Alpha	Parishes of St Robert Bellarmine and St Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Office: 52 Orrell Road Bootle L20 6DZ **Parish Priest: Fr Barry McAllister** **Priest in Residence: Fr Faustinus Ugwuanyi** Tel 0151 922 1352 or 0151 922 3820 Fax 0151 933 7941 Registered Charity No 1199714 **23rd December 2023 – 31st December 2023**	Omega

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

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Saturday 23 December	**(St Elizabeth's)**	**5.00 pm**	**Terry Nordoff (Lately Dead)**
Sunday 24 December	(St Robert's)	11.00 am	Jody Pennington (Anniversary Remembrance)

CHRISTMAS EVE – FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 24 December	**(St Elizabeth's)**	**5.00 pm**	**Harry & Margaret O'Donnell (Anniversary Remembrance)**
Sunday 24 December	(St Robert's)	7.00 pm	Mary Anne and Thomas McNulty

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday 25 December	**(St Elizabeth's)**	**9.30 am**	**James Singleton**
Monday 25 December	(St Robert's)	11.00 am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 26 December	(St Robert's)	**10.00 am**	Doug Faulke (Lately Dead)
Friday 29 December	(St Robert's)	9.00 am	Nora Houlton (Birthday Remembrance)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (YEAR B)

Saturday 30 December	**(St Elizabeth's)**	**5.00 pm**	**Carl Jones (Birthday Remembrance)**
Sunday 31 December	(St Robert's)	11.00 am	Patricia Cherry (Christmas Remembrance)

CONFESSIONS	Confessions on Tuesday at 9.30 am at St Robert Bellarmine's, **OR,** at any other time by appointment – please contact the Parish Office

THE PARISH OFFICE

strobert@rcaol.org.uk or 0151 922 1352

The Parish Office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday between 9:30am and 1:30pm.

The Office will be closed on Tuesday 26 December

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

Lately Dead: Norm Higdon

Anniversaries: Jody Pennington, Harry O'Donnell, Margaret O'Donnell, Geoff Gavan, Len Delamere

Please remember the sick and those who care for them.

Hazel Dempster, Rachel Capener, Ken Williams, 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, Maud Lewis, Harriet Lawler, Roy Maloney, Paul James

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.

SEEING YOURSELF THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL
Luke 1:26-38

1. We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you … a messenger of good news?

2.'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety?

3.Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded?

4.Mary's response serves as a model for us – as one saying 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say: 'Here I am, Lord'?

John Byrne OSA

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_2023

DEANERY NEWS

Following the recent consultation in our parishes by the Deanery Synodal Council we can confirm that the proposed families of parishes has been acknowledged as the right way forward. St Elizabeth's and St Robert's will be in a family with English Martyrs, Our Lady of Walsingham and St Benet's.

St Teresa of Calcutta has been chosen as our Deanery Patron.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle which raised £143.00 for Parish Funds.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

A very Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year to all Parishioners of St Elizabeth's and St Robert Bellarmine's and to any visitors over the holiday season.

Thank you to all those who have helped to prepare both Churches for Christmas.

Also, a very sincere thank you for all your cards, gifts and good wishes from Fr Barry and Fr Faustinus

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

CHANGE IN MASS TIME

Please note that Mass on Tuesday morning (26 December) will be at 10.00am.

PARISH SAFEGUARDING, WHAT IS IT?

Firstly, it is everybody's responsibility! Safeguarding relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults, and to protect them from harm.

www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/safeguarding

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.

During this time while some are unable to receive the Eucharist at Mass, you may like to use a prayer of spiritual communion.

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
And unite myself wholly to You.
I love you, my Jesus:
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES AND MASS OFFERINGS

Many thanks to all those who have been passing their Offertory envelopes to Church, and to those who have set up a standing order or donated online.

The Archdiocese have set up two online ways to enable you to make your donation. I have provided details for both methods on this page. Thank you to those who donate in this way.

Online and Text Giving

Online Giving – Please choose the correct Parish.

The Archdiocesan online giving website can be used for both one-off and regular monthly donations.
To make donations directly to St Robert's, follow the link;

https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-robert-bellarmine-litherland

To donate directly to St Elizabeth's follow the link
https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-elizabeth-litherland

Donations may be made by standing order, as a one-off donation, or as a regular weekly donation. Please don't forget to tick the gift aid box if you are a UK taxpayer as this will boost your donation by 25% at no extra cost to yourself.

Text Giving – Please text the correct Parish

Text giving is also available, and the details below are ready to use for accepting both one-off and regular donations. Four text giving campaigns have been created for each parish. The details of each campaign are given below.

Text ***STROBERT or STELIZABETH*** to 70085 to donate £2. Texts cost £2 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £2 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text ***STROBERTNOINFO or STELIZABETHNOINFO*** to 70085.

Text ***STROBERT or STELIZABETH*** to 70450 to donate £3. Texts cost £3 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £3 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text ***STROBERTNOINFO or STELIZABETHNOINFO*** to 70450.

Text ***STROBERT or STELIZABETH*** to 70460 to donate £5. Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text ***STROBERTNOINFO or STELIZABETHNOINFO*** to 70460.

Text ***STROBERT or STELIZABETH*** to 70470 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text ***STROBERTNOINFO or STELIZABETHNOINFO*** to 70470.