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 **9th December 2023 – 17th December 2023**	Omega

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

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Saturday 9 December	**(St Elizabeth's)**	**5.00 pm**	**Maureen McManus (Anniversary Remembrance)**
Sunday 10 December	(St Robert's)	11.00 am	Lucy Chegwin (Anniversary Remembrance)
Tuesday 12 December	(St Robert's)	9.00 am	Michelle Jenkins (Special Intention)
Friday 15 December	(St Robert's)	9.00 am	Roy Boyle (Anniversary Remembrance)

THIRD SUNDAYOF ADVENT (YEAR B)

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)

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: Joan Smith, Rene Carey, Allan Tippins

Anniversaries: Maureen McManus, Lucy Chegwin, Roy Boyle

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
Mark 1:1-8

1.Mark opens his gospel by describing it as 'the good news about Jesus Christ'. Think of the different ways in which the gospel stories have been good news for you.

2.John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?

3.John calls the people to repentance (= a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart

4., and the change revitalised you?

John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?

John Byrne OSA

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

There will be a Funeral Mass for **Catherine (Rene) Carey RIP** on Wednesday 13th December at 10:00 am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

There will be a Funeral Service for **Joan Smith RIP** on Friday 15th December at 11:45 am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May They Rest In Peace

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

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

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are now on sale at the back of Church for St Robert's Christmas Raffle in aid of Parish Funds. The draw will take place on 17 December.

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

COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning will be taking a break over the Christmas period and the last one will be this weekend 10th December.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Do you have any Christmas lights and/or decorations that you can donate to St Elizabeth's for their Christmas tree please. If so, please bring them to Church next weekend or drop off at the Parish Office. Thank you.

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.