Alpha	Parishes of St Robert Bellarmine and St Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Office: 52 Orrell Road Bootle L20 6DZ **Parish Priest: Fr Barry McAllister** Tel 0151 922 1352 or 0151 922 3820 Fax 0151 933 7941 Registered Charity No 232709 **8th January 2022 – 16th January 2022**	Omega

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

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Saturday 8 January (St Elizabeth's)	**5.00 pm**	**Ben Murtagh (Remembrance)**
Sunday 9 January (St Robert's)	11.00 am	Eugene Callaghan (40th Anniversary Remembrance)
Tuesday 11 January (St Robert's)	9.00 am	Maureen and Tom Ryan (Remembrance)
Friday 14 January (St Robert's)	9.00 am	Billy Mather (Remembrance)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

Saturday 15 January (St Elizabeth's)	**5.00 pm**	**Harry Woodward**
Sunday 16 January (St Robert's)	11.00 am	Anne and Tommy Kelly (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 pray for the following who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Lately Dead: Charles Bell, Laurence Lawler, Margaret McGurk, Anthony Brian McManus, Sarah McCann

Anniversaries:

Please remember the sick and those who care for them. Joan Smith, Hazel Dempster, Dave Dye

(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 3:15-16, 21-22

1. The People were searching and John pointed them in the direction of Jesus. On your life's journey who have been the John the Baptist people for you, people who have pointed you in the right direction?

2. The Baptism of Jesus was a very special moment for him that affirmed him in his identity as Son of God and in his mission. Recall the experience that affirmed you – either in your sense of who you are, or in relation to the direction you were taking in life.

3. The Baptism of Jesus marks a transition point in his life, and the start of his public ministry. Recall the transition points in your own life. Where did you see the grace of God at work in those times?

4. This experience of Jesus occurred when he was at prayer. What part has prayer played in opening you to being aware of God in your life? What part has prayer played in helping you through a transition point in your life?

John Byrne OSA

Points to Ponder

Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practised for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent to our Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 70 A.D., it was common for Jewish people to use a special pool called a Mikveh – literally a 'collection of water' – as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took this bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath, women, monthly. Converts were also expected to take this bath before entering Judaism. The Orthodox Jews still retain the rite. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our life of Faith. In effect, He fused His Divine Essence with the water and the ceremony.

Fr Antony Kadavil

The Lord was Baptised, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism.

St Ambrose (340-397)

FUNERALS

The Requiem Mass for the late **Laurence Lawler RIP** will take place on Wednesday 12th January at 10.45am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

The Funeral Service for the late **Charles Bell RIP** will take place on Tuesday 18th January at 10.30am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May They Rest in Peace

Easing of Restrictions

1. Face coverings will remain mandatory for all those coming to a church service.

2. Social distancing will not be mandatory in our churches.

3. Hand sanitising will remain necessary as people arrive.

4. Holy Communion (in the hand) will be restored to its traditional place. Holy Communion will not be reintroduced under both kinds yet.

5. Singing can be restored, with Hymn books.

6. The collection basket will remain at the back of church.

7. The sign of peace can be restored, but without any touching.

The Whitechapel Centre

Any donations of tea, coffee, soup or biscuits would be gratefully received by The Whitechapel Centre.
Please leave your gift at the back of Church.
Thank you

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL DIRECTORY 2022

The Archdiocesan Directory is available at both churches at a cost of £3.50

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.

The Catholic Pic

The January issue of the Catholic Pic is available at both Churches and contains an article about the Grotto at St Robert Bellarmine's

It is also available online using the following link.

www.issuu.com/merseymirror/docs/catholic_pic_january_2022

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.

A prayer to use during these troubled times.

God Our Father,
each person is precious to You.
You are the Giver of life.
Have mercy on us and protect us at this time,
as the coronavirus threatens health and life.
You are an ever-present Helper in time of trouble.
Watch over those who are suffering,
give strength to those who are aiding the sick
and give courage to all in this time of anxiety.
We ask this of you in the name of your Son.
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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.

Please remember in your prayers all those who have died recently, especially those from St Robert Bellarmine's and St Elizabeth's parishes.

May they rest in peace.

For those who may have lost a friend or relative during this time and are unable to attend a service, please use the resources here issued by the Archdiocese to help you remember them.

https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/pastoral-care-outreach

'A service for those unable to attend a funeral.'