



# Weekly News SHEET

Farewell Fr Bernard | Remedial Work| Fr John's Letter

## Farewell Fr Bernard

Fr Bernard was given a cheque for £2500 as a farewell gift during the 11 o'clock Sunday Mass. Having served the people of Formby for 22 years as Parish Priest of Our Lady's and 12 years as Parish Priest of St Jerome's he is retiring into the Priests' retirement house, next to the church.

## Communication

To communicate with as many Formby Catholics as possible new methods of communications are starting. **The first** is this Weekly News Sheet and **the second** is a new Web Site (<http://www.formbycatholiccommunity.org.uk>) where this News Sheet is available and the photos are easier to see. **Thirdly**, Web Streaming of the Saturday and Sunday Masses is now available on YouTube using the Formby Catholic Community Channel.

## Weekly Giving

St Anne's.	£185.00
St Jerome's.	£264.50
Our Lady's	£586.89

## Mass Timings

### St Jerome's:

Saturday: 6pm

### Our Lady of Compassion

Wednesday: 12 noon

Sunday: 9am and 11 am

## Remedial Work



The recent storms and heavy rain have exposed a number of extreme patches of damp in Our Lady's church. To inspect the affected areas it was necessary to clear rooms/cupboards so that tradesmen could access the damage and recommend how best to rectify it. (A number of very damp and damaged articles were discovered and had to be disposed of) On inspection by the Archdiocesan Surveyors the cause was found to be eroded pointing, faulty roofing tiles, guttering and gutters that have been blocked by tree leaves. Planning is now taking place for a series of works to remedy the faults. At the same time the trees on the estate are being inspected with a view to taking remedial action in the Autumn.

St Anne's and St Jerome's have survived the lockdown period and the storms with no damage. Both churches are inspected daily to ensure that they and the estate remain well maintained.

## FLOWERS

There is a tradition of donating Flower Money to the church for special occasions; such as for remembrance of a loved one, a wedding anniversary, a birthday or other special time. If you would like to donate please place your donation in an envelope with a note of the occasion and our very talented flower teams will use the money to produce a display that reflects your occasion and glorifies God.

## COVID - 19

"As it seems that some kind of lockdown will be with us for quite a while, let us continue to reach out. The wonderful effect of this grace is that helping others is better than being helped oneself." (Archbishop Malcolm)

Justin Welby tweeted: "After contact with Government we hear that there is no change to guidance on places of worship. Worship is the work of God - not a social gathering - and gives the strength to love and serve."

In this time of uncertainty, it is important to think of others before ourselves. The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday has been relaxed and if we can, we should attend Mass on a weekday; leaving the weekend Masses for those who cannot attend during the week. Also, we should attend Mass once a week, leaving room for others to attend. Growing attendance has meant that some parishioners have had to be turned away; this is disturbing for both the parishioners and the volunteers who, by their service, allow our churches to be open.

At present churches remain open with the numbers allowed to attend at agreed levels. The protocol for entry and leaving the church remains the same; please understand that the volunteers have your safety and theirs at the forefront of their efforts. So help them by following instructions. At the end of Mass and after receiving communion please leave the church so that the volunteers can safely prepare the church for the next service.

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

As I write this letter to you, it has just been announced that the number of people allowed to meet indoors is to be reduced from 30 to 6. This represents a dramatic drop. Weddings and funerals are exempted and I presume the celebration of Mass also. However, it is clear that the infection rate and the death rate are climbing again. We are moving towards the winter. I think we all realise that a potentially difficult time lies ahead.

I am apprehensive about what this might mean for public Masses in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we need to look carefully again at the number of people we are permitted to accommodate safely in our churches. This number has been growing recently and some of you have been turned away. This is very difficult and cuts totally against the grain for us. However, safety is paramount, especially in an older community. Therefore we have to be stringent about the numbers we allow into church at any one time. I will keep you all informed of developments as they happen.

In my last letter, I spoke of my intention to improve communication across our Catholic community. Since then, we have been pulling together some new solutions. Here they are;

From this weekend, all Sunday Masses and all Requiem Masses will be live streamed from Our Lady's and St Jerome's. Details of how to access the live streaming will follow this letter.

From this weekend, a new website will be launched for the Formby Catholic community. Presently we have a website for St Jerome's and St Anne's and a website for Our Lady's. When you access these websites, you will be redirected to the new website. Eventually, the old websites will go.

Again, details of how to access the new website is below:  
<https://www.formbycatholiccommunity.org.uk>

From this weekend, we are producing a new printed newsletter. It will look different to previous parish newsletters which published details of meetings and events which are no longer happening. This newsletter will carry simple news items and information. It is primarily intended for those who cannot access the internet. Perhaps you would be good enough to post one through the door of those who need it? The newsletters will be available to you as you leave church.

The Formby Catholic Community Facebook page is also up and running for those of you who use social media. The St Jerome's Facebook page will be taken down soon.

All these initiatives, whilst effective in their own way, cannot replace phone calls and conversations. In large part, we are a well connected community. Perhaps we can consider spreading church news in our conversations. It is a good way of covering all the bases.

Just to say a big 'thank you' to all who have been working behind the scenes to improve our communication outreach. Your efforts are much appreciated by us all.

In the meantime, keep safe and well!

God bless you all,  
 Father John