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 **1st January 2022 – 9th January 2022**	Omega

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (YEAR C)

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Saturday 1 January (St Elizabeth's)	**5.00 pm**	**Michael Hogan (Remembrance)**
Sunday 2 January (St Robert's)	11.00 am	Geoff Gavan (Anniversary Remembrance)
Tuesday 4 January (St Robert's)	9.00 am	Gerald Culligan (Birthday Remembrance)
Friday 7 January (St Robert's)	9.00 am	Mike Keelan (Anniversary Remembrance)

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

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)

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

Anniversaries: Eugene Callaghan, Mike Keelan

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 John 1:1-18

1. This prologue to John's Gospel is a piece of poetry. Like all poetry one of the ways to enter into it is to read it a few times slowly and let the words and images speak to you.

2. The prologue proclaims Jesus as the true light come into the world. How has Jesus, and the message of Jesus, been a light for you in your life?

3. The prologue also affirms the transforming power of faith: 'to all who received him …. he gave power to become children of God'. How would you describe the difference it makes to you to have faith as part of your life?

4. In Jesus we get a glimpse of God and of the love of God. But as 'Jesus people' in the world today we are also called to be witnesses to the light. Who has been a witness to you? To whom have you been a witness?

John Byrne OSA

Points to Ponder

William Barclay wrote that there are three ways to make the New Year meaningful; a) something to dream, b) something to do, and c) someone to love. 'I have a dream' said Martin Luther King.

We should all have a noble plan of action (dream a noble dream), for every day in the New Year. We need to remember the proverb: 'Cherish your yesterdays, dream your tomorrows, but live your today.' It has been truly said that an idle mind is the devil's workshop. We must not be barren fig trees, nor barren branches in God's vineyard. We must always be engaged, doing good for others and loving the men and women we encounter in daily life, for they are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This becomes easier when we make God the centre of our life and realise His presence in all the people around us. Let us light a candle instead of blaming the darkness around us. Just as the moon borrows the sun's light to illuminate the earth, we must radiate the Light of God shining within us.

Let's pray the prayer of Dag Hammarskjold: 'Lord, for all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!'

Fr Antony Kadavil

THANK YOU

Fr Barry and Fr Faustinus would like to thank everyone for their Christmas wishes, cards and gifts.

Thank you also to all those who have worked hard over this last year to keep both Churches looking beautiful inside and out, to those who got ready the flowers and cribs for Christmas, and to our readers, singers, organists and volunteers.

Best wishes to you all for a safe and healthy 2022.

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

CALENDARS

There are a few Calendars still available for sale at St Robert Bellarmine's.

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.'