**Matteo Zambon**

Your name, age and original home village, town or city (ie the place where you grew up):

**Answer:**

Matteo Zambon, 30. I lived In Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, after immigrating from Italy.

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer:**

The Parish of the Ascension, Torrisholme, with St. Martin of Tours, Westgate.

Tell us about your family:

**Answer:**

I am tolerated by my wife Heather, who has given me two beautiful girls Arabella, and Rosa. We are joined in our journeys by Woof the dog, and Jub-Jub and Merlin the cats.

If applicable, your former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer:**

I was formerly a Corporal in the Royal Military Police, finishing my service on attachment to the Special Investigations Branch.

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?:

**Answer:**

God kept sending me a few not-so-subtle messages that I might be called to ordination. When God starts to talk, I’ve found it’s easier to just give in to the Almighty and trust in Him, no matter our own plans.

What’s been the best thing about your training?:

**Answer:**

Praying with, and learning from the Community of The Resurrection. There are some true spiritual giants hidden away in the Community, and my debt to them for my spiritual formation cannot be put into words.

Can you say what is the most important thing you have learned during your training?:

**Answer:**

The importance for love to build within our communities and brought to God’s children in the wider world. We can only teach God’s love, if we know and understand it intimately.

Reflecting on the difficult past year, please share a few thoughts about how the pandemic has impacted on ministry at this time (you could reflect how people have adapted to the circumstances in different ways as part of this response) …

**Answer:**

Charity must always be at the forefront of our minds when dealing with our brothers and sisters in the world. We all turn into ‘Covid versions of ourselves’, each going through our own trials and losses. In all our dealings with each and every person, we must approach with charity and love.

Meanwhile, what are some of your personal reflections on ministry in the post-pandemic period that lies ahead; the challenges and the opportunities?

**Answer:**

Isolation from our churches has clearly be very painful for those who have been required to shield in order to protect themselves and those who they love.

I look forward to getting stuck into the community welcoming me, and I am also looking forward to exploring how we can welcome our sisters and brothers back into our church buildings, whilst also being keen to bring in those who might not have explored the faith before Covid, but that might now be feeling the call to explore the message of Christ.

Tell us something people don’t know about you that might surprise them?:

**Answer:**

I have a passion for Martial Arts! I represented the Army and Armed Forces Karate Teams at national events, and also competed in the Army Kendo squad, and the 16 Air Assault Thai Boxing Team!

What do you view as your most significant personal achievement, before or during training?

**Answer:**

Convincing my wife to marry me!

Your favourite literary quote (it can be from the Bible or elsewhere) and, briefly, why?:

**Answer:**

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” Mark 12:30

Love, true and Godly love, is at the heart of the Christian life. If we are not living in, and know intimately the love of God, we will never be able to love our neighbours in such a fashion that we are able to bring Christ to those most in need of it.

How do you hope to continue to support the Diocesan Vision 2026 at a parish level?

**Answer:**

By living out a life of service to those who I am to live amongst, and by reaching out into the local communities in new ways, looking to bring new faces to church.

How would you express your own vision for the church?:

**Answer:**

“Pray, hope, and don’t worry!” - St Pio of Pietrelcina.

A church living in prayer and the love of God, which continually hopes!

Finally, when you get the chance, how do you relax?:

**Answer:**

I tend to either train martial arts, paint models or read a book. Of course (as any father will attest) nothing beats sneaking off to the armchair for a cheeky nap!