



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

14th February 2021 - Sixth 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

Day	Time	Location
Sunday 14th February 2021	10:00am	St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive
Wednesday 17th February 2021	12noon	St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive
Ash Wednesday		
Thursday 25th February 2021	11:30am	Requiem Mass for Stephen Pritchard
Friday 26th February 2021	11:00am	Requiem Mass for Francis Williams
Tuesday 2nd March 2021	10:30am	Requiem Mass for Peter Prince
Monday 8th March 2021	11:00am	Requiem Service for Henry Cassidy

(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, Francis WILLIAMS, Peter Prince and Henry Cassidy and pray for all of their families.

And let us pray for those who are sick including Liz PAGE

Thoughts of Pope Francis: The person who prays is like someone in love with the beloved in his or her heart wherever they go. So we can pray at any moment, and during what happens every day: on the street, in the office, on public transportation, through words and in the silence of our hearts.

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

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**

PARISH NOTICES

Ash Wednesday: On **Tuesday 16th Feb from 9am** in the morning you will be able to collect a little sealed pouch of blessed ashes from:

- St Jerome's Church Porch OR
- Our Lady's presbytery- 18 School Lane.

The ashes will be inside a plastic box, please use the hand sanitiser provided to keep everyone safe. **PLEASE ONLY TAKE ONE POUCH PER FAMILY** as the ashes are in short supply and they are for all Catholics in Formby.

If you are shielding or housebound and would like one of our team of lovely volunteers to deliver the ashes to your home please send your name and address including postcode via email ourladyofcompassionformby@rcaol.org.uk OR by private Facebook Messenger by 5pm on Tuesday 16th Feb.

When Fr John says Mass online on Ash Wednesday (17th Feb) at 12 noon he will talk you through what to do. Join online at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=bxINYQB5yAI>

If you are from outside of Formby please do contact your local Parish Priest to see what plans he has in place re ashes for your parish

Mass Intentions and cards: Mass Cards and Masses offered are always wanted to show our joy or sorry to family and friends. Usually, cards are available at the Piety Stall but as the churches are closed, for the moment, Deacon Joe has suggested a way that you can obtain cards.

Please email ourladyofcompassionformby@rcaol.org.uk with the type of card needed and it will be signed. Then indicate in your email which of the following days you will collect it from the outside of St Jerome's Church:

1. 1145am on a Wednesday. or
2. 0945am on a Sunday.

On collection day please bring with you the details of the Mass that you are requesting and any offering that you may wish to make with £1 for the card. All preferably placed in an envelope.

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. In addition to the usual food and toiletry items for which the Foodbank are most grateful, top of their list this week is the unusual and urgent appeal for Cat Food as well as Coffee, jam, Pot Noodles, Tomato ketchup, Brown sauce, Mayonnaise, Crisps and Hot drinks.

CAFOD - Walk for Water Challenge: CAFOD will be live streaming a special Mass on Ash Wednesday at 7pm and then on each Friday during Lent at 11am in the morning there will be an opportunity to join in with the Stations of the Cross - more details here <https://cafod.org.uk/Online-talks>

Fr John and a number of parishioners have already signed up to Walk for Water, starting on Ash Wednesday they will independently be walking 10,000 steps a day for the 40 days of Lent. You can find out more about who is taking part and how to sponsor them [Our Lady of Compassion Parish, Formby - Walking for Water with CAFOD this Lent](#) It would be great to have more people also taking part.

CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday 26th February

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him 10 hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

Donate direct to CAFOD online at [Lent Appeal 2021 | CAFOD](#)

You can also donate via text. Text LENT 10 to 70460 to donate £10*

* *texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice*

Lent: Shared weekly morning / evening prayer for you to join during Lent

This is an opportunity to come together by Zoom for shared morning / evening prayer on Thursdays during lent. Prayers will be led by different member churches in CTiFAH. Here are the Zoom joining details which can be circulated on electronic church bulletins:

<https://zoom.us/j/7024105255?pwd=MUdhemlISmxJOGRTGFJZjRkczl2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 702 410 5255

Passcode: 063518

Date	18.02.21	25.02.21	04.03.21	11.03.21	18.03.21	25.03.21
Time	4.30 pm	9 am	7 pm	9 am	6 pm	9.30 am
Leader/s	St Stephen's Rev. Jan Ashton	St Peter's Rev. Anne Taylor	Formby URC Richard Lathaen	Formby Catholic Community Dympna and Bruni	Holy Trinity Rev. Mark Stanford	St Luke's Rev. Matt Davis

Lent courses for you to join

Several churches are organizing Lent Courses on Zoom to which members of CTiFAH are invited. Here is a summary of what is on offer and more information is attached.

Methodist Church:

Exploring the themes and theology found in the story 'The Shack' by William P. Young. Five sessions on Monday evenings 7.30 – 9pm, starting 22nd Feb – 29th March (excluding 15th March). Follow the link on the web site to join in: www.crosbymethodistcircuit.org

St Peter's Church: Preparing for Holy Week through Art. Four sessions on Monday evenings: 22nd

February, 1st March, 8th March and 15th March at 7.30pm. The joining link will be available on the website or by sending an email to Anne at: revannetaylor@gmail.com

United Reformed Church

Listen to extracts from The Poet's Gospel (A Gospel in blank verse with rhymed parables). These will begin on Tues 23rd Feb. For more details please email Richard Lathaen: rlathaen@btinternet.com

Holy Trinity Church: 'East of Eden' - exploring the biblical image of the "garden" stretching from Eden to the new "garden-city" of Revelation. As well as drawing on Steinbeck's novel Mark will be dipping into the writings of C.S. Lewis, John Henry Martin and the songbook of Nina Simone. Five sessions on Thursdays at 2pm and repeated on Sundays at 9.45am. These begin on 25th Feb. For joining details contact Mark Stanford: mark-stanford@hotmail.co.uk

Fr. John's Letter

Dear Friends,

I heard it said recently that the past year of the pandemic has been 'the longest Lent in living memory'. I understand the remark. But if we have been living through the longest Lent in living memory, perhaps we can expect the greatest resurrection experience too!

The Christian season of Lent is about to begin. I have found that it is a poorly understood period of time. No matter how hard we try, we cannot shake off all those negative thoughts about punishing ourselves, giving things up, embarking on an endurance race, or anxiously counting down the days until it is all over. No wonder we shiver as Lent approaches year after year.

Not that I want to reduce Lent to an irrelevant, innocuous time with little meaning. I would be talking myself out of a job! No. Lent is not an end in itself, a chance to get a little more religious, a time for uncomfortable consciences, to make things difficult for myself. It is a huge opportunity that is often missed and too quickly passes us by. So how can we understand Lent a little better?

It is, first and foremost, a time of preparation for the celebration of the great Easter Festival. At the heart of Easter is the deep conviction and belief that Christ rose from the dead and is alive. Life overcomes death. Light overcomes darkness. But, as nature teaches us, new life is always preceded by dying. Dying is a preparation, a door, a promise.

The most difficult dying is not the moment of our death, but the dying to all that seeks to place me at the centre of my own life and keep me there. It is the slow and difficult shedding of those habits, ways of life and attitudes that trap me in the delusion that it is only me that matters. My comfort, my life, my needs. Dying to self is quite simply necessary for new life, the life that never ends.

This is why the Church chooses the desert experience of Jesus that we find in the Gospels. We are told he spent forty days in the wilderness. Hence the forty days of Lent. He was tempted to put himself first, to make himself the centre of attention. But he emerges with one clear focus; to carry out the mission entrusted to him by his Father; to preach the Good News, to heal the sick, to die that all may be reconciled to his Father who now becomes our Father, to rise again.

What has all that to do with me? It all sounds a bit lofty perhaps, or somewhat remote. Well, I hope it may be a little clearer now. Lent is about Jesus. Easter is about Jesus. The Christian faith is about Jesus. Without him, Lent, Easter and Christianity make no sense at all. There are hundreds of great self improvement programmes out there that will be of greater help to us than forty days of self punishment and growing frustration! But Lent is about a person. One who knows me, who draws near to me and calls me by my name. One who walks with me through my own very real wilderness. One who makes sense of everything. Lent is simply the opportunity to look at my faith again, find a new understanding, a new way to engage.

If we have learned anything during this dreadful pandemic, it is surely that life is fragile and short. Our priorities have moved into sharper focus and having learned our limitations, we want to look at the new reality around us. So many previous certainties have gone. Now we have an opportunity to reassess and regroup.

The forty days of Lent are inviting us to ask ourselves; am I prepared to meet Jesus, to speak with him, to listen to him. Am I prepared to be honest about my doubts and my struggles with faith? Am I prepared to begin again, to grow, to trust, to let go? The wilderness is not just some exotic place we read of in the Gospel or watch on TV. It's a place we all know very well. It is within every human being and we have been wandering in it for the past year!

This year, we have the opportunity to live the best Lent of our lives. If we are not ready for it now, we never will be! Sadly, we will not be in church on Ash Wednesday. But we will be in our domestic church, the church of our family, the church of our home. Each one of us. There will be blessed ashes available for us to collect from a container outside St Jerome's church or Our Lady's Presbytery this Tuesday. Collect them. Take them home. Watch the live stream of Mass on Ash Wednesday at 12 noon and we can place the ashes on ourselves and our loved ones. Or simply have a little moment at home with a prayer and the placing of ashes. If you cannot obtain ashes, a simple sign of the cross on the forehead will do.

Let us begin the Forty days together on Wednesday. Let's make it real, sincere, a moment to meet Jesus and stay with him. Let this be our one, simple resolution for Lent. To walk with Jesus and to come to know him better. Then those things which need to die, that need to change will become clear. With his help, new life is possible. And that great resurrection that I spoke of at the beginning of this letter will become a reality for each one of us.

I wish you all a truly blessed, fruitful Lent.

God bless you and your loved ones.

Father John