



Our Lady of Compassion Formby

School Lane, Formby, L37 3LW

Served by the churches of Our Lady of Compassion, St. Jerome and St. Anne
Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trustees In. Reg. Charity No. 232709

31st January 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. John M Walsh.
Deacons: Rev. J P Moreland and Rev. J A McCarthy

Mass Times

(There are no public masses at this time)

LIVE STREAMED MASSES ONLY

| Day | Time | Location |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday 31st January 2021 | 10am | St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive |
| Wednesday 3rd February 2021 | 12noon | St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive |
| Tuesday 9th February 2021 | 10am | Requiem Mass Eileen Readman |
| Friday 12th February 2021 | 11am | Requiem Mass for Peter Coyle |

(Please remember COVID rules limit numbers at funeral services, please contact the families do not just turn up as you will not be allowed entry)

Please pray for the lately Dead including; Peter COYLE, Pam DRUMMOND, Dominic TYRER, John TEASDALE, Eileen READMAN and Paul BRYAN and pray for all of their families.

And let us pay for those who are sick including Liz PAGE

Pope Francis :—

The word of God is the antidote to our fear of having to face life. In speaking to us, the Lord reminds us that we are in his heart, that we are precious in his eyes, and that he holds us in the palm of his hand.

The Lord looks for us where we are, he loves us as we are, and he patiently walks by our side. With his word, he wants to change us, to invite us to live fuller lives and to put out into the deep together with him.

PARISH NOTICES

Our Lady of Compassion Prayer Group:- Did you know that our new parish has a prayer group that meets on Friday mornings online over 'Zoom'. If you would like to join the group, please contact Andrea Dell on 07342692957

Foodbank:- Please remember the Foodbank, donations can be left at Alice Joyce's home, 35 Freshfield Road, all donations need to be there before 12:30pm on a Friday.

If any parishioner needs Father John for any reason whatsoever, particularly if someone is **sick or dying** and needs **Sacraments**, please call **07783354250**. If the phone is not answered, please leave a **clear message** indicating your **name, the reason** for your call and a **contact number**. If no message is left, then Father John does not know that you have called. You can also call the **parish office on 01704873230** again leaving name, contact number and reason for call. The answering machine is checked every day. Also, you can use the parish email:- **ourladyofcompassionformby@rcaol.org.uk**

A message from Fr. John

‘ O that today you would listen to his voice; harden not your hearts’

Dear Friends,

These words are taken from the response in the Responsorial Psalm of our Sunday Mass. They are worth reflecting on. The Scripture readings of the last two Sundays have spoken of the call of God. God calls. He waits for a response. He wants our response to be free and generous. Samuel, Simon and Andrew, James and John all heard the call and responded. What about us?

Well, we might begin by asking why God is calling me in the first place. It is easy for us, after many years of going to church to settle into a routine. Everything becomes very familiar after a time and we get used to the liturgy with its readings and prayers. Before we know it, we have become spectators who watch and listen from a distance. This has not been helped by having to participate in live streamed Masses, helpful though they are!

All of this is understandable. But there comes a point when we look for something more; a greater depth, a greater engagement, a greater understanding. I think that this is a moment of calling; a call to enter into the Mass more deeply, to listen more carefully and to watch more intently. What is unfolding during the Mass is our story, the story of each one of us, the gathering up of all our concerns, anxieties and sufferings which are then offered to God.

The pandemic has had a major impact on our church life. We have not been able to attend Mass regularly. We have come to something of a crossroads. It would be tragic if we simply got used to not going to Mass. Instead, now is the moment to ask for a greater appreciation, a greater understanding, a hunger for the Mass, for God’s word and for the Eucharist. I am convinced that God is calling us to meet Him on a deeper level, to learn to listen again and so find peace. Our Mass will return. Will we be ready to enter into it again?

So God is calling us for one simple reason. To make us happy. To draw us into His story and to unite our stories with His. This is what the Scriptures are about. The Mass is the place where God’s story meets our stories and makes profound sense of them. Once we realise this, it is not possible to remain as a spectator at Mass. We begin to understand that we are not being spoken at, we are being spoken to. Each of us. Personally. By name.

So what can we do now? We can begin by being aware of the words at the beginning of this letter; ‘harden not your hearts’. To find that joy, that happiness promised to us, we need to remain open to God. Let us ask Him to open our hearts to Him. To listen to His voice, to learn to be quiet and to trust. God speaks with a whisper, but His words are full of comfort and light. Taking part in the Mass through live streaming is not the same as being in church. But even through a screen, God can work! Ask Him to let the light of His Mass flood through your heart and your home. For only when we learn to be at home with God, united to Him and not spectators, can we truly be at home with ourselves and those around us.

God bless you and your loved ones,
Father John