Alpha	THE PARISH OF ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA Churches of St Robert Bellarmine, St Elizabeth of Hungary and Our Lady and the English Martyrs Parish Priest: Fr Faustinus Ugwuanyi/Canon Mark Madden Tel 0151 922 1352/0151 928 3471 Registered Charity No 1199714 4th January 2025 – 12th January 2025	Omega

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (YEAR C)

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (YEAR C)

Saturday 4 January	(St Elizabeth's)	5.00 pm	Fr Barry McAllister (Remembrance)
Sunday 5 January	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**Mike Keelan (Anniversary Remembrance)**
Monday 6 January	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	John Dunn
Tuesday 7 January	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Bill Houlton (Birthday Remembrance)**
Thursday 9 January	(English Martyrs)	10.00 am	Jose Brito-Coll
Friday 10 January	**(St Robert's)**	**10.00 am**	**Larry Riley (Remembrance)**

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

Saturday 11 January	(English Martyrs)	9.30 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 12 January	**(St Robert's)**	**11.00 am**	**Ken Williams (Remembrance)**

THE PARISH OFFICE

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 or at St Robert's presbytery.
The Parish Office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9:30am and 1:30pm.
Any calls or messages outside these times will not be answered immediately, but you will receive a call back as soon as possible.

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

Lately Dead: Gertrude Whitfield

Anniversaries: Mike Keelan

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, Gill Platt, Ann Marie Hore, Michael Coyne, June Keir, Eugene McIntyre

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.

POINTS TO PONDER

Those who are sincere of heart find God in their life. In the case of the Magi, their sincerity is shown by what they are willing to sacrifice to attain their goal. The journey required abandoning the comforts of their homeland, the needs of their family members, and the pursuit of wealth. The intention was pure, not muddled with self-centred wants, for it was nothing less than the desire to encounter God's living presence. Their openness of heart permitted God to speak through many things in their world – from astrology to Herod, from the star to the child in the crib. What will it take for me to find God today? I must put aside all but him and let his hand lead me to that definitive encounter with his divine presence.

No star is offered to Herod or the worldly, only darkness. The worldly may like the idea of God and can be curious about him, but they disregard his call. They rarely leave their palace, sacrifice their time, or place themselves at the service of the divine. The prideful lovers of comfort leave their palaces and then oddly claim God is nowhere to be found in the world. They fear the loss of a comfortable world. I pray that my heart is open to all that the living Gospel requires in my life. May Christ find no obstacle in me; rather, may he find in me the will to leave my palace so that I might find and follow him.

epriest.com

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES FROM JANUARY

With effect from Monday 6 January, there will be weekday masses at;
St Robert Bellarmine's on Tuesday and Friday at **10.00 am**
English Martyrs on Monday and Thursday at **10.00am**

AU REVOIR FATHER FAUSTINUS

As we all know, Fr Faustinus leaves us after our masses this weekend.

To wish him farewell we will be having tea and coffee in St Robert's Parish Centre after the 11.00am mass to give people a chance to say 'au revoir' to him.

All are welcome.

CONFIRMATION 2025

Any young person currently in year 8 is welcome to register to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
Registration will open on 13 January and close on 17 March.

FUNERAL THIS WEEK

There will be a Funeral Service for **Gertrude Whitfield** on Friday 10th January at 1.00pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May She Rest in Peace

APPEAL FROM IRENAEUS

Do you have any complete adult board games, eg chess, scrabble etc that could be used at Irenaeus. Please pass them to Margaret Tippins or take to Irenaeus, Great Georges Road, Waterloo.

Catholic Pic

The December issue of the Catholic Pic is now available at the back of church.

You can view it online at;
https://issuu.com/catholic_pic/docs/catholic_pic_december_2024

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father of goodness and love,
Hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need.
Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence.
Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits.
May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts.
We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed.
Amen

THE WHITECHAPEL CENTRE

We are collecting tea, coffee and biscuits for the Whitechapel Centre again this year. If you are able, please leave your donations at the back of church.

AN INVITE TO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

"A Bishop's task is to preside over a local Church as a visible principle of unity within it and a bond of communion with all the Churches." (69)
"This is why the Assembly desires that the People of God have a greater voice in choosing Bishops." (70)
XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS 2024
The Vatican Synod clearly says that in the appointment of bishops the voice of synodal bodies must be heard. As you know, the process is underway for the appointment of a new Archbishop of Liverpool. You are invited to contribute to this process to have your voice heard. This is an exciting development in the life of the Church! There will be two meetings, held with the blessing of Archbishop Malcolm, on: Thursday 16th January 2025 at St Mary's Leyland, PR25 1PD (7.00pm – 9.30pm) and Saturday 18th Jan 2025 at St Margaret Clitherow Centre, L17 1AA (10.30am - 1.00pm)
Each gathering will be the same – so only come to one of them. There will be two parts to the meeting: Firstly, we will begin by looking at where we are as a diocese and our future development and secondly we will consider the qualities needed in our future Archbishop.

MORE DETAILS AT THE BACK OF CHURCH