

Malcolm



Archbishop of Liverpool

Decree Taking a Church out of Sacred Use

The church of St Anne, Freshfield, opened in 1933 to serve the parish established in 1886 from territory taken from the much older parish mission of Our Lady of Compassion, Formby. In November 2020 the parish of St Anne, together with St Jerome, Formby, were merged with the parish of Our Lady of Compassion, Formby, by an act of extinctive union. Consequently, the reformed parish of Our Lady of Compassion, Formby, now had three parish churches within its territory. Rather than endeavour to sustain three separate communities, it has been proposed that the parish should be served by the two largest churches, namely the churches of Our Lady of Compassion and St Jerome, both at Formby, and that the church of St Anne, Freshfield, be taken out of sacred use.

For grave reasons it pertains to the diocesan bishop to take a church out of sacred use (cf. canon 1222 §2) once he has consulted the Presbyteral Council.

Whereas it has been proposed that the church of **St Anne** at **Freshfield**, should be taken out of sacred use;

Whereas the Presbyteral Council was consulted on this matter, and whereas adequate pastoral provision can be made for worshippers at the churches of Our Lady of Compassion and St Jerome, both at Formby;

We hereby decree, in accordance with canon 1222 §2, that the church of **St Anne** at **Freshfield**, be taken out of sacred use and no longer be used for divine worship, with effect from 20th October 2021, and that on that date, in accordance with canon 1212, the church building will lose its dedication or blessing, and that the building may be given over to secular but not unbecoming use.

We further decree that all artefacts and items of artistic, historical or monetary value, currently the stable patrimony of the church of **St Anne** at **Freshfield**, which may not be housed safely by the parish of **Our Lady of Compassion** at **Formby**, in accordance with the prescriptions of canons 121 and 122 of the *Code of Canon Law*, will be retained by the Episcopal Vicar for Finance and his delegates for the purpose of guarding their safety in accordance with the prescriptions of canons 1302 and 1305 of the *Code of Canon Law*. In particular, prior to any proposed alienation of the building, all sacred objects, relics, sacred furnishings, stained-glass windows, movable confessionals, altars, etc. are to be removed for use in other sacred buildings or to be stored in ecclesiastical custody.

Given at Liverpool, this **fourth** day of **October**,
in the year of Our Lord **two thousand and twenty-one**.

Vicar General

Notary



Prot. No. 2021/37