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 23rd March 2025 – 30th March 2025	Omega

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

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Sunday 23 March	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 23 March	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**Ann and Dave Mardell**
Monday 24 March	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Terry Ryan
Monday 24 March	(English Martyrs)	1.00 pm	Alfred Murray (Funeral Service)
Tuesday 25 March	**(St Robert's)**	**10:00 am**	**Doreen and Eddie Hughes**
Thursday 27 March	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Gray Family
Friday 28 March	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Christopher Duckett**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

Sunday 30 March	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	Margaret Willcox
Sunday 30 March	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 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: Fr Vincent Fedigan

Anniversaries:

Please remember the sick and those who care for them:
Hazel Dempster, Rachel Capener, Alan Mercer, 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 160 OF THE PARISH MASS BOOK

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

The two tragic events that Jesus addresses in the Gospel are quite disturbing. It appears that they were well known, as Jesus seems to be familiar with the first and refers to the second without initially describing it. These mass deaths presumably left a lasting impression, as Luke seems to assume his audience may recall them as well. Jesus uses these horrible tragedies to teach the people who have come to him that it was not the sinfulness of those at Siloam or in Galilee that brought about their deaths. "By no means!" No, it is that because they died suddenly and unexpectedly, they had no chance to repent of their sins. Those who hear Jesus' words (including us today) are given that chance. We have the wonderful opportunity to repent of our sins and return to God with clean hearts.

If it wasn't enough that sometimes Jesus' parables are difficult to interpret, today we hear one that doesn't even have a proper ending. What happened that next year? Did the fig tree bear fruit? Did the owner cut it down? Evidently Jesus' point did not hinge on whether the fig tree eventually blossomed or not. Perhaps Jesus was trying to tell the people that God was always willing to give us another chance, but that we must make the most of it before it's too late. The telling of the parable was occasioned by the shocking sudden death of dozens of souls. They had not had time to repent. Every single person who hears the parable does. Every single person who hears the parable can yet bear fruit.

Fasting, praying, and almsgiving. How are we doing at performing the traditional Lenten disciplines? Have they already begun to bear fruit, to make us aware of our dependence on God, to bring us into conversation with God, to give of our plenty and ourselves to those in need? Or are we the fig tree, needing a final chance from a merciful God? Let us heed the warning implicit in the first part of the Gospel, as well as the warning from Saint Paul, that even those who were baptised and shared in the spiritual food and drink in the desert (akin to the Eucharist) could be struck down by God.

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 next weekend. Please give generously.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Looking at this Jubilee Year of Hope from God's perspective, what can I do during the week ahead to justify God's hope in me?

CATHOLIC PIC

The March edition of the Catholic Pic is now available at the back of church. The main feature this month is Fr Mark's recent meeting in the Holy Land.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Did you know that this candle is one of the most important candles lit in Roman Catholic Churches? The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states: "In accordance with tradition, near the tabernacle a special lamp should be kept alight to indicate and honour the presence of Christ in the tabernacle". It is a sign that the Lord is present in the tabernacle and a reminder of Christ's abiding love for us.

If you would like a dedication for a week, place your £5 and the intention inside an envelope with SANCTUARY LAMP on the envelope and we will publish the intention each week in the parish newsletter.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP FOR THIS WEEK AT ST ROBERT'S IS FOR
ANTHONY AND MARY TERESA HULME
AND AT
ENGLISH MARTYRS FOR
FRANK WILLIAMS

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This popular Lenten devotion will be celebrated at English Martyrs on Sunday at 4.00 pm and next Friday at St. Robert Bellarmine after the 10.00 am Mass.

COFFEE MORNING

Join us after mass at St Robert's on Sunday mornings for a cup of tea, coffee and a biscuit in the George Inch Hall. All are welcome.