



Our Lady of Compassion Formby

9th July 2023 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sundays Year A, Weekdays Cycle 1, psalter week 2

School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Served by the Churches of Our Lady of Compassion and
St. Jerome

Archdiocese of Liverpool In. Reg. Charity No: 1199714

Upcoming Events

Fr John's Ruby Jubilee of Ordination – 10th July



Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. John M Walsh

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

Parish Administrator: Sharon Bedford – 01704 –
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Parish Website: ourladyofcompassionformby.org.uk

Gild Hall Manager: Eileen Sheridan – 01704
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Newsletter

Mass Times

Day	Time	Location	Intentions
Saturday 8 th July	6.00pm	St Jerome	Diane Flett
Sunday 9 th July	9.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Parish Community
	11.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Ray Leony
Monday 10 th July	7.30pm	Fr John's Ruby Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving	
Tuesday 11 th July	10.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Frederick Wilson
Wednesday 12 th July	10.00am	Communion Service – attended by UCM	
Thursday 13 th July	10.00am	Requiem Mass – Maisie Harris	
	2.00pm	Leavers Mass – St Jerome's Church	
Friday 14 th July	2.00pm	Leavers Service – OLOC School Hall	
Saturday 15 th July	6.00pm	St Jerome	Eddie Connolly
Sunday 16 th July	9.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Parish Community
	11.00am	Our Lady of Compassion	Jonathan Smith

The Church of St Jerome is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 09.00am to 11.00am for Quiet Prayer. Tea/coffee is available in St Jerome's Parish Centre on Monday and Thursday 09.00am – 10.00am. **CLOSED UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

Prayer Rota - In our weekly prayers for the other Christian communities of Formby, we pray for Lighthouse Church.

Weekly Collection £1,289.21 Thank you!

Mass Intentions Received w/c 3rd July – Rosemary Kirby Delany, Florrie O'Donoghue, Ian Wilcock, Peter & Collette Davidson & For the Souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the lately Dead including;

Mary (Maisie) Harris, Edward Connolly, Angela Kaye, Dorothy Shelton, Michael Gilfoyle and all their families.

And let us pray for those who are sick including;

Teresa Campbell, Stephanie Harrison, Ellen l'Anson, Ann Long, Ged Cunningham, Margaret Nutall, Mary Pinkman, Terry Otty, Anita Sattar and Eddie Evans.

Parish Notices

Our Parish Volunteers – a message from Fr John

We are blessed to have good and generous parishioners who serve our Catholic community faithfully. We see evidence of their work all around us; in the care of our church, in the support of the needy, in the care of and ministry to the sick, to name just a few. In our community, many acts of kindness and service are happening every day, many of them hidden from view. Our Faith asks us to reach out to those who need our help and support. I know this is happening in many places. Among our volunteers are those who have offered themselves for training as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, and who have been authorised by the Archbishop to assist me in distributing Holy Communion during Mass, but more importantly to take the Eucharist to the sick in their homes. This is a very important ministry for obvious reasons. I cannot reach everyone who needs the Eucharist. Our Extraordinary ministers are a great help. Because this is a public ministry of the Church that can only be authorised by the Archbishop himself, it is overseen and regulated by the Archdiocese. I am reminded from time to time, that the public ministry of the Church is not entrusted to an individual because they are worthy, but because it is essentially an act of service that requires generosity, and a willingness to accept the direction of the Church in how this ministry is carried out. It is not a ministry we take upon ourselves, even less something that we 'own'. This is true of bishops and priests, as well as members of the laity.

Our Archdiocese, as the commissioning authority acting on behalf of the Archbishop, is currently undertaking a review and assessment of all parish volunteers, and particularly those visiting individual homes and care homes. They are requiring Safeguarding representatives and parish priests to show that all records of visits made by volunteers are fully recorded. In addition, visits undertaken to individual homes and care homes in an official capacity are no longer to be made by a single individual, but by two people.

The immediate reaction to these new arrangements may be negative. Isn't this just unnecessary bureaucracy? It's worked well up to now, why change it? All fair questions until we come back to that original point. These acts of service are authorised by the Church, which continues to update its working practices.

It is my responsibility as parish priest to ensure that what the Church asks for in its official ministries, is overseen properly and accounted for. When it became clear that the record of official visits undertaken in the Parish were not accurate, I asked our Extraordinary Ministers to step back from their visits until we updated the records of all visits taking place. We are now making arrangements for our Extraordinary Ministers visiting the homes of others and the care homes, to do so in pairs. This may appear unnecessary to some, but the Church has an overriding concern at this time for proper protections to be in place. Not just for the vulnerable person, but for those making the visit. The Church has been through a dreadful time in these last years and is learning some hard lessons. We cannot be surprised that a firmer and clearer approach is now being taken to put every safeguard into place. It is an approach that deserves our support.

A word about my own visits to the sick. I do not publish the visits I make. I would not do that. But I visit the sick of our community on a regular basis, anointing the sick and taking Holy Communion. Occasionally, I am called to a sick or dying person in the night. I have also recently agreed to work with Fr Sergio to provide cover for St Joseph's Hospice, formerly Jospice, for the terminally ill.

Deacon John and I are now visiting the care homes of Formby and the homes of those receiving communion. It gives us the opportunity to speak with the sick, be in contact with their families, and have a conversation with their care provider. Visits will resume as quickly as we can put these new arrangements into place.

I want to thank Deacon John for all the work he is doing to put these new arrangements into place. He has already met with our Extraordinary Ministers and is working hard to create a new database of all visits that will be made in the future. I know that some have been unsettled by these changes and that change is not often welcomed, but I am very grateful for your patience and understanding as we put the directives of the Archdiocese into place.

Finally, a huge thank you to every one of our Extraordinary Ministers who enable the sick to receive the Eucharist at home. I would also like to thank, on behalf of the Parish, all of our volunteers who work selflessly and generously to support us in many areas. Thank you for your service and for your example to us all!

God bless you, Fr. John

Schools Update

Fr John met with our 2 Primary School Head Teachers last Wednesday.

The Chatterty

This week 12th July, we welcome local author, Elizabeth Morton, as our guest speaker. Elizabeth will give us an insight into her writing career and talk about her new saga "The Orphans from Liverpool Lane." There will be an opportunity to chat with her informally during the afternoon. She is bringing some copies of her new book with her for a book signing should anyone wish to purchase a copy. This week there will be an extra raffle as part of our fundraising and if anyone can bring along a few cakes for us to enjoy, they will be warmly received!

The Chatterty will open as usual from 2pm to 3.30pm on Wednesday in the Gild Hall lounges and after this week's gathering will close for the summer break until September.

UCM News

UCM Members are invited to attend the Eucharistic Service at Our Lady's on **Wednesday 12th July at 10.00am.**

Following the service, we will be gathering in Wetherspoons for tea and coffee to celebrate our final meeting before the Summer break.

Musical Fundraiser for Sudan

Gabriel Balasubramanian-Basu, aged 9, will be giving a piano recital at 2.30pm on Saturday 15th July in Holy Trinity church, Formby. Chopin, Haydn, Debussy, Mendelssohn, Einaudi and more... Entry free, but donations gratefully received to help those who have nothing.

Holiday at Home 14th – 25th August 2023

Formby Befriending Scheme, with support from Churches Together and other community groups and individuals, is once again offering a 'Holiday at Home' for older adults in the Formby, Hightown and Ince Blundell area during the last 2 weeks in August. The main aim of the fortnight is to give people who are no longer able to go away on holiday, the opportunity to have a 'holiday experience' in their own community. Last year, we had a wonderful time, with many people enjoying social activities for the first time since the Covid pandemic. Many events were fully booked with some of the larger ones having 100+ people attending. And so, once again, we are delighted to offer a packed programme and are confident that it will be another fortnight of friendship and fun, which will be enjoyed by all who participate.

The printed programme is now available and can be picked up from the Church doors and other locations in Formby, Hightown and Ince Blundell. Bookings will open on Tuesday 25th July, when there will be a special afternoon at Formby Methodist Church, with members of the Holiday at Home Team taking your bookings and serving refreshments. Telephone bookings will open on Wednesday 26th and there will be 2 further face-to-face opportunities to book and pay for events that require pre-payment. See Programmes for details.

Transport will be available for those who need assistance in order to attend. Please take the time to read the guidelines on transport and booking options, which are in the programme.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who are hosting a special event for Holiday at Home 2023. We look forward to another great holiday experience! The Holiday at Home Team.

Concert with The Priests, Metropolitan Cathedral, 12th October

Concert with THE PRIESTS at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Thursday 12th October. Liverpool's own Danielle Thomas will be again joining them on stage, and Stephen Manning will be MD for the concert. The last three concerts have been complete sell outs, and although we have only just started publishing, the concert tickets we have sold over 150 tickets. There was also a lot of interest shown at the Lourdes centenary celebration at the Cathedral yesterday. Tickets are £25 and bookings are on Eventbrite.