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## Weekly News Sheet

### Shoe Boxes- Catholic Mission in Formby – Food Bank -Fr John

#### CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES



Due to Covid we have been asked to donate money direct to Shoebox Express. Andrew and Maureen will kindly fill the boxes for us and send them off via International Aid Trust. The Formby Catholic Community Justice and Peace group ask if you wish to send a shoe box the price is £6 (incl. Postage) cash, or cheque payable to

#### **ShoeboxExpress( Formby)**

.Please place cash or cheque in an envelope and put it through Anne Divine's door. 58. Wicks Crescent by MONDAY. OCTOBER 26th

#### Weekly Giving

St Anne's.	£105.00
St Jerome's	£335.00
Our Lady's	£446.40

#### Mass Timings

St Jerome's Saturday 6pm

Our Lady of Compassion

Sunday 9am  
and 11am  
Wednesday 12noon

#### **Clergy:**

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr J M Walsh

Deacons: Rev(Dcn) Joe Moreland

Rev(Dcn) John McCarthy

#### A History of the Catholic Mission in Formby

Following the Reformation, many people in the then remote area of Formby continued to be Catholics under the protection of Catholic landlords. Early records tell us that a Fr Edward Molyneux ( the Molyneux Cross is carved at the front of the Altar in Our Lady's ) in Alt Grange used one of his rooms for saying mass. From 1664 he was travelling to Formby to celebrate Mass in



local houses or in public. In 1778 the local Catholics reclaimed their chapel which had started life in 1686 as a barn and then a cottage; although Mass was not permitted until 1791. The title of the new church was "Our Lady of Compassion" – the name is



intriguing as most old chapels would have called 'St Mary's'. The chapel was opened in 1798 and it was described in 1855 as a chapel, sacristy, house and garden. Fr James Carr came to Formby and in 1862 he set about building the present Church. There have been many changes to the interior of the church over the years with new carvings, new statues and a reordered church. These changes have

been achieved by the drive of the Pastors and the generosity of benefactors. Every Pastor from earliest times has left his mark on the church and it would be wrong to pick any of the recent ones out – they all contributed to the church we see today that is there to Honour and Glorify God. In addition, the hand work of the laity showing creativity, patience and God's gifts, when displayed during the church's sessions, allows parishioners to focus on prayer and adds to the grandeur of the interior.

As reviewed last week St Anne's was the next mission centre in 1886, and the Chapel-Of-Ease was built in 1933 before becoming a parish in its own right in 1951. Like St Anne's, St Jerome's, the final Formby mission was formed, out of Our Lady's. The parishioners of St Anne's and Our Lady's generously funded the buying of the land for St Jerome's. Fr Bullen, the first parish priest who was famed for living in a caravan, on the site, for a number of years while the multi-purpose Parish Hall (1966), which initially was used as a Mass Centre and classrooms, was built. Before this time Mass for the new Parish was said in Our Lady's, in St Joseph's, in St Peter's College and Phoenix House. The school and presbytery were then built and Archbishop Beck opened the Infant's Department of the school in 1970. Finally the church was built at a cost of £86,000 fully fitted. Architects were asked to design a church which would fit in with surrounding buildings, seat approximately 400 people, and lend itself to post Vatican II liturgical practice. Archbishop Worlock solemnly opened the new church on the Feast of St Jerome, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1976.

The Formby Catholic Community has a long and varied history dating back to the Reformation up until today with the Mother Church being Our Lady's. It is strong, prayerful and vibrant.



## Fr John

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

The Food Bank is particularly in need of Confectionery such as children's sweets, crisps, toilet paper and toiletries, especially shampoo, conditioners etc. Items can be dropped in the dedicated box, just inside Patrick and Alice Joyce's front gate, at 35 Freshfield Road anytime before 1.00 pm on Friday, when they will take all donations up to St Peters Church Hall in Birkdale.

## Prayer Group



If anyone has any intentions they would like prayers for, they can use messenger through the Facebook page or leave a message or text on Andrea's phone 07342692957 or email [familydell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:familydell@hotmail.co.uk). These intentions will be included in prayers in a weekly zoom prayer group (zoom details of prayer group can be obtained for Andrea.)



*"Our parishes raised a fantastic £749.70 for CAFOD's coronavirus appeal this Family Fast Day. Our support will ensure our global family can survive, rebuild and heal. Thank you for your generosity and please keep our global family in your prayers at this time."*

The other day I was reading an article entitled 'How to deal with Pandemic fatigue'. Like everyone else, I am tired of the pandemic and the way it has dominated so many conversations and media reports. So I was ready to receive some new wisdom about ways to deal with these Covid days. I need not have bothered! The best advice the author could offer was to be realistic about the fact that it is here and will dominate our lives for at least another year!

There is no shortage of advice about how to cope and manage in these days. Much of it is well intentioned and helpful. But it seems to veer between out and out optimism that everything will be back to normal very soon, or a doomsday scenario! Neither are helpful!

I am reminded of the words of Jesus to his disciples as he was about to leave them; 'I shall not leave you orphans'. It may seem at times that we have been left to survive on a stormy sea, listless and afraid with no help in sight. But the solution, the answer is right there before us. It is not for nothing that the chosen people came to see God as a rock, a steadfast helper, a refuge in time of distress. Time and again, God rescues and saves His people. Just when things seem to be getting worse, God shows His Face and dispels the fear and the darkness.

We are asked in the First Reading at Mass on Sunday to recognise a truth upon which we can depend; 'that all may know from the rising of the sun to its setting, that apart from me, all is nothing'. This is the only wisdom and advice we really need. The world has much to say about how we can cope with these difficult days. But it is time for us to turn to the comfort of God's word and hear it again with open hearts and minds. Our Father God is speaking to us. Let us listen to Him and be reassured that we are loved and will never be abandoned.

In the end, only this one truth will really reassure and comfort us; that God is truly everything. Without Him nothing exists. Even in the worst moments, He is close. Nothing will ever totally overwhelm us. Our refuge is deep in the palm of His Hand.

Please stay safe,

God bless you all!

Fr John