Alpha	THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA Churches of St Robert Bellarmine and English Martyrs Parish Priest: Canon Mark Madden Tel 0151 922 1352/0151 928 3471 Registered Charity No 1199714 6th April 2025 – 13th April 2025	Omega

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

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Sunday 6 April	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 6 April	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**William Chegwin**
Monday 7 April	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Joan Johnson
Tuesday 8 April	**(St Robert's)**	**10:00 am**	**Doreen and Eddie Hughes**
Tuesday 8 April	(English Martyrs)	10.30 am	Funeral Service - Robert Peter McDermott
Thursday 10 April	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Margaret Cooper
Friday 11 April	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Christopher Duckett**

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (YEAR C)

Sunday 13 April	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	Suzanne and Stephen McQuade
Sunday 13 April	**(St Robert's)**	**11.15 am**	**People of the Parish**

PARISH OFFICES

The Parish Office for St Robert's and St Elizabeth's can be contacted on 0151 922 1352 or by email strobert@rcaol.org.uk - Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9:30am-1:30pm.

The Parish Office for English Martyrs can be contacted on 0151 928 3471 or by email englishmartyrs@rcaol.org.uk - Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 9:30am-2:30pm.

Please pray for the following who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Lately Dead: Thomas Short

Anniversaries:

Please remember the sick and those who care for them:
Hazel Dempster, Rachel Capener, Colin Faulke, Robbie Pennington, Gary Ford, Kathleen Colleran, Rose Westhead, Tony Mitchell, Sheila Thompson, Alan Wain, Dougie Wain, Janet Broomfield, Anthony Ward, Frances Williamson, Harriet Lawler, Paul James, Carol Barnes, Ged Barnes, Ellen Carragher, Ed Schofield, Wendi Warner, John Mitchell, Joe Mitchell, Fr Des Seddon, Ann Marie Hore, June Keir, Michelle Leadbetter, Marie Hughes, Ray Keir.

To be included on the sick list please, write down names and post them in the presbytery letter box, or email the Parish Office – strobert@rcaol.org.uk
Please make the person aware, as they may not want their name published.

THE READINGS FOR TODAYS MASS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 176 OF THE PARISH MASS BOOK

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

As the scribes and Pharisees point out, Jewish law demanded death to a woman caught in adultery. But Roman law forbade Jews from sentencing anyone to death, as we will hear next Sunday (in the Passion). So Jesus is truly in a dilemma, forced to break one law or the other. He succeeds in both thwarting their test and treating the sinner with mercy by refocusing the question of punishment on those who would carry it out: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her". When Pope Francis declared that the death penalty was morally inadmissible in every circumstance, he spoke not only of the fundamental dignity of the human person, but also our belief that even the most heinous sinner can repent and change.

If we put ourselves into the position of one of the people in the crowd, we can appreciate how Jesus' words not only deter us from condemning others, but also force us to look at our own failings. Our failings may not seem as great as those whom we condemn, but they still require God's mercy and forgiveness to restore our relationship with God and with others. One hopes that no one from this crowd, now cognizant of their own sinfulness, are part of the crowd whom we will hear next Sunday calling for the death of Jesus.

In the first reading, Isaiah uses the image of water to describe God's grace. Like water, God's grace is necessary to sustain us. God causes it to flow where it is needed the most, like "water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland". So it is with God's mercy. Just as we plead for and receive mercy from the Lord at the beginning of every Mass ("Lord, have mercy"), we are called to extend that mercy we have received to those in need of our forgiveness and compassion. We honour God when we direct the flow of God's mercy where it is needed the most.

ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, is likely to take place on 25th April.

Despite a disappointing initial vote of 330–275 in favour, there is now a realistic chance the Bill can be defeated. The Independent newspaper reports that 142 MPs who initially backed the Bill could withdraw their support. NOW is the time for Catholics to make their voices heard.

If assisted suicide becomes law in England & Wales:
1. Hospice [and palliative care] provision will be undermined
2. Suicide prevention efforts will be weakened
3. Elderly and disabled people will feel pressure to take their own lives*

In the US state of Oregon, almost half of those who have died by assisted suicide cited fear of being a burden on their families or carers as a reason for choosing to die. Only 1-in-3 people cite fear of pain.

Please take a postcard from the back of church, complete it and send it to Mr. Peter Dowd, MP for Bootle, who voted in favour of the Bill last November.

The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: www.righttolife.org.uk/asvote.

Please also consider signing the Care Not Killing petition. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would make vulnerable people - including the elderly and disabled - feel a burden on family or carers resulting in pressure to end their lives. Please visit: www.carenotkilling.org.uk for the online petition.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

This week, to whom can I extend the mercy that God has extended to me?

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS THIS WEEK

St Robert's - Ann Marie Hore

English Martyrs - Brian Airey

HOLY WEEK 2025

13 April Palm Sunday
9:30 am English Martyrs
11:15 am St Robert Bellarmine
Please note the slightly later time at St Robert Bellarmine.

14 April Holy Monday
10:00 am English Martyrs

15 April Holy Tuesday
10:00 am St Robert Bellarmine

17 April Holy Thursday
7.00 pm English Martyrs Mass of the Lord's Supper
10.00 pm English Martyrs Night Prayer

18 April Good Friday
3.00 pm St Robert Bellarmine The Celebration of the Lord's Passion

19 April Holy Saturday
8.30 pm English Martyrs Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter

20 April Easter Sunday
9.30 am English Martyrs Mass of Easter Day
11:00 am St Robert Bellarmine Mass of Easter Day

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Today, Sunday, at 4.00 pm at English Martyrs
Next Friday at St. Robert Bellarmine after the 10.00 am

A PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

O merciful Father, You have called Your servant Pope Francis to shepherd Your Church with faith and love. In his time of need, we turn to You, the Divine Physician, and humbly ask that You extend Your healing hand upon him.

Grant him strength in body, mind, and spirit, so that he may continue to lead Your people with steadfast devotion. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, we place him under Your loving care, trusting in Your divine will.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.
Amen.