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 30th March 2025 – 6th April 2025	Omega

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

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Sunday 30 March	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	Margaret Willcox
Sunday 30 March	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**People of the Parish**
Monday 31 March	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Hughes Family
Tuesday 1 April	**(St Robert's)**	**10:00 am**	**Maureen Ryan**
Thursday 3 April	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Roy Maloney
Friday 4 April	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Irene Mills**

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

Sunday 6 April	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 6 April	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**William Chegwin**

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: James Digweed, Alan Mercer

Anniversaries: Maureen Ryan

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 168 OF THE PARISH MASS BOOK

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Food is one of the most basic human needs. We would not last long without it. In the desert, lack of it drove some to rage and others to despair. Only after God provided manna were the Chosen People able to complete their journey to the promised land. There, as we hear in the first reading, they can eat of the produce of the land of Canaan. Whether directly or indirectly, God's providence supplies a famished people with food. In sacrificing his body and blood, Jesus provides a spiritually famished people with sustenance.

The prodigal son is starving just the same as the Chosen People in the desert. He is willing to eat as poorly as one of his father's hired workers. Instead, his father spends his own wealth (for he'd already given his son half his legacy) to provide a feast for him, a banquet of reconciliation. The prodigal son sinned in every way possible, spurning his father and living a dissolute life. Yet the father welcomes him back with open arms. We recall this feast as we approach the Eucharistic table as sinners today, which itself foreshadows the banquet of reconciliation we are promised when we at last are united with God.

We can likely relate to each of the characters in this parable in some way. At times we have sheepishly returned to someone we've wronged and asked forgiveness. Other times we've resented that someone unworthy was rewarded and we've refused to be placated. We may also recall celebrating a loved one's apologetic return. Knowing that we have a heavenly Father who does this continually, let us adopt the attitude of the penitent son, who is rewarded with true reconciliation.

NUGENT CARE

Nugent are a not-for-profit organisation based in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, established since 1881. We have a proven history of adapting what we do to meet the needs of the communities we serve. As a leading voice in the care sector, we look to improve health, opportunity, quality of life, and levels of achievement, whilst reducing poverty and increasing safety for all.

We operate across the North West, predominantly in the Liverpool City region, offering a diverse range of support for adults and children. Our children's provisions include residential homes, a secure facility, a step-down home and SEMH School. Our adult's provisions include dispersed homelessness accommodation, floating support provided in the community and supported living provided at home. We also provide adult residential homes including a specialist acquired brain injury, a home for those living with dementia, and a home supporting Mental Health needs. We also offer adoption support services working in partnership with local authorities across the UK.

To reach communities beyond these provisions we have established an initiative called Our Future Now, which actively engages in a range of fundraising and community-based activities. These efforts support wider unmet needs across the Liverpool City Region and beyond.

The annual retiring collection for Nugent Care will take place this weekend. Please give generously.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

No Stations of the Cross today, Sunday.
Next Friday at St. Robert Bellarmine after the 10.00 a.m. Mass.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

We wish all our mum's a very happy and blessed Mother's Day. May the Lord, with the help of his own Mother, bless and protect you.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I be merciful like the father in this parable? What resentments do I need to overcome? Can I be truly forgiving to someone who has hurt me or those I love?

THE SANCTUARY LAMPS THIS WEEK

St Robert's - May, Joe and Kathleen O'Brien

English Martyrs - Margaret and Septimus Murphy

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

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

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

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

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

REST IN PEACE

We were sad to hear of the recent death of Fr Vincent Fedigan. He was ordained to the sacred priesthood 27th May 1972, serving in three parishes as assistant priest including St Robert Bellarmine, (1977-1980) before becoming parish priest in Newton Le Willows. He died on Thursday 13th March.
May he rest in peace.

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.