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## Weekly News Sheet

### Maintenance Update - Shoe Boxes- Holy Souls Month – Food Bank - Fr John's Letter

#### LAST CHANCE 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.  | £135.00 |
| St Jerome's | £275.92 |
| Our Lady's  | £434.64 |

#### Mass Timings

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| <u>St Jerome's</u> | Saturday 6pm |
| Requiem Mass       | Friday 11am  |

#### Our Lady of Compassion

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
|              | Sunday 9am       |
|              | and 11am         |
| Requiem Mass | Wednesday 12noon |

#### Clergy:

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr J M Walsh  
Deacons: Rev(Dcn) Joe Moreland  
Rev(Dcn) John McCarthy

#### Estate Maintenance



The month of the Holy Souls means Autumn is upon us. We have a visual image to underpin the month of the Souls as we see the changing of leaf colouring and leaves falling from the trees. We are very fortunate to live in an area surrounded by trees of all different types but with this joy comes responsibility.

There is an abundance of trees at all our churches. The photos opposite are taken from the School Lane side of Our Lady's estate. The first shows trees overhanging the footpath and the dropped leaves falling on the footpath. The same can be seen on the Waitrose side. Leaves on the footpath is a danger to the general public as they can slip on the wet leaves and we can be held responsible and sued.



Opposite is a photo of the trees against the Old Rectory. This is an example of the numerous trees that have grown very close to or against buildings. This has two affects; the first is the transference of damp into the brick work and the second the clogging up of the gutters and drains with leaves. The roofers, who have nearly finished the remedial work at Our Lady's, have spent time clearing the gutters and drainpipes

but the trees are still dropping leaves. Both St Anne's and St Jerome's have had similar actions taken (there is less of a problem on these estates).

The Archdiocese have engaged Arborists to examine the estates and make recommendations. Only Our Lady's requires remedial work and this will start next week. The main aim of the work is to overcome damp getting into the walls' of the buildings and to reduce the likelihood of accidents on the public footpaths.



## Fr John

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

'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind'

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.

How is it possible to command someone to love? Surely love is meant to happen freely and grows from attraction. To command someone to love you is surely missing the point? I think the answer is found in the question put to Jesus by the Pharisees; 'which is the greatest of the commandments?'

Jesus makes clear that the commandments were given to help God's People to understand that God comes first. He is the beginning and final end of everything, and that above all else He is Love. This is His Name. But this love is not given to us to keep for ourselves, to lock away. It is given to us so that we can give it away freely. For that is how we received it. Therefore, 'you must love your neighbour as yourself'.



There is a great difference between love and liking. I may like a particular person who is easy to love. But what about those I don't like? Those different to me, whom I rarely speak to? It's a big ask! How do I even begin with this?

The month of November is traditionally the month of prayer for the Holy Souls. We are asked to remember our loved ones who have gone before us. In particular, we have a tradition of handing in the names of our loved ones who have died, a practice known as the Pious List. The lists are placed at the Altar during the month of November and all are remembered during Mass and other prayers. Please bring your lists to church or send them in to either Our Lady's or St Jerome's. You can also send them in via email – [fcc@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:fcc@rcaol.org.uk) Names will be placed at the Altar of both churches.

We all feel the need to love and be loved. But God shows us that this is just the beginning. He speaks to us from deep within our hearts, inviting us to listen to Him, to spend time with Him and to come to know Him better. It is in this deepening relationship with God that we begin to sense what it feels like to be loved by Him. It is God's love, alive in us and flowing through us, that is to be shared with others. It takes my own poor loving and sweeps it up into something much greater, much more powerful. God does not like us, He loves us! He loves us regardless of what we have or have not done. He asks us to do the same for each other.

May the love of God grow in our hearts and radiate to all those with whom we live, work and come into contact with.

God bless you all,

Father John