



Our Lady of Compassion Formby

19th Nov 2023 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sundays Year A, Weekdays Cycle 1, psalter week 1

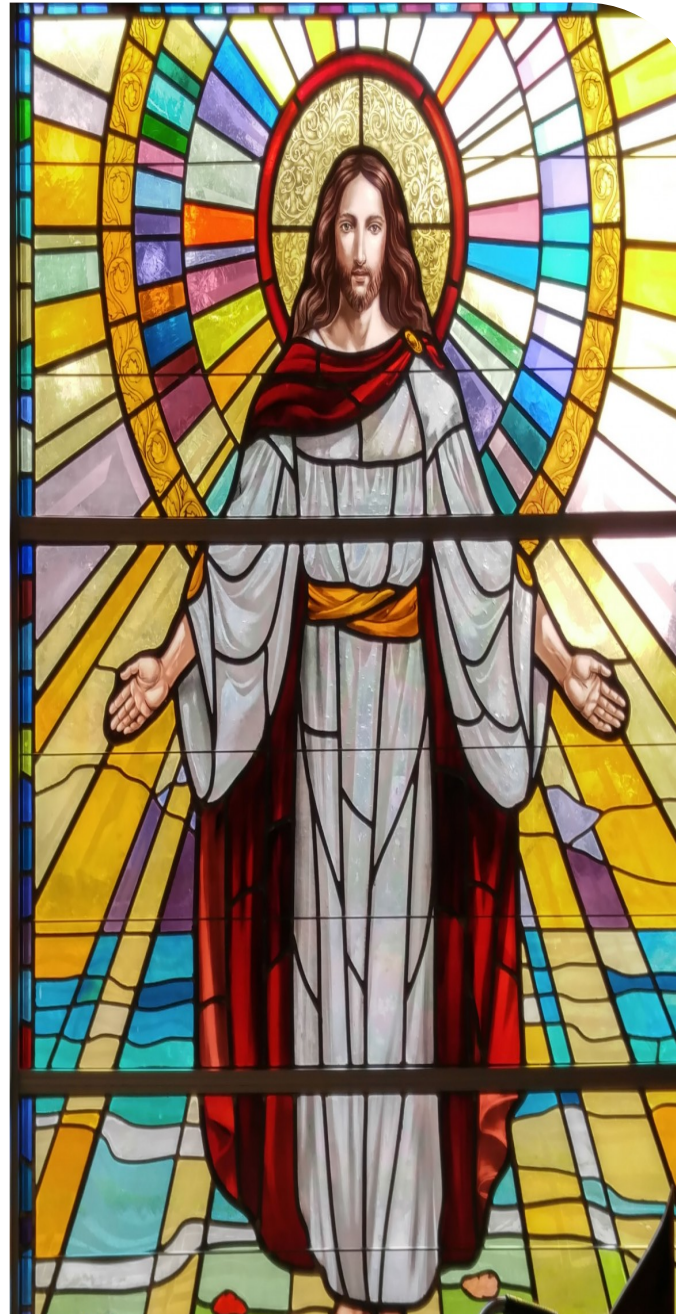
School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Served by the Churches of Our Lady of Compassion and
St. Jerome

Archdiocese of Liverpool In. Reg. Charity No: 1199714

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Special Bereavement Mass – 11am 19th Nov
- Monday Movies – 20th Nov, 11am Gild Hall
- Christmas Fayre – 25th Nov, Gild Hall
- Liverpool Bach Collective – OLOC 10th Dec
6.30pm



Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. John M Walsh

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

Parish Administrator: Sharon Bedford – 01704 –
873230

Parish Email:
ourladyofcompassionformby@rcaol.org.uk

Parish Website:
ourladyofcompassionformby.org.uk

Gild Hall Manager: Eileen Sheridan – 01704
872279 / 07970 720967

Mass Times

| Day | Time | Location | Intentions |
|---|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Saturday 18 th Nov | 6.00pm | St Jerome | Pious List |
| Sunday 19 th Nov | 9.00am | Our Lady of Compassion | Parish Community |
| | 11.00am | Our Lady of Compassion – Bereavement Mass | Pious List |
| Tuesday 21 st Nov | No Mass or Service | | |
| Wednesday 22 nd Nov | 10.00am | Service of Word and Communion | Pious List |
| Thursday 23 rd Nov | 10.00am | Service of Word and Communion | Pious List |
| Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King | | | |
| Saturday 25 th Nov | 6.00pm | St Jerome | Pious List |
| Sunday 26 th Nov | 9.00am | Our Lady of Compassion | Parish Community |
| | 11.00am | Our Lady of Compassion | Pious List |

The Church of St Jerome is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09.00am to 11.00am for Quiet Prayer. Tea/coffee is available in St Jerome's Parish Centre on Monday and Friday 09.00am – 10.00am.

Exposition will return next week.

Weekly Collection £966.68 Thank you!

Mass Intentions Received w/c 13th Nov – Luca Owen, Rose Eirem, Mary Aindow, Charlie Mills.

Mass Intentions Sent to Mill Hill Missionaries to be said during December - Hugh McKenna, Philip Klymec, Steve Klymec, Helen Doyle, Francis Youell, Teresa Campbell, Ellen & Donald Mercer, Euan McNamara, Private Intention, McGowan Family, Marie Mousley, Teresa Campbell, Pat Wynne, Ursula Ventre, Anne Abbott, Arther Daly, Beryl Prescott, Maureen Crick (x3), Anne Marie Qurk, Albert Nuttall, Special Intention, Christine Coates, Philip Molyneux, Francis & Muriel Molyneux, James Kilbane, Charlie Milles.

Please pray for the lately Dead including;

James Youell, Maureen Crick, Robert (Bobby) Jenkins, Thomas Williams, Teresa Campbell, Patricia Wynne, David Robinson, Sheila Elliott, Charlie Mills, John Chalcraft 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, Mark Edwards, Deacon Joe Moreland, John Holland, Nell Piggott and Sister Paulinus.

Parish Notices

November Pious List

November is the traditional month of prayer for our loved ones who have died. During the month of November, all the Masses celebrated in our Churches are offered for those named on the Pious List. The names will rest before the altar. Please take a Pious List envelope from the back of the Church, insert the name of your loved one, along with a Mass offering and hand it in as soon as possible.


Christmas Cards for the Holy Land

We have been asked by the Archdiocese if our Parish would send some cards the Holy Land Catholic parishes. So, we have asked Steve Drury if he could produce eight special, very large cards for us to send. The J and P group will have cards for eight parishes in Gaza, Jerusalem and Jordan at all Masses at the weekend of 25/26 November. We would be so grateful if you would sign your name on one of the cards as an expression of solidarity and hope. The Christians in the Middle East are having a very bad time. They are comforted when they hear from us and feel that they are not forgotten, and that we pray for them. Thank you.

The Chatterry

The Chatterry will be open as usual this coming Wednesday, **November 22nd**, from 2pm to 3.30pm in the lounges of the Gild Hall. This week we welcome Val Chown who will be giving a Christmas floral demonstration.

The following week, **November 29th**, we look forward to welcoming a group of school children from Our Lady's Primary School who together with their Headteacher, Mr. Houghton, will sing and perform some musical items for us. Members of The Chatterry will be running a cake stall at the parish Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 25th November**. We would be grateful for donations of cakes which can be left at the Activity Centre, behind the Gild Hall on Friday 24th November from 11am to 3pm or any time after 9am on Sat 25th November. Further enquiries to Pam Dunne on 871381. Thank You!

 **The Chatterry Christmas Party** – will take place on Wednesday 6th December. Names and money will be collected this week for the buffet (£6) including seasonal entertainment. Further details from Pam, 871381.

Monday Morning Movies – 20th November, 11am, Gild Hall Activity Centre

This month's film is Eddie the Eagle, starring Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman. Inspired by real life events, the film tells the story of Eddie Edwards and his quest to become Britain's first Olympic ski-jumper. A funny, heart-warming and inspirational tale which will resonate with anyone who ever had a dream. The film is rated PG, open to all adults. **Free entry and refreshments (tea, coffee and homemade cake).**

Lourdes Pilgrimage

A reminder to all those who have booked to take part on the parish pilgrimage to Lourdes in October 2024, that booking forms and deposits are now due in. Please let Mike Halford have them this week. Forms can be left in the sacristy after Mass or given directly to him.

200 Club

Thank you to the 200 Club for your generous donation of £1,400, which is greatly appreciated.

Coffee Morning in aid of Mary's Meals

Coffee Morning in aid of MARY'S MEALS and some other international charities on **Wednesday November 29th from 10am at 2 FIRS CRESCENT FORMBY**. Please do come and support these worthy causes. Andrea Burton. 876454

Missio Red Box Collection

Please could Missio Red Box holders bring them to Church on the weekend of 25th/26th November 2023. There will be someone at Church to empty them. Thanks, Paddy Kerwin.



SVP Would like to thank all parishioners for their very generous contributions last weekend. The total raised, which included the amount that was in the SVP box at the back of church, was £871.68.

Make Noise Choir 9th December 5.30pm

Tickets are now on sale for our annual Christmas Concert. This year, we're returning to Holy Trinity Church in Formby. Come along to see all 4 of our choirs share many Christmas favourites. Rest assured you'll be leaving the concert feeling thoroughly Christmassy. Tickets here...<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk> or call Clare Henderson on 07498291356.

St Joseph's Prayer Centre

As Christians, we are constantly being challenged to live out our beliefs in a God who holds us in being. Perhaps Christmas is our biggest challenge when a materialistic world tries to rob us of our greatest gift, Christ's birth. This season, let us gift ourselves with time for some reflection as we ponder the Scriptures.

December 8th – 10th 2023

St Joseph Prayer Centre Freshfield L37 1PH

Cost: £175.00pp

To book a place please call 01704 875850

Director: Fr John Mc Cluskey

December 15th –17th 2023

St Joseph Prayer Centre Freshfield L37 1PH

Cost: £175.00pp

To book a place please call 01704 875850

Director: Fr Dermot Byrne

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

Christmas Fayre Update

- **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** – Saturday November 25th. This is the last weekend before the BIG event and we would like to thank you all for the support so far.
- **VOLUNTEER ARRANGEMENTS** - For those who have volunteered to assist in setting up:
 - **Friday 24th** – We will be at the Gild Hall Activity Centre from 9:00am and plan to get the venue completed on the day.
 - **Saturday 25th** – Will be the first chance for us to access the Gild Hall due to an event the night before – do please arrive from 9:00am to help!
 - For those who have volunteered to assist at the physical event, please arrive by 11:30am at the Gild Hall Activity Centre.
- **RAFFLE TICKETS**
Please return your raffle ticket stubs and money or unused tickets in the baskets provided in both St Jerome's and Our Lady's. Alternatively, you can bring them to the event, or drop them off at 4 Andrews Close, before the Saturday.
- **CARDS**
The response to the cards has been wonderful thank you. We are sold out of the Nativity, but still have some angel design packs available.
These are blank inside, so suitable for all occasions across the year too. These are £5 for a pack of 10 with envelopes. Also, as a polite reminder - do please collect any reserved cards by end of this week's Masses, otherwise they will be recirculated for sale at the Christmas Fayre.
- **2024 DIARY-DIRECTORY:**
We are now taking orders for our lovely 135 page, foil printed 2024 Parish Diary-Directory too, which will be available from the Christmas Fayre and following Sunday's Masses. These are £10 each.

First Archdiocesan Synodal Council

The first-ever Archdiocesan Synodal Council for the Archdiocese of Liverpool will be taking place on **Saturday 25 November** from 10.30am.

Anyone can watch the ASC online and can submit questions by clicking the link on the Archdiocese of Liverpool's homepage: <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/> We want as many people as possible to be able to be part of this gathering.

This is an event that parishioners won't want to miss.

Catholic Multi Academy Trust Directors Recruitment Events

As you may know schools in the Archdiocese have been invited to consider if they wish to become an academy and join with other schools to form a family of schools as multi academy trusts. A number of schools have indicated they do wish to consider this and now in three areas we are moving ahead to form Catholic Multi Academy Trusts (CMATs). The first three CMATS will serve the following areas; Halton and Warrington / West Lancashire /St Helens. Each CMAT is overseen by a group of Directors who support the CEO and central team, set budgets, and take the legal responsibility for the academies in each trust. We need Directors with experience of education, finance, business, HR, legal, procurement and many other skills. Please consider if you would be able to undertake this special responsibility for Catholic Education. We are running director information and recruitment events at the following venues; **22/11/23 at 2pm** at St Anne's Parish Centre, Ormskirk (L39 4TG) and **6pm** at Skelmersdale (venue to be confirmed shortly). You are welcome to come to your local event or indeed any of them. For further information regarding the venues, please contact Hannah Blabey on h.blabey@rcaol.org.uk or 0151 5221071.

The Parish of Our Lady of Compassion, Formby Consultation on the future of St Jerome's Church

The Parish Pastoral Council of Our Lady of Compassion, Formby initiated a parish wide consultation regarding a proposal that the Church of St Jerome be taken out of sacred use.

The consultation began Saturday 28th October 2023 and concluded Saturday 12th November 2023. A total of 19 emails and 5 letters were received by the Council and these were read and considered at an extraordinary meeting, held Tuesday, 14th November 2023.

The Council noted that the total number of responses were very low, particularly in the context of an average weekly attendance of 450 across three Masses of Sunday.

The Council was thankful for the generally constructive feedback from those responding. Of particular note, were those responses demonstrating a real care and concern for our Parish Priest and Deacons. There was considerable acknowledgement of the burdens placed upon our clergy in serving the community and in some cases a very real desire to see that burden reduced through the need to minister in multiple places of worship. Some response also reflected a very strong feeling that the Church is much more than the buildings we use.

Almost all respondents acknowledge a sense of inevitability that St Jerome's Church would close. Some expressed resentment that this was a foregone conclusion and questioned whether this was true consultation.

All acknowledged a very real sadness and sense of loss or bereavement at the prospect of such a closure. In recognising this sadness, a number of respondents also saw this as a positive step forward in bringing the Parish together as a single community seeking to build a future together. Some responses reflected on opportunities for greater ecumenism and an opening up to a spirit of renewal.

Several of the respondents did not share this optimistic view and felt that should St Jerome's close, there would be a negative impact on the community. Some reflected a preference for, what they perceived to be, a less traditional and more accessible liturgical environment in St Jerome's. Concern for older parishioners was a strong theme in responses and the challenges that might be presented in travelling to Our Lady of Compassion Church. There was a very real pastoral concern for the need of St Jerome's school and its proximity to the Church. Consideration was also given by the potential impact in worshipping numbers given housing developments in Formby.

Parking being readily available at St Jerome's, as opposed to more informal parking arrangements at Waitrose supermarket, was highlighted as a factor the retention of St Jerome's over Our Lady's.

Nearly all responses considered the economic realities highlighted in the consultation document provided to parishioners as part of the process. Some readily accepted these as a sound rationale for the closure of St Jerome's. However, others disagreed with the interpretation and argued that the costs associated with running a more modern building like St Jerome's would be more affordable than costs associated with the older Our Lady's building.

Several respondents sought assurances around whether or not a Saturday evening Mass would be re-provided at Our Lady's should a decision be taken to remove St Jerome's from sacred use. In the event that St Jerome's might close, a very real concern was expressed that items of liturgical and community significance be taken through to Our Lady's so as to honour and celebrate the heritage of St Jerome's.

Significant interest was expressed in potential community use of the St Jerome's buildings should a decision be taken to take the Church out of sacred use. Potential use by St Jerome's school featured in several responses. Underpinning this interest was a wish to understand how such activity might be financially supported.

In considering all feedback, the Council noted that any potential closure of St Jerome's Church presents a large number of practical issues that need to be worked through sensitively. However, the consensus was very clearly that none of these should be beyond the abilities of a community genuinely wishing to grow together in a spirit of love for God and each other. The witness of former St Anne's parishioners in embracing a new future was highlighted as a source of great learning and hope in how we might move forward as a parish.

The Council remains convinced of the validity of the economic considerations outlined in the consultation document and also notes that none of the responses set out any practicable alternative to the proposal under consideration.

The Council believes that the best possible future for the church in Formby is to gather as a single community around one altar and unanimously recommends that St Jerome's Church should be taken out of sacred use.