



Mass Timings

St Jerome's
Saturday 6pm

Our Lady of Compassion

Sunday 9am
and 11am
Wednesday 12noon

Following the recent
lockdown, all of the above
masses will recommence at
6pm Saturday 5th December.

Clergy:

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr J M
Walsh

Deacons: Rev(Dcn) Joe
Moreland

Rev(Dcn) John McCarthy

NEWSLETTER – 28th NOVEMBER 2020

Prayers

Please pray for our recently deceased parishioners including; Glyn Williams, Sylvia Lawler, Oscar Airey, Kathleen McDonough.

Please pray for our sick especially those who are suffering either with or because of Covid19. A number of people have asked for our prayers as family, friends and others that they know are very ill as a result.

Please remember to ask the sick persons permission for their name to be put in the newsletter.

Irenaeus:- **A PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS:** A series of Scripture Mornings on Isaiah the Prophet of Hope with Father Chris Thomas on Thursday mornings 3rd & 10th December from 10.30am to 12 noon. (Zoom opens at 10.00am.)

A CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: An evening of readings, reflections and carol singing. Monday 21st December at 7.00pm. (Zoom opens at 6.30pm.)

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady's, St Anne's and St Jerome's,

Further to my weekly letter (on reverse) which you will have just received. I wanted to let you all know that the Archbishop has asked me to read an important statement to you all on his behalf. This is to be read this coming Sunday, 29th November, the First Sunday of Advent at the live streamed Parish Mass from St Jerome's at 11.00am. I will not be communicating bad news!

Once the statement has been read, it will be printed on all our information outlets so that it can be read by all. Please encourage as many parishioners as possible to join in the live stream on our You Tube channel, 'Formby Catholic Community'.

God bless you all,
Father John



The Foodbank are so so grateful for all your wonderful contributions. For Christmas, they want to make up Food Hampers -at least 100 for the families they support.

In addition to your usual donations, they would particularly like ladies and men's gift sets, such as perfumes/soaps, razors/ after shave and Selection boxes for the children. There are plenty of Christmas gifts in shops at the moment. Don't forget Black Friday/ Amazon or eBay.

If you can't get out to shop, cash donations or cheques made out to Compassion Acts are more than acceptable.

Also, donations can be made direct via a one off payment or standing order, authorise your bank to make regular monthly payments to: Compassion Acts (registered charity 1172948) at HSBC Bank, Lord Street, Southport. Sort Code 40-42-30. Account number: 52071665

CAFOD Parish newsletter inserts for World Gifts

World Gifts - CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. New this year you can opt for your card to be sent direct to your recipient with your own message inside. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Fr. John

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady's, St Anne's and St Jerome's,

'Stay awake'...

In a few day's time, the latest national lockdown will end and we will enter, once again, the tiered system of restrictions. But our churches can reopen, so next weekend we can gather together again to celebrate Mass. We also learned that churches can open for Christmas. It will be different, but in the coming days our Pastoral Area will be looking at the best ways to make this happen.

This Sunday we begin the great and beautiful season of Advent. Twenty six days of the most beautiful Scripture readings and prayers. Days full of rich promise and consolation. This is our preparation for the worthy celebration of Christmas and for the moment when the Lord will come again and draw an end to human history.

I believe that in many ways, we have never been better prepared for Advent. Perhaps I should say that we have never needed Advent more. In these next twenty six days, we have an opportunity to gaze into the experiences of these past several months and perhaps see their place in the greater scheme of things, the bigger picture. To see things as God sees them and to be convinced that God uses all things for the good for those who love Him. For a short time, the readings, the prayers, the atmosphere carry us and enlighten us at the same time. Full of promise of a better future, God does not promise His people an immediate release from their sufferings, but an assurance that they are but a preparation to receive from His hand a future 'that no eye has seen, no ear has heard'.

God seems slow to fulfil His promises. We can hear the exasperation in the voice of Isaiah; 'Oh that you would tear open the heavens and come down'. These are words we all understand; why can't God just be done with it all? All this suffering and mess, what's the point? How can a God of love permit all this? These are profoundly human questions. They require a divine answer!

The promises of God might be slow to reach fulfilment. Nature itself teaches us that growth takes time. Our times look for instant solutions and instant gain. But God is not slow to act. He is acting all the time, but out of sight, in the depths of many hearts. It is a very human reaction to want to put everything right, to restore order and balance, to right wrongs and solve problems. We see this most beautifully present in acts of love and service. But here, a dangerous temptation appears. The act of love, of care, of service can quickly put 'me' centre stage. It feels good! But it misses the point.

When we read the Gospels carefully, we notice that when Jesus worked a miracle for the good of others, he often disappeared quietly, went away, or often 'went alone into the hills to pray'. There is one line in the Gospels that describes Jesus perfectly; 'he went about doing good'. I love this line, because it is so simple, and sums up the whole Christian life. Here is the best part; we can all do it!

The pandemic has shaken the tree of the world violently. The leaves of people's health, work, livelihoods, relationships, economies and businesses have fallen to the ground. The tree is looking more bare, perhaps more simple. Here is our opportunity, and Advent is the perfect help; to simplify our faith life, our church life, our prayer life, our life of service. Perhaps a way of describing the life of our community of faith is 'they go about doing good'. But with this caveat; they were able to disappear quickly, as Jesus did. The glory, the credit is with God.

This is where God is acting. With every heart changed, opened, made more generous and loving, the fulfilment of God's promises move nearer. God truly wants to win us all, one heart at a time! That requires a lot of patience!

Yes, God has made a solemn promise. It is for all of us, not just the few. It is for each and every human being, 'and yet Lord, you are our Father'. To hear about a promise is one thing, to make it our own is another. What is the promise? That all will be well, that good will overcome, that the mess will be put right, that we can all be saved from the worst that threatens to overwhelm us. That in the end, we will all find our home together, with God.

This is why Jesus tells us to 'stay awake'. Why? Because the beauty of 'doing good', by drowning evil in a sea of goodness, will always be prone to the temptation of making it about 'us'. We need to 'stay awake' to be vigilant over ourselves. Perhaps we might say that when we plan a good and loving act, we also plan our exit strategy!

As we begin Advent, let us ask for illumination; the gentle light of God to show the way, the kind light of selfless and hidden acts of love, the light of promise that promises a better future for us all!

God bless you all,
Father John