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 16th March 2025 – 23rd March 2025	Omega

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

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Sunday 16 March	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	Debbie Rice
Sunday 16 March	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**People of the Parish**
Monday 17 March	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Jan Huntley
Tuesday 18 March	**(St Robert's)**	**10:45 am**	**David Ford (Funeral Mass)**
Thursday 20 March	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	John Sinnott
Friday 21 March	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Hughie and Patsy Kearney**
Saturday 22 March	**(St Robert's)**	**12.00 noon**	**Fr Barry McAllister**

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

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**

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:

Anniversaries: Fr Barry McAllister

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 156 OF THE PARISH MASS BOOK

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Looking at my Lenten journey as an exodus from sin and worldly values, what specifically is holding me captive and preventing a truly new life in the risen Lord?

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

In the person of Jesus, God becomes vulnerable, ultimately sacrificing his life on the cross for our sins. But God also became vulnerable many centuries before, in the presence of Abram. The ritual we hear described in the first reading, featuring two parties walking between the carcasses of animals that were sacrificed, split in half, and placed opposite each other, was often used in ancient cultures from this era to ratify a significant covenant. The tradition symbolised the seriousness of the covenant: if one party broke their promise, they would meet the same fate as these animals. Note that though Abram constructs the passage, he does not walk through it. Only God passes through it. Only God is bound by the covenant. Only by God's grace can Abram and his descendants keep the covenant.

God, appearing as fire, consummates the covenant with Abraham and his descendants. As the new covenant, Jesus sacrifices himself on the cross, making possible a communion between God and humankind. At Pentecost, God will again appear in the form of fire: as the Holy Spirit, descending upon the disciples. Out of love for us, God has continually renewed and expanded this foundational promise.

Luke uses the word exodus to describe what Jesus would accomplish in Jerusalem, recalling the Chosen People's flight from Egypt, for which the book of Exodus is named. As Moses and the Chosen People's exodus from captivity led them to the promised land, Jesus' exodus from his life here on earth led him to life in heaven with his Father. Now we are able to make this exodus as well, in one sense from sin and worldly values, and in another sense when our life here on earth ends. The promise of salvation and new life anchors our ultimate hope in life eternal with the source of all life.

MEMORIAL MASS

The first anniversary of the death of Fr Barry McAllister is on Saturday 22 March. Mass will be celebrated that day at St Robert Bellarmine at midday.

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

There will be a Funeral Service for **Anthony Medlicott** on Monday 17th March at 1:00 pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

There will be a Funeral Mass for **David Ford** on Tuesday 18th March at 10:45 am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May They Rest In Peace

CONFIRMATION 2025

Any young person currently in year 8 or above is welcome to register to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please register at www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk Registration closes on 17 March.

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 JAN HUNTLEY AND AT ENGLISH MARTYRS FOR ANNE WHEATLEY

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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL ROMERO MASS

This year's Mass for St Oscar Romero will be celebrated at St Edmund of Canterbury (62 Oxford Rd, Waterloo, Liverpool, L22 8QF) on Thursday 20 March at 7.00 pm.

All are welcome

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.