



# Our Lady of Compassion Formby

3rd Dec 2023 –Advent Week 1

Sundays Year B, Weekdays Cycle 2, psalter week 1

School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Archdiocese of Liverpool In. Reg. Charity No: 1199714



## Upcoming Events

- **Final Mass at St Jerome's Church**  
celebrated by Bishop Tom Neylon  
7<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm
- **Liverpool Bach Collective**  
10<sup>th</sup> December at OLOC – 6.30pm
- **Monday Morning Movies**  
11<sup>th</sup> December 11am, at the Gild Hall  
Activity Centre

**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](mailto:ourladyofcompassionformby@rcaol.org.uk)

**Parish Website:** [ourladyofcompassionformby.org.uk](http://ourladyofcompassionformby.org.uk)

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

## Mass Times

Day	Time	Location	Intentions
<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	6.00pm	St Jerome	<b>Frances Youell</b>
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	9.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	<b>Parish Community</b>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	<b>McGowan Family</b>
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>09.15 am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	
	10.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	<b>Berenice Russell</b>
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>09.15 am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	
	10.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	<b>Maureen Crick</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>09.15 am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	
	10.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	<b>Peter Gough</b>
	<b>VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b>		
	7.30pm	<b>Final Mass at St Jerome's Church celebrated by Bishop Tom Neylon</b>	
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	6.00pm	<b>OUR LADY OF COMPASSION</b>	<b>Nigel Tootill</b>
	<b>PLEASE NOTE THAT AS OF THIS EVENING THE VIGIL MASS FOR SUNDAY MOVES TO OUR LADY'S CHURCH</b>		
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	9.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	<b>Parish Community</b>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	<b>Bobby Jenkins</b>
	6.30pm	<b>Liverpool Bach Collective - OLOC</b>	

**Weekly Collection £783.24 Thank you!**

**Mass Intentions Received w/c 27<sup>th</sup> Nov** – Una Murray, Martha Blackham, Anne Taylor, Sister Paulinus McMahon.

■ **Please pray for the lately Dead including;**

Robert (Bobby) Jenkins, Thomas Williams, Teresa Campbell, Patricia Wynne, David Robinson, Sheila Elliott, Charlie Mills, John Chalcraft, Sister Paulinus 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, Deacon Joe Moreland, John Holland, Nell Piggott, Bill Evans and Fr Joe Whelan MHM.

# Parish Notices

## THE PLACE OF CHILDREN IN OUR SUNDAY MASS

The 11.00am Mass on Sunday mornings has for a long time been known as the 'Family Mass'. This came from a time, before the pandemic, when families were very much more in evidence at this Mass. Family numbers have been slowly increasing over the last few months. It is wonderful to see! For a long time, the 'Children's Liturgy' has also been part of the 11.00am Mass. Again, strong numbers attended before Covid. Slowly, we have been seeing a recovery. We have been very blessed to have good, committed and faithful parishioners at both Our Lady's and St Jerome's, who for many years have taught the Scripture to our children and accompanied them. May the Lord reward them for their generosity!

I have been reflecting for a long time on how best to make our children's experience of Sunday Mass more meaningful and fruitful. Many have asked me, over the years, whether removing the children entirely from the community for a large part of the Mass is the best solution. 'Why can't the children be more directly involved in the Mass itself?' 'Aren't we giving the impression that the children are unwelcome at an adult celebration, taking them away because they get quickly bored and so become a distraction?' Others, especially some parents, have expressed appreciation for a time set aside in a child friendly environment, where the children can learn something of the Word of God, appropriate for their own age. These are all good questions and important points of view. But times are changing. One example of our new reality are the more stringent requirements for safeguarding, and restrictions on who can and cannot be present in the meeting room when the children are present.

I have come to the realisation that there is a deeper issue that needs to be addressed. The place of children in the celebration of the Mass itself. The celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is THE community event, THE most important time of the week and THE place where we come as close to God and one another as we ever can in this life. Every word, every action and every gesture of the Mass carries weight and profound meaning. Such is the grace and power of this Sacred Celebration, that we are given all we need and more, to live happier, more fulfilled, meaningful and joyful lives. This is the inheritance that we are handing on to our children. Children see and hear everything. They notice every movement of their parents, every joy, every sorrow, every change of mood. It is from their parents, or from those who bring them to Mass, that they learn the Mass itself. They learn to pray, to be reverent, to listen, to be open, to sense the presence of God and to be more aware of their neighbour. They imitate what they see and a deep impression is made on their hearts. This takes time, patience, understanding. It is a task of years, not months. But it forms, directs and changes young lives.

I feel the time is right to try a different way of including our children in the celebration of Mass on Sunday morning. It demands a change of outlook and culture on the part of all of us. Firstly, our children are a precious and wonderful gift from the Lord, not only for their parents, but for the entire community. 'Let the little ones come to me' said Jesus. 'Do not stop them, for of such is the Kingdom of heaven'. Our children are not problems to be solved, but privileged bearers of the presence of God.

In the first place, I want every parent to feel welcome, loved and comfortable at each and every celebration of Mass. Do our parents feel that they have to stay at the back of church because their children might disturb the Mass? Bring them to the front. There is much more going on there visually that the children can see and engage with. Do parents feel that they are being judged, looked at or criticised if their child is noisy? Maybe. But we all need to grow in patience and gratitude that our children are with us.

I want to try a new path. On the third Sunday of Advent, our 11.00am Mass will directly involve our children in the celebration. We are planning the Mass at the moment. The meeting room gathering will be suspended for the time being, as we seek to grow this new idea. I want our children to be seen, involved and welcomed. Let's see if it works.

But above all, I want to encourage a change of culture and a change of outlook. If children are genuinely welcomed with their parents, if families feel that they are a privileged part of our community, if we show by our words and actions that we are delighted that they are among us, then surely more will feel that they too can find a home in our church and in our community. This is a task for each and every one of us. Are we willing to try, to perhaps step a little outside our comfort zone and rejoice with the families the Lord sends us? If so, I believe we will see great fruit in our community.

Please pray for this new approach and ask the Lord to bless it with success.

**Fr John**

## ■ Christmas Mass Times

This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday and Christmas Day on Monday. This means a Sunday Mass obligation on Christmas Eve and a Christmas Day obligation the day after. To ensure the number of Masses over these days remains manageable, the Christmas Mass times are as follows:

Day	Time	Location
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	Our Lady of Compassion
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec (Christmas Eve)	10.00am <i>(Please note change of Mass time)</i>	Our Lady of Compassion
	5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas	Our Lady of Compassion
	8.00pm First Mass of Christmas	Our Lady of Compassion
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec (Christmas Day)	10.00am Christmas Morning Mass	Our Lady of Compassion

## ■ Liverpool Bach Collective – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm at Our Lady of Compassion

Cantata 140 Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme 'Wake up!' calls the watchman

The Gospel account of the unwise virgins, unprepared for the arrival of the Lord, is the inspiration of this well-known cantata. It includes two sublime love-duets between Jesus and the faithful soul.

## ■ Parish Mass for Sister Paulinus

The Parish Mass on the morning of **Tuesday 19th December** will be offered for the repose of the soul of Sr. Paulinus who died on November 22nd. Fr. John Bradley will concelebrate and will deliver a homily in appreciation of her long and generous life to the Church and her religious community.

All are welcome to attend and it is hoped that many of the former parishioners of St. Anne's will be able to be present and give thanks for the years of service she gave to our local community. Please spread the word about this special Mass especially to those who might not see this notice.

## ■ OLOC Facebook Page

Our Lady of Compassion Parish has a Facebook page which is managed by parish volunteer, Siobhan Farnell, on behalf of the parish. If you would like something included on social media you can contact Siobhan via the parish page or via her mobile 07988810564 <https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofcompassionformby>

## ■ The Chatterry

The Chatterry Christmas Party takes place this coming **Wednesday December 6th**, in the main room of the Gild Hall. **PLEASE NOTE THAT IT WILL START AT THE EARLIER TIME OF 1.30pm, until 3.30pm.** There will be a buffet, raffle, and entertainment from Peter Connor and friends, with some community singing. Tickets costing £6 must be booked in advance. Please contact Pam Dunne on 871381 for bookings and further information.

The Chatterry will close for the Christmas break after this event and will re-open on Wednesday 10th January. Sincere thanks are extended to all those parishioners who have so well supported this initiative throughout the year. Your attendance, generosity and friendship are greatly appreciated.

## ■ Lourdes Pilgrimage

Booking forms and deposits for our parish pilgrimage are now due in. Please return them to the Sacristy after Mass or to Mike Halford A.S.A.P. to confirm your place and for them to be forwarded to the travel company. Thank you.

## ■ Deacon Joe Moreland - Thank you!

Deacon Joe Moreland would like to thank you for all your kind gifts and good wishes, which have been greatly received and appreciated.

## ■ Formby Village Nativity – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 11am

Starting at 11am at Formby Pool gardens, free entry, all welcome. See Church noticeboard for information.

## ■ OLOC 200 Club

The winning number for the **October** draw was number **170**. Have you joined yet? For just £2 per month, a number will be allocated to you and if your number is drawn out in the monthly draw, you could win up to

£200. Application forms can be found on the noticeboard at Our Lady's and St. Jerome's. (N.B. if paying by cheque, please make your cheque payable to: OLOC 200 Club). Good luck!

### ■ Charity for Queen's Court Hospice

Many thanks to all those who supported "Mary's At Home" for Queens Court Hospice especially when the weather was not very kind to us all. Congratulations to those who won prizes. The total amount collected was £405. Mary Fleming

### ■ St Jerome's School Events

#### **Carols for the Community 6th December 2pm at St. Jerome's Parish Hall**

We would like to invite members of the parish to an afternoon of carols at St. Jerome's Parish Hall on **6th December at 2pm**. The concert will last about 45 minutes and we do expect some audience participation! Refreshments will be available to purchase and we hope it will be a lovely community event that parishioners can enjoy. No need to book, just come along and join us on the day.

#### **Infant Nativity – Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm St Jerome's School**

#### **Parish Seniors Christmas Party- Monday 11th December 2pm hosted by Class Six in the School Hall**

If you would like to come and join us for a few games, tea and coffee and some delicious refreshments provided by our Year Six pupils we would love to see you! *Please contact the school office 01704833211 to let us know you are coming so that we can cater for everyone.*

### ■ Monday Morning Movie: 11th December, 11am at The Gild Hall Activity Centre

This month's film will be "It's a Wonderful Life", starring James Stewart. This Christmas classic will get you in the festive spirit, with its timeless and heart-warming message.

The film was originally released in black and white, but we will be watching the colourised version which really brings it to life on the big screen. As this is our last film before Christmas, we will be serving mince pies with a festive tippie, as well as the usual tea and coffee and homemade cake. Free entry and refreshments. Open to all adults.

### ■ Our Lady's Fell Walkers

Our Lady's Fell Walkers have two walks on the Wirral on **Saturday, 9th December 2023**. The A walk is 9 miles starting from Hoylake, following the English Coastal Path to the Cheshire village of Parkgate. The B walk is 7 miles starting in the Wirral Country Park from Eastham Rake Station, following paths along the railway and taking in part of the Wirral Way, and also ending in Parkgate. Both walks are linear and fairly flat with only slight gradients. The A walk is faster and the B, a slower walk.

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 barmes and time after the walk to visit shops, cafes and pubs in the area. The cafe at the start of the A walk this month only accepts cash, so please bear this in mind and the B walk stop is at Hadlow Station, 3 miles into the B walk. Please wear weather appropriate clothing and bring a packed lunch. Sticks can also be helpful as this walk is likely to be muddy.

### ■ Metropolitan Cathedral Concerts over Advent / Christmas Season

**Sunday 10 December – A Ceremony of Carols** - The boy choristers join harpist Elizabeth McNulty to perform Benjamin Britten's sequence of carol texts by English poets. The performance lasts around 40 minutes and is free to attend, with a retiring collection.

**Saturday 16 December – A Celebration of Christmas** - All are welcome to the Metropolitan Cathedral for a family Christmas concert with music from the choirs and carols for all to sing. [www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral.org.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral.org.uk)

**Sunday 17 December – Festival Carol Service** - A traditional carol service with carols for all to sing, and seasonal music sung by the cathedral choir. For a full list of Christmas events and services, please visit [www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk)

### ■ Coach 7

Sefton Coach 7 are hosting their next Quiz Night on Friday 8th December from 7.30pm at St Helen's Parish Centre, Crosby, L23 7TF. Please join us as we raise funds for the youth pilgrimage to Lourdes next summer. There will be a raffle with some great prizes and other games on the night. £5 per adult (£3 per young per young person). Bring your own refreshments.