



## 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

**25th April 2021 - 4th Sunday of Easter**

Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. John M Walsh.

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

Day	<u>Mass Times</u>	
	Time	Location
<b>Saturday 24th April 2021</b>	6:00pm	St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive
<b>Sunday 25th April 2021</b>	9:00am	Our Lady of Compassion, School Lane
	11:00am	Our Lady of Compassion, School Lane
<b>Wednesday 28th April 2021</b>	12:00am	Our Lady of Compassion, School Lane

**Please pray for the lately Dead** including; Margaret KAY, James SHORT, Norma MOORE and Angela WILFORD (nee WRIGHT) and pray for all of their families.

**And let us pray for those who are sick**

**Thoughts of Pope Francis:-** God does not give up. You are close to His heart, you who do not yet know the beauty of His love, you who have not yet welcomed Jesus as the centre of your life, you who cannot overcome your sin.

For God, you are that little coin that the Lord seeks without pause. He wants to tell you that you are precious and unique in His eyes. No one can take your place in the heart of God.

Let us not abandon the simple prayers we learned in our families as children that we preserve in our memories and hearts. They are sure ways to access the Father's heart.

The fullness of life and of joy is found by giving oneself for the Gospel and for our brothers and sisters, with openness, welcoming and goodness.

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

### **ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD**

Thank you to those parishioners who responded to the first three Synod proposals published last week.

The next three are now ready for your thoughts and consideration.

### **PROPOSALS 4 to 6 ARE:-**

#### **4A. A MORE INCLUSIVE CHURCH**

We the people of the Archdiocese, recommended that the pastoral plan include action on the part of both parish and archdiocese to announce the welcome we offer to everyone.

4B. We the people of the archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include dialogue with those who feel excluded, in order to develop initiatives so that the whole church can reflect on what it means to be more inclusive.

#### **5. ECUMENISM**

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a commitment for parishes and schools to develop education about ecumenism which would lead to concrete actions with ecumenical partners.

#### **6. YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULTS**

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a plan to assist parishes in understanding, meeting, forming and welcoming young people and adults, and developing locally employed and volunteer youth ministers to work with young people and young adults.

Please kindly send your comments to Deacon John at, [john.a.mccarthy@virginmedia.com](mailto:john.a.mccarthy@virginmedia.com) or to, Mike Halford at, [mjhalford3@talktalk.net](mailto:mjhalford3@talktalk.net) or by posting written comments through the presbytery letter boxes at either Our Lady's or St. Jerome's.

Thank You, your thoughts really do matter.

Also - The Archdiocese has provided three places where you can find the the full list of proposals:

1. Printed in the April edition of the Catholic Pic ([www.catholicpic.co.uk](http://www.catholicpic.co.uk))
2. On our Synod Recommendations Website ([www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk](http://www.synod2020recommendations.org.uk)) alongside theological reflections on the topics
3. Printed in our Synod book Together on the Road which also includes resources for discernment and the theological reflections (available for £3 from Pauline Books and Media, and the Synod Office, email: [synod2020@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:synod2020@rcaol.co.uk), tel: 0151 486 1206).

Please continue to keep the Synod in your prayers in the coming months.

**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

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Christian Aid Week is approaching. What can you do to help? Jenny Mathias, Formby Christian Aid Week Group convenor, is organising a sponsored litter pick on the beach during Christian Aid Week. She is looking for sponsors to sponsor the team of litter pickers and people to help pick litter. She is also asking for the loan of litter picking tools. If you are able to help in any way get in touch with Jenny - Tel. 01704 870738.

## Fr. John's Letter

Dear Friends,

'If we cannot get together, how can we be together?'

It is the most commonly made remark, in my experience, during this time of pandemic; 'I miss being with my friends, family, other people'. Isn't it true that we are, first and foremost, social animals? That we need each other? So the long period of lockdown and restriction has been catastrophic for human relationships. We have been separated, isolated and told to stay indoors or work from home for much of the last 13 months.

Even if we have struggled with the whole concept of restrictions, we have at least some understanding of their necessity. No doubt, reviews and inquiries will be held in the future, but we know that lives have been saved through these sacrifices. But what about getting together again, visiting each other's homes, having a party, a celebration, crowding into the pub or restaurant, or even crowding into church?

Crowding. There's a word. It brings joy and fear simultaneously. We want to get back to our social lives, but deep down we are a little uncertain, a little nervous about what that means. So what does all this mean for us? For the life of our parish? Meetings, garden parties, children's liturgy, singing, first communions, council meetings, weddings, baptisms, coffee and lunches, special celebrations all switched off 13 months ago and only now starting to be slowly planned for. What a list! What a massive blow for our community. We have lived in the shadowlands.

How strange it must have been to watch Mass being celebrated in an empty church, even stranger to celebrate Mass in an empty church! How strange to stand in church now with relatively few people, unable to speak and offer a sign of peace. I could go on, but you get my drift. We have to understand the sheer impact this last year has had on our community. We have been deprived of a parish life.

What next? This is what worries people. Will we slip back into what we had before? Will it all be just the same? We are one community now, so what will that mean? From time to time I am hearing magisterial statements about who is going to do what and when, what is going to happen about this and that. My answer is usually; 'Really? Sounds interesting! First I've heard of it!' In

other words, it's impossible to produce a definitive prediction of what happens next. But I can predict one thing, and this will be my very first priority.

We need to be together. To meet, to speak, listen, laugh, get to know each other. We simply need to be with each other. No agendas, no intense discussions about the future. That comes later. But once we are able, we will get together. If it is not possible to meet in one large gathering, then we will meet in smaller gatherings. But we will meet; just to relax together, to thank God we are still alive, to tell our stories, to moan a little (not too much please). We can share our anxieties and worries and be open about them.

All four Gospels agree that Jesus 'did all things well'. One of the things he did really well was to gather people around him, from the very first moment of his public ministry. All kinds of people, men and women, from different backgrounds and outlooks. Before asking anything of them, before inviting them to become his disciples, he simply lived with them. Got to know them. Invited them to get to know him. It is the model for any gathering of Christians. He calls us together, we come to know him better and in doing so, we come to know ourselves and each other better.

But how did Jesus calm fears and anxieties? He recognised them and offered peace; 'Peace be with you!'. He never addressed an individual in this way, only the community of his disciples. Just being with them was enough to calm them and heal them, especially after his Resurrection.

Do we doubt that Jesus is among us and offers us the same peace and reassurance? Do we doubt that this community of ours can make it through this awful time, relying not on our own strengths and efforts, but by depending on him whose community it is? Just by being together, enjoying each other's company, is enough to make Jesus smile and radiate his peace.

Being together. Pure and simple. That's something to look forward to. It is the beginning of everything, the promise of everything.

God bless you and your loved ones!

Father John