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 **16th December 2023 – 24th December 2023**	Omega

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

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Saturday 16 December	**(St Elizabeth's)**	**5.00 pm**	**John Patrick Sheekey (Christmas Remembrance)**
Sunday 17 December	(St Robert's)	11.00 am	John Rimmer (Remembrance)
Tuesday 19 December	(St Robert's)	9.00 am	Christina Culligan (Birthday Remembrance)
Friday 22 December	(St Robert's)	9.00 am	Brother Dermot (Anniversary Remembrance)

FOURTH SUNDAYOF ADVENT (YEAR B)

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)

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

If you have anything you wish to be added, please post the details though the Presbytery door's marked newsletter or email or phone the Parish Office.
strobert@rcaol.org.uk or 0151 922 1352.
If you know anyone who would like to receive the newsletter by email, please inform the Parish Office.

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:

Anniversaries: Robert Eric Shaw, Jody Pennington

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
John 1:6-8, 19-28

1. 'There is one among you whom you do not know'. We can know *about* Jesus but do we *know* him? What helps you to know Jesus in a way that enables you to follow in his footsteps, trusting God as he did, and seeing other people as he did?

2. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?

3. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?

4. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness? Do these questions have any special relevance to you in the midst of the current situation in our world?

John Byrne OSA

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Our Christmas Mass times will be as follows:

St Elizabeth's

Christmas Eve 5.00 pm

Christmas Day 9.30 am

St Robert Bellarmine's

Christmas Eve 7.00 pm with Carols from 6.30pm

Christmas Day 11.00 am

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

As Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year, next Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent and also Christmas Eve.

Our normal weekend masses will still be celebrated at St Elizabeth's on Saturday at 5.00pm and at St Robert's on Sunday at 11.00am.

We will then celebrate Christmas with our masses as above.

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

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.

The draw has been made and prizes are available to collect at the back of church. Winning numbers are as follows.

1. PINK 1322.
2. GREEN 47
3. PINK 161
4. GREEN 150
5. PINK 38
6. PINK 460
7. PINK 297
8. PINK 205
9. PINK 447
10. PINK 439

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.

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.