behind the Gild Hall). Numbers are limited, so if you're planning a cheap and cheerful night out (£10 a ticket), now is the time to gather your team (4-6 people). Entrance by ticket only – there is no paying at the door. Refreshments: BYO food and drink, together with the glasses and plates that you need. So, bring a nibble or bring a banquet! Tickets will be on a first-come-first-served basis, and only available from J&P secretary Viv Bambery. To book, please call Viv from 9am-12noon on Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th or Wednesday 14th January 2026 on 01704 870311 or 07738 958 059. Proceeds to Médecins Sans Frontières and J&P Charities.

Christmas leftovers – If you're not wanting any more chocolates, biscuits or bottles for a while, the Justice and Peace Group will be looking for items for the next Raffle – only a few weeks away, at the Quiz. We would be grateful for anything you can spare, and also for gift bags to put it in. Please leave in the Church porch, or we can collect (call Bruni on 876038). Thank you so much for all your support for the J&P events.

■ Irenaeus

On Saturday 10th January, at the Irenaeus Centre 32 Great Georges Road L22 1RD we welcome a well-known speaker David Wells to lead our next 'Come & See' day. David is married to Alison and has three grown-up children. He started out as a teacher in Liverpool. Since then, he has gained an M(Phil), worked as a researcher, Education Advisor, Director of Formation and now works as a speaker and writer. He has spoken at 1500 conferences around the world.





January 2026
Volume 7, Issue 1

The Parish of Formby

The SVP newsletter for the parish of Formby

A message from the President

It hardly seems possible that it was a year ago that I wrote informing you I was to become the new President of our Conference. To say that time flies is an understatement. This year saw a change to our collecting regime, with SVP collections being incorporated into the 2nd collections. The amounts raised have been gratefully received and this has enabled us to continue with our work.

We have continued supporting the Foodbank, the Soup Kitchen (*grateful thanks to the Rotary Club of Southport Links who provided £300 to cover 6 months of costs in providing the weekly batch of sandwiches*), the Sisters of Mercy, refugees in Liverpool, plus the National appeals for South Sudan and Ukraine, as well as our twinned parishes in India and South Sudan. Pinned on the notice board is a letter received from one of our twinned parishes—St John the Baptist's conference in Karamuck. This is located in the state of Kerala in the South West corner of India.

So, on behalf of our members may I thank you most sincerely for the generous donations that you have made during this past year. We have certainly put the money towards funding very worthy causes.

I wish you all a peaceful, healthy and successful New Year.

Apostolic Exhortation DILEXI TE of the Holy Father LEO XIV (taken from opening chapters 4 and 5 - To all Christians on love for the poor)

4. Jesus' disciples criticized the woman who poured costly perfumed oil on his head. They said: "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." However, the Lord said to them in response: "You always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me" (Mt 26:8-9,11). That woman saw in Jesus the lowly and suffering Messiah on whom she could pour out all her love. What comfort that anointing must have brought to the very head that within a few days would be pierced by thorns! It was a small gesture, of course, but those who suffer know how great even a small gesture of affection can be, and how much relief it can bring. Jesus understood this and told the disciples that the memory of her gesture would endure: "Wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her" (Mt 26:13). The simplicity of that woman's gesture speaks volumes. No sign of affection, even the smallest, will ever be forgotten, especially if it is shown to those who are suffering, lonely or in need, as was the Lord at that time.

5. Love for the Lord, then, is one with love for the poor. The same Jesus who tells us, "The poor you will always have with you" (Mt 26:11), also promises the disciples: "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20). We likewise think of his saying: "Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). This is not a matter of mere human kindness but a revelation: contact with those who are lowly and powerless is a fundamental way of encountering the Lord of history. In the poor, he continues to speak to us.

If you wish to become a member of the SVP please contact a member of the committee



Are you interested in joining the SVP and helping us with our work? If you are, please contact a member of the committee.

John Tel: 01704 870311

Mike Tel: 01704 876621

Mark Tel: 01704 874280

Marie Tel: 01704 809826

Terry Tel: 07849 927937

or by leaving an email message to:

svpformby@gmail.com

Thank you.

Members of the SVP in Formby

President: John Bamberg

Secretary: Mark Tomlinson

Treasurer: Terence Williams

Members: John Murphy

Mike Redmond

Marie Shellard

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ,
our brother,
and the flame of charity
enkindled in our hearts
by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
For the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the
seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from
within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a
new heaven and a new earth,
Then, with the powers of Evil
vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us,
Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the
treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our
Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God,
eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Franciscus

Our Lady of Compassion

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YouTube channel

Formby Catholic Community



@ourladyofcompassionformby

SVP D100908
The Parish of Formby



Amen.

SVP news

SVP's National fundraising pilgrimage "*Walking the Camino*"

Last year the National Office put out an appeal seeking 100 volunteers to walk the Camino, with each pledging to raise £1500. The final total of volunteers reached 54. I am one of those 54 and I shall be walking the Portuguese section, just south of Vigo, along with 18 other SVP members from across the country. There will be 2 other groups walking the English and French sections. In total we hope to raise £81,000 between us. I shall be organizing a golf event at Childwall on 2nd April, and in addition the SVP has set up a Just Giving page for me. I shall also have a sponsor form for anyone in the parish who wishes to sponsor me.

Training now starts in earnest!!

The Southport Soup Kitchen

Joan Gudgion and her team do remarkable work in providing sandwiches on a weekly basis. We have continued to finance the cost of food and materials, and will continue to do so next year. However, age is taking its toll on volunteers so Joan is on the lookout for new volunteers who might wish to help. Please contact me or one of the members for details.

Mini Vinnies

With the help of the National Office we are hoping to set up a Mini Vinnie group at either (or both) Our Lady of Compassion and St. Jerome's Primary schools. Hopefully, we shall have some positive news to report later in the New Year.

Visits

The team members make frequent visits to certain parishioners who are in need of this service. If anyone knows of any parishioners who would appreciate a home visit, please contact one of the committee.

The SVP would like to thank all parishioners for their generous support throughout the year and to wish them a very happy and healthy New Year.

Donations can be made directly to our bank account.

Name: SVP D100908 The Parish of Formby

Sort code: 60-60-04 Account No. 46084517

www.svp.org.uk