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 **18th March 2023 – 26th March 2023**	Omega

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 18 March	**(St Elizabeth's)**	**5.00 pm**	**John Patrick Sheekey (Birthday Remembrance)**
Sunday 19 March	(St Robert's)	11.00 am	Ann French (Anniversary Remembrance)
Tuesday 21 March	(St Robert's)	9.00 am	Betty Nelson (Lately Dead)
Friday 24 March	(St Robert's)	9.00 am	Michael Power (Lately Dead)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 25 March	**(St Elizabeth's)**	**5.00 pm**	**Andrew Nelson (Special intention)**
Sunday 26 March	(St Robert's)	11.00 am	Patricia Martin (Birthday Remembrance)

Our Parishes now have a joint newsletter.
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.

Please note, 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: Billy Wright, Mary McLoughlin, Veronica (Ronni) McGrail, Catherine Sulliman, Marie Burns

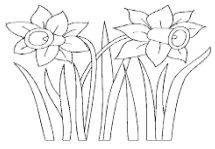
Anniversaries:

Please remember the sick and those who care for them.
Joan Smith, Hazel Dempster, Rachel Capener, Ken Williams, Alan Mercer, Doug Faulke, Colin Faulke, Robbie Pennington, Ann Archer, Gary Ford, Kathleen Colleran, Rose Westhead, John Rimmer, Jo Collins, Tony Mitchell

(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.)

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

We're wishing a Happy and Blessed Mother's Day to all the ladies of our Parishes today and remembering those mum's who are no longer with us.



Seeing Yourself Through the Lens of The Gospel
John 4:5-42

A long story like the one we have today provides many different points of entry for prayer. Read the story and stay with what resonates with you. Some possible points of entry are:

1. The blind man was healed. Can you recall occasions when some blindness of yours was taken away and you could see in a new way? What was that experience like for you?
2. The Pharisees claimed to be the ones who could see, who knew where God was to be found, when in fact they were blind. It was the man born blind who showed himself open to see the hand of God at work in what happened. There can be some of each in us. What has helped you to be open to seeing the hand of God at work in your life? Who have been the Jesus people who have led you to this point?
3. The Pharisees seem to have had a collective blindness that blocked them from seeing what God was doing in Jesus. Perhaps in today's world you can see examples of collective blindness when people want to avoid an awkward truth, e.g. about the damage being done to our planet by human activity.
4. There are many characters in the story: Jesus, the blind beggar, the disciples, the neighbours, the blind man's parents, and the Pharisees. Put yourself in the position of each one and see what you learn from identifying with them.

John Byrne OSA

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

The Funeral Mass for the late **Billy Wright RIP** will take place on Monday 20th March at 12:00 noon at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

The Funeral Service for the late **Catherine Sulliman RIP** will take place on Tuesday 21st March at 12:30pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

The Funeral Service for the late **Mary McLoughlin RIP** will take place on Friday 24th March at 2:00pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

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

Deanery Synodal Council Update (DSC)

Following our Archdiocesan Synod, Archbishop Malcolm invited each deanery to set up a Deanery Synodal Council. This was to "Embed synodality in every aspect of archdiocesan life." In other words, to find, through synodality, a way of listening to God and one another, that will help us to renew the way we work together for the building of God's kingdom.

Our DSC has been meeting now since last June. We have spent a lot of time listening in prayer and sharing with each other the gifts and challenges of our own parish communities. This has helped us to think seriously about our Synod's recommendation that we establish 'Families of Parishes.' Families of Parishes are groups of parishes, generally three to six, sharing resources to advance the mission of the Church.

During the coming weeks our DSC and clergy will spend time thinking about how these families will work in our deanery and what they will look like. These are exciting times when we are being invited to celebrate our catholic life and heritage. Our Families of parishes will help us to serve the needs of the broader community with renewed energy and to play our part, as disciples of the Lord, in our area.

Our DSC representatives are Alison Harley and Chris Jones

Catholic Pic

The March 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_march_2023

Anointing of the Sick:

At the recent meeting of the Deanery priests, it was decided to offer the sacrament of the sick after Friday Mass each week in Lent. This is not for multiple anointings - it is to awaken awareness of this wonderful healing sacrament and to invite anyone who is sick, going into hospital, anxious or mentally frail to come and received Gods help and strength.

Every Friday after morning Mass (about 9.25am).

COFFEE MORNING

Join us after mass at St Robert's on Sunday mornings for a cup of tea, coffee and a biscuit in the George Inch Hall. All are welcome.

EASTER RAFFLE

Raffle tickets for St Robert's Easter Raffle are on sale 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 new online ways to enable you to make your donation. I have provided details for both methods on this page. Thank you to those who continue to 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.