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 9th March 2025 – 16th March 2025	Omega

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

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Sunday 9 March	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 9 March	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**Ann French**
Monday 10 March	(English Martyrs)	1.15 pm	Hugh Henderson (Funeral Mass)
Tuesday 11 March	**(St Robert's)**	**NO MASS**	
Thursday 13 March	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Tony Coady
Friday 14 March	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Thomas Callaghan**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR C)

Sunday 16 March	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	Debbie Rice
Sunday 16 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:

Anniversaries: Moira Hanton, John Billington

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 153 OF THE PARISH MASS BOOK

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, what or who sustains me in hope through periods of trial?

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

In the first reading, Moses reminds the people that God rescued them from bondage and led them to a "land flowing with milk and honey". Left unsaid was any reference to their long, difficult journey across the desert before arriving in the promised land. During that time, the people grumbled that they were better off in slavery than starving to death in the desert. They complained against God and Moses and even built a golden calf and worshiped it. Difficult times and trying circumstances tempt us to give up or give in. Jesus is starving, as the Chosen People had centuries earlier, but he gives us a model for resisting temptation, relying on God to carry him through hardship and suffering.

Note that Jesus is not alone in the desert for forty days. He goes there immediately after he is baptised, that is, after he receives the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit accompanies him the entire time, through hunger, hardship, and temptation. We have been baptised, so we too are filled with the Holy Spirit, ready to help us resist temptation, endure hardship, and avoid despair.

The devil's three temptations match up pretty neatly with the three disciplines of Lent that Jesus spoke of in the Gospel that we just heard on Ash Wednesday. When we fast, we are likely to be hungry, to wish we could turn stones to bread, to satisfy our hunger with something fresh and tasty. When we give alms, we give money that we could use ourselves to acquire more than we need, to live like royalty. When we pray, we are reminded that we are the supplicant, the one in need of God's grace and mercy, not the one who can command God to do what we want. May our Lenten practices help put our faith into action while building in us the ability to resist temptation.

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.

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.

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.

MY DAY BY DAY – LENT AND EASTER

We have some new books in our piety stall for daily readings and scripture for Lent and Easter – price is £1.00 each

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. This candle is continuously lit except from Holy Thursday evening - Holy Saturday night. Each candle lasts approximately 7 days before it is renewed. Would you like to dedicate the Sanctuary Lamp to a loved one, living or dead. or for a specific intention? The cost is just £5.

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 THE COMING WEEK IS FOR FATHER BARRY MCALLISTER

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

COFFEE MORNING

After mass at St Robert's on Sunday mornings in the George Inch Hall.
All are welcome to join us