



## 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

**21st February 2021 - First Sunday of Lent**

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 21st February 2021	10:00am	St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive
Wednesday 24th February 2021	12noon	St Jerome's, Greenloons Drive
Thursday 25th February 2021	11:30am	Requiem Mass for Stephen Pritchard
Friday 26th February 2021	11:00am	Requiem Service for Francis Williams
Tuesday 2nd March 2021	10:30am	Requiem Service for Peter Prince
Monday 8th March 2021	11:00am	Requiem Service for Henry Cassidy

(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)

**The Way Of the Cross:-** Fr. John has recorded the Way of the Cross on our You Tube Channel which can be accessed anytime. (Formby Catholic Community - YouTube)

**Please pray for the lately Dead** including; Stephen PRITCHARD, Francis WILLIAMS, Peter PRINCE, Henry CASSIDY and Al HANLEY and pray for all of their families.

**And let us pray for those who are sick** including Liz PAGE

**Thoughts of Pope Francis:** We are now embarking on our Lenten Journey, which opens with the words of the prophet Joel. They point out the path we are to follow. We hear an invitation that arises from God: "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). Lent is a journey of return to God. Therefore during this season of conversion, let us renew our faith, draw from the "living water" of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ..

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**

## 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

**The Way Of the Cross:-** Fr. John has recorded the Way of the Cross on our You Tube Channel which can be accessed anytime. (Formby Catholic Community - YouTube)

**Gift Aid:-** Due to COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdowns, our inability to process Gift Aid submissions at Parish and Centrally has resulted in the Gift Aid submissions for 2019/2020 and the current period being delayed. We'll keep you up to date on progress over the coming months

**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. Many, many thanks for all your regular donations of food and money to the Foodbank every week. This week, they have a special appeal for Toilet paper, Apple and Orange juices in addition to Cat and Dogfoods and the usual non perishable foods and toiletries

**CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday 26th February**

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him 10 hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

Donate direct to CAFOD online at [Lent Appeal 2021 | CAFOD](#)

You can also donate via text. Text LENT 10 to 70460 to donate £10\*

*\* texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information please see our Privacy Policy: [cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](http://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)*

### **Lent: Shared weekly morning / evening prayer for you to join during Lent**

This is an opportunity to come together by Zoom for shared morning / evening prayer on Thursdays during lent. Prayers will be led by different member churches in CTiFAH. Here are the Zoom joining details which can be circulated on electronic church bulletins:

<https://zoom.us/j/7024105255?pwd=MUdhemllSmxJOGRVTGFJZjRkczl2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 702 410 5255

Passcode: 063518

Date	18.02.21	25.02.21	04.03.21	11.03.21	18.03.21	25.03.21
Time	4.30 pm	9 am	7 pm	9 am	6 pm	9.30 am
Leader/s	St Stephen's  Rev. Jan Ashton	St Peter's  Rev. Anne Taylor	Formby URC  Richard Lathaen	Formby Catholic Community  Dympna and Bruni	Holy Trinity  Rev. Mark Stanford	St Luke's  Rev. Matt Davis

### **Lent courses for you to join**

Several churches are organizing Lent Courses on Zoom to which members of CTiFAH are invited. Here is a summary of what is on offer and more information is attached.

#### **Methodist Church:**

Exploring the themes and theology found in the story 'The Shack' by William P. Young. Five sessions on Monday evenings 7.30 – 9pm, starting 22nd Feb – 29th March (excluding 15th March). Follow the link on the web site to join in: [www.crosbymethodistcircuit.org](http://www.crosbymethodistcircuit.org)

**St Peter's Church:** Preparing for Holy Week through Art. Four sessions on Monday evenings: 22nd

February, 1st March, 8th March and 15th March at 7.30pm. The joining link will be available on the website or by sending an email to Anne at: [revannetaylor@gmail.com](mailto:revannetaylor@gmail.com)

#### **United Reformed Church**

Listen to extracts from The Poet's Gospel (A Gospel in blank verse with rhymed parables). These will begin on Tues 23rd Feb. For more details please email Richard Lathaen: [rlathaen@btinternet.com](mailto:rlathaen@btinternet.com)

**Holy Trinity Church:** 'East of Eden' - exploring the biblical image of the "garden" stretching from Eden to the new "garden-city" of Revelation. As well as drawing on Steinbeck's novel Mark will be dipping into the writings of C.S. Lewis, John Henry Martin and the songbook of Nina Simone. Five sessions on Thursdays at 2pm and repeated on Sundays at 9.45am. These begin on 25th Feb. For joining details contact Mark Stanford: [mark-stanford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mark-stanford@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Fr. John's Letter**

### LENT BEGINS

Dear Friends,

Like every opportunity that is given to us to move forward and to grow, time passes quickly and the opportunity passes. Forty days may sound like a long period of time. But it too passes and before we know it, Easter is upon us.

Have you made any resolutions for Lent this year? Perhaps you have returned to the same resolutions as in previous years, perhaps something new. Maybe you have decided to give up giving things up and taken on something extra instead. Perhaps we are doing nothing specific for Lent this year, maybe a little tired, discouraged or even a little cynical!

It is good to make an effort, to show willing. But if we are trying too hard, then something is not right. Perhaps it is time to pause and reflect. During my homily at Mass on Ash Wednesday, I wanted to impress on us all that God who is love is at the heart, not only of our Lenten journey, but of our Faith and life itself. To believe that we are truly loved and cherished by God can be the hardest thing of all. Yet it is essential to everything we do as Christians.

Could this be the best Lenten resolution of all? The simplest, yet the hardest? To open ourselves to this amazing truth that we are loved and cherished by God! It may sound very unusual, a little too generalised, too little. After all, what benefit will it bring me? Less alcohol, tobacco, sweets will make me healthier. There is a clear benefit. But this sounds a little too vague, a little distant. Therein lies the problem. How quickly we buy into the idea that we have to somehow prove ourselves to God, obtain His favour, catch His attention. The harder the resolution, the greater the benefit. In the end we achieve next to nothing, at least in our relationship with the God who is our Father.

If we want to take Lent seriously, then simple is best. If we really want to move closer to God, or more accurately, allow Him to draw closer to us, then we have to begin by asking what God wants. What pleases Him? The first reading on Ash Wednesday gives us an indication; 'let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn'. In other words, grand gestures and bold resolutions mean little to God if they are empty of love for Him, if they treat Him as an afterthought. It is love that matters.

God takes delight in the simplest act of love. Giving to the poor, welcoming the stranger, denying myself a particular pleasure to help me say 'no' to myself, spending more time in prayer, reading the Scriptures, striving to be more charitable to my neighbour. Whatever I choose to do in these Forty days, if done with love and a real desire to draw closer to God, then we please Him. But let it be simple and straightforward.

Love calls for love. Earlier today I recorded the Way of the Cross at St Jerome's church where our live streaming cameras can pick up each individual Station. It was recorded so that, at any time during this Lenten journey, you can return to it as often as you wish and follow it closely. To reflect often on this last sorrowful journey of Jesus is a powerful help to focus our minds on what it means to be loved by him. Just a small understanding of his sufferings for us is enough to make us realise that when God tells us that He loves us, He really means it!

Another opportunity has been given to each one of us this Lent. Time is passing. Let's keep it simple and get straight down to it. I want to grow, move forward, improve. Why? So that my love becomes more genuine, more sincere, focussed completely on the One who loved us first and who invites us to consider the price of that love; Jesus. May these Forty days be a time of joyful growth for us all.

May God bless you and your loved ones.

Father John