



## Our Lady of Compassion Formby

School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Served by the churches of Our Lady of Compassion, St. Jerome and St. Anne

Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trustees In. Reg. Charity No. 232709

**7th February 2021 - Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. John M Walsh.

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

### Mass Times

*(There are no public masses at this time)*

**LIVE STREAMED MASSES ONLY**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sunday 7th February 2021	10am	St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive
<b>Wednesday 10th February 2021 10am</b>		<b>St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive</b>
<i>(Please note change of time as this Mass is being live-steamed into our schools)</i>		
Tuesday 9th February 2021	10am	Requiem Mass Eileen Readman
Friday 12th February 2021	11am	Requiem Mass for Peter Coyle
Thursday 25th February 2021	11:30am	Requiem Mass for Stephen Pritchard
Friday 26th February 2021	11am	Requiem Mass for Francis Williams

*(Please remember COVID rules limit numbers at funeral services, please contact the families do not just turn up as you will not be allowed entry)*

**Please pray for the lately Dead** including; Peter COYLE, John TEASDALE, Dorothy SIMPSON, Eileen READMAN, Paul BRYAN, Stephen PRITCHARD and Francis WILLIAMS and pray for all of their families.  
**And let us pray for those who are sick** including Liz PAGE

### **PARISH NOTICES**

**Our Lady of Compassion Prayer Group**:- Did you know that our new parish has a prayer group that meets on Friday mornings online over 'Zoom'. If you would like to join the group, please contact Andrea Dell on 07342692957

**Foodbank**:- Please remember the Foodbank, donations can be left at Alice Joyce's home, 35 Freshfield Road, all donations need to be there before 12:30pm on a Friday.

**CAFOD - Walk for Water Challenge**: CAFOD have a Walk for Water Challenge this Lent and we are delighted that Fr John and Deacons Joe & John are taking this challenge on board. Fr John said "We are happy to be part of this venture to support CAFOD and hope that people will be generous"

Starting on Ash Wednesday for the 40 days of Lent Fr John, Deacon Joe & Deacon John will be walking 10,000 steps per day in solidarity with those who do not have easy access to clean water and to raise important funds.

If you would also be interested in taking on the challenge you can find out more at <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

If you would like to support Fr John & Deacons Joe & John please donate here <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/Our-Lady-of-Compassion-Parish-Formby>

Dear Friends,

Job makes his appearance this Sunday. He is our friend in these days of pandemic. Does that sound strange? A careful reading of the Book of Job convinces us that his words are poorly understood. He is not simply a moaner, a miserable man. Why? Because after the unbelievable calamity that falls on him and his family, and the long conversation he has with his friends, seemingly descending further into a spiral of despair, Job finally understands. He sees his life, his tragedies, in the bigger picture. He realises that he is not God. He does not have the answers. He recovers a better life, a deeper happiness.

How, then, is Job a friend to us in these difficult days? His words will surely resonate with us; bewilderment, astonishment, shock. What did I do to deserve this? Why has this happened? What have I done wrong? As the roller coaster of this pandemic has carried us with it; the shock of the first lockdown, the apparent liberation of the summer, the gathering gloom of the autumn and the grim days of this cold winter, our emotions have surely been all over the place!

But what actually causes Job to go into an emotional meltdown? It is his loss of control. He has lost control of his life. Everything has been taken away from him. He cannot even save his own family from the tragedies that befall them. He arrives at desperation point and stays there. How many of us are there with him? So much that is familiar has been taken away. Our freedoms are severely limited. We have all had our Job moments. Where will it all end?

But it ends well. Job recovers. How on earth does anyone recover from that depth of personal tragedy? He does not mince his words to God. He gives full rein to his frustration and anger. He leaves God in no doubt about how he feels. He demands answers. Here is a way forward for our conversations with God in these days. Job teaches us to be honest, open and straightforward in our prayer. Frustration? Anger? Fear? Let it find a voice when we speak to God, to empty it out before Him.

Only when God finally speaks does Job begin to see, to understand. God wants us to step out of our small world, to see the bigger picture. God is God. I am not. My struggles may be heavy going, but look over there, or over here; others crushed and struggling as well. In the middle of it all is God. Suffering. Part of every life.

The happy ending to Job's life is not that he makes up with God. It is not that he sees the error of his ways. It is that he has finally learned to let go. He has learned to open his hands and say with complete sincerity; 'I came into this world with nothing. I shall leave it with nothing.' In other words, in the things that really matter, it is God who guides, controls, directs. Not me. To see this and to begin to accept it is truly the first step to lasting happiness. We cannot reach this point on our own. But when God gives us a helping hand towards true and lasting happiness, our hope must be that our bewilderment and frustration will eventually give way to surrender and humility.

May God bless you and your loved ones,

Father John

If any parishioner needs Father John for any reason whatsoever, particularly if someone is **sick or dying** and needs **Sacraments**, please call **07783354250**. If the phone is not answered, please leave a **clear message** indicating your **name, the reason** for your call and a **contact number**. If no message is left, then Father John does not know that you have called. You can also call the **parish office on 01704873230** again leaving name, contact number and reason for call. The answering machine is checked every day. Also, you can use the parish email:- **ourladyofcompassionformby@rcaol.org.uk**