



Our Lady of Compassion Formby

Part of a Family of Parishes with
Our Lady of Victories Hightown, Holy Family Ince Blundell,
St John Stone and Sacred Heart Ainsdale & Woodvale

6th Apr 2025 – **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Sundays Year C, Weekdays Cycle 1, Psalter week 1

School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Archdiocese of Liverpool In. Reg. Charity No: 1199714

Information & Events

- **Monday Movies** – 14th April, 11am at the Activity Centre
- **Parish Spring Fayre** – 5th May 11am – 4pm



Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. John M Walsh

Deacon: 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

Activity Centre Contact: Karen Williamson – 07547
800348

Newsletter

Mass Times

Day	Time		Intentions
Saturday 5 th Apr	6.00pm	Holy Mass	David Wright
Sunday 6 th Apr	9.00am	Holy Mass	Parish Community
	11.00am	Holy Mass	Martin Jackson
Tuesday 8 th Apr	09.15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	10.00am	Holy Mass	Teresa & Ken Campbell
Wednesday 9 th Apr	09.15am	Stations of the Cross	
	10.00am	Holy Mass – attended by UCM	Tommy Bulger
Thursday 10 th Apr	10.00am	Requiem Mass – Ged Cunningham	
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD			
Saturday 12 th Apr	6.00pm	Holy Mass	
Sunday 13 th Apr	9.00am	Holy Mass	Parish Community
	11.00am	Holy Mass	

Weekly Collection: £1,397.11 Thank you!

Forthcoming Funerals: Ged Cunningham 10th April at 10am, Mary Nicolette Scarisbrick 15th April at 10am, Frank Greaney 16th April at 10am, Patrick (Paddy) Kerwin 23rd April at 10am.

Mass Intentions Received w/c 31st Mar – Frank Greaney, Mairead Burns, Nicki Scarisbrick, Frances & Edward McCann, Maureen Gallagher, Paddy Kerwin.

Mass Intentions sent to Mill Hill to be said during Mar/Apr – Rose Barns, Philip Locke, Philip Molyneux, Margaret Klymec, Steve Klymec, Jim Murray, Nicky Drane, Charles Madden, Suzanne Jones, John Erskine, Patrick Erskine, Philip Locke, Tommy Bulger x2, Irene Brouwes Houben, Margaret McMahon, Paul Kershaw, Callow family, Elzbieta Kajtaniak, Janet Houghton, Dympna Walker, Kiraz Erica Dullaghan, Maria Valente, Brian Palmer, Jenny Moran, Tony Whitelaw, Richard Prendergast.

Please pray for the lately Dead including; Peter Swift, Andrew Cormack, David Lewin, Terence Airey, Frances Janet Houghton, Kathleen Glackin, Mary Nicolette Scarisbrick, Paddy Kerwin, Ged Cunningham, Frank Greaney and all their families.

And let us pray for those who are sick including;

Stephanie Harrison, Ann Long, Margaret Nutall, Terry Otty, Anita Sattar, Eddie Evans, Maria Murray, Les Forest, Beryl Prescott, Kathleen O’Gorman, Nell Piggott, Bill Evans, Ed Schofield, Rachel Jones, Claire Charlton, Dominic Tomlinson, Tim Chrimes, Joe Murphy.

Parish Notices

HOLY WEEK 2025

Day	Time	
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD		
Saturday 12 th Apr	6.00pm	Holy Mass
Sunday 13 th Apr	9.00am	Holy Mass
	11.00am	Holy Mass
TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK		
Tuesday 15 th Apr	10.00am	Requiem Mass – Mary Nicolette Scarisbrick
WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK		
Wednesday 16 th Apr	10.00am	Requiem Mass – Frank Greaney
THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM		
THURSDAY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER		
Thursday 17 th Apr	7.30pm	Evening Mass followed by watching at the Altar of Repose
FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD		
Friday 18 th Apr	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
	11.00am	Walk of Witness – Formby Village
	3.00pm	The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord <i>Collection for the Holy Places</i>
THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT		
Saturday 19 th Apr	8.00pm	The blessing of the Fire and preparation of the Candle The Liturgy of the Word Rite of Baptism and Confirmation Renewal of Baptismal Promises Sprinkling with Newly Blessed Water First Mass of Easter
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD		
Sunday 20 th Apr	9.00am	Holy Mass
	11.00am	Holy Mass – Family Mass

■ Assisted Suicide Legislation – update

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, is likely to take place on 25th April. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>. Also, to let you know, Right to Life is distributing postcards to parishes for the lay faithful to send to their MPs on this subject.

A range of further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

■ UCM News

The UCM monthly meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9th April**. Mass will be held in Our Lady's Church at 10.00am and members are invited to meet in the Activity Centre afterwards for refreshments. All are welcome.

■ The Chatterry

Easter 🐣 celebrations start early at The Chatterry this coming **Wednesday, April 9th**, when there will be an Easter Bonnet Parade, with a prize for the best selected Easter Bonnet! There will also be a Grand Easter Raffle in addition to the usual weekly one with the entrance ticket. As well as the usual tea and coffee, there will be mini hot cross buns served too. Entrance this week will be £2. Do come and join us for the last session before the Easter break, in the Parish Activity Centre, behind the Gill Hall, from 2pm to 3.30pm. All welcome!

Please note that The Chatterry will be closed after this event for both Holy Week and Easter Week and will re-open on Wednesday 30th April.

■ Sacrament of Confirmation 2025

The period for registering those young people eligible for confirmation this summer has now closed. If there are any further candidates who have not already registered, please contact the Parish Administrator as soon as possible to register your son or daughter. Details of preparation dates and Confirmation dates will be issued when confirmed by the Archdiocese.

■ Parish Spring Fayre – A Family Fun Day – 5th May Bank Holiday Monday

Plans are well underway to make this year's event a great success and a fun day for all our families and the local community.

A planning meeting will be held at the Activity Centre, behind the Gild Hall on **Wednesday 2 April at 3:30pm immediately after the Chatterry**. Thank you to all who have already agreed to help, if you would like to be involved please come along to the meeting or let Steve or Toni Drury know by emailing contact@forbyevents.co.uk or call Toni on 07814614144.

Tombola Donations - Next weekend a box will be placed at the back of church for donations towards the chocolate and bottle tombolas.

Plant Stall - This was extremely popular last year. As the gardening season starts in earnest, as you divide and sow plants for the garden, please pot a few up for the plant stall. They will be able to be dropped off at the Activity Centre before the Fayre or on the day - more details to follow. We hope to have a wide range of plants to see your garden in bloom from early May through to later summer. This year, we aim to sell hanging baskets by recycling old hanging pots and filling them with beautiful blooms. If you have old pots and baskets from last year, please let Toni know on 07814614144 to arrange how to pass on to be replanted. Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to a wonderful fun day for our Parish and community.

■ CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal – you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10. Thank you.



Pastoral Letter
on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill
To be read at all masses on
5 and 6 April 2025
Fifth Sunday of Lent

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I wish to speak with you today about the process in which our Parliament is currently considering legalising assisted suicide through the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. Earlier in this debate, Catholics have maintained a principled objection to this change in law recognising that every human life is sacred, coming as a gift of God and bearing a God-given dignity. We are, therefore, clearly opposed to this Bill in principle, elevating, as it does, the autonomy of the individual above all other considerations.

The passage of the Bill through Parliament will lead to a vote in late April on whether it progresses further. This will be a crucial moment and I, together with all the Bishops of England and Wales, am writing to ask your support in urging your MP to vote against this Bill at that time.

There are serious reasons for doing so. At this point we wish not simply to restate our objections in principle, but to emphasise the deeply flawed process undergone in Parliament thus far. We wish to remind you that it is a fundamental duty of every MP to ensure that legislation is not imposed on our society which has not been properly scrutinised, and which will bring about damaging consequences.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will fundamentally change many of the key relationships in our way of life: within the family, between doctor and patient, within the health service. Yet there has been no Royal Commission or independent inquiry ahead of its presentation. It is a Private Member's Bill. The Bill itself is long and complex and was published just days before MPs voted on it, giving them inadequate time to consult or reflect upon it. The time for debate was minimal. The Committee examining the Bill took only three days of evidence: not all voices were heard, and it comprises an undue number of supporters of the Bill. In short, this is no way to legislate on such an important and morally complex issue.

One consequence of this flawed process is that many vital questions remain unanswered. Can MPs guarantee that the scope of the Bill will not be extended? In almost every country where assisted suicide has been introduced the current scope is wider than was originally intended. What role, if any, will the judiciary have in the process? We were told that judicial oversight was a necessary and vital part of the process; now we are told it isn't needed at all. What will protect the vulnerable from coercion, or from feeling a burden on family? Can the National Health Service cope with assisted suicide or will it, as the Health Secretary has warned, cause cuts elsewhere in the NHS?

Can MPs guarantee that no medical practitioner or care worker would be compelled to take part in assisted suicide?
Would this mean the establishment of a 'national death service'?

In contrast to the provisions of this Bill, what is needed is first-class, compassionate palliative care at the end of our lives. This is already provided to many in our society but, tragically, is in short supply and underfunded. No-one should be dispatched as a burden to others. Instead, a good society would prioritise care for the elderly, the vulnerable, and the weak. The lives of our families are richer for cherishing their presence.

It is sad reflection on Parliament's priorities that the House of Commons spent far more time debating the ban on fox hunting than it is spending debating bringing in assisted suicide.

I am sure that you will share these concerns. It is now clear that this measure is being rushed without proper scrutiny and without fundamental questions surrounding safeguards being answered. This is a deeply flawed Bill with untold unintended consequences.

Every MP, and Government, has a solemn duty to prevent such legislation reaching the statute book. This, tragically, is what may happen. So, I appeal to you: even if you have written before, please make contact now with your MP and ask them to vote against this Bill not only on grounds of principle but because of the failure of Parliament to approach this issue in an adequate and responsible manner.

In his Letter to the Philippians, from which we heard in the Second Reading, St Paul reflects on the difficulties and responsibilities of life. He speaks of 'pressing on' and 'striving' for the fulness of life promised in Christ Jesus. Yet he is totally confident in his struggles because, as he says, 'Christ Jesus has made me his own'.

We too have many struggles. We too know that Christ Jesus has made us his own. So we too press on with this struggle, so important in our times.

May God bless you all.

+ Malachy M^cMahon OP

Archbishop of Liverpool

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