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 **18th December 2021 – 26th December 2021**	Omega

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

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St Elizabeth's	**Saturday 18 December**	**5.00 pm**	**Mary Turner (Remembrance)**
St Robert's	**Sunday 19 December**	**11.00 am**	**Tommy Kelly (Birthday Remembrance**
Tuesday 21 December (St Robert's)		9.00 am	Roy Boyle (Anniversary Remembrance)
Friday 24 December (St Robert's)		9.00 am	Delia Garde (Remembrance)

FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

Friday 24 December (St Elizabeth's)	5.00pm	Sheekey Family (Christmas Remembrance)
Friday 24 December (St Robert's)	Carols from 4.30pm followed by the First Mass of Christmas	
	5.00pm	John and Violet Kelly (Remembrance)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday 25 December (St Elizabeth's)	**9.30am**	**Clive Robson (Christmas Remembrance)**
Saturday 25 December (St Robert's)	11.00am	Jody Pennington (Anniversary Remembrance)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (YEAR C)

Sunday 26 December (St Elizabeth's)	**9.30 am**	**Parishioners Intentions**
Sunday 26 December (St Robert's)	11.00 am	Eugene and Eileen Callaghan (Christmas 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: Ann Marie Burgess, Joan Dunn

Anniversaries: Jody Pennington, Eugene Callaghan, Roy Boyle

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 1:39-44

1. The greeting of Elizabeth to Mary 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb' is a joyful welcome of the child to come. Bringing new life into the world through pregnancy and birth is one of the most awesome human experiences. How have you experienced this for yourself or in someone close to you?

2. The image of the pregnant Mary going a distance to visit her cousin is a symbol of her willingness to look beyond her own needs to the needs of another. When have you witnessed that kind of generosity in others, or have been able to act in this way yourself?

3. Mary is praised for her faith, because she believed the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled. In what ways have you experienced blessings from your faith and trust in God's promises? What are God's promises that mean the most to you?

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Fr Barry and Fr Faustinus would like to wish a very Happy and Blessed Christmas to all Parishioners of St Elizabeth's and St Robert Bellarmine's.

Many thanks to all those who have worked hard over this last year to keep both Churches looking beautiful inside and out, and to all those who have got ready the flowers and cribs for Christmas.

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.

Christmas Mass Times

St Elizabeth's;

Friday Christmas Eve – First Mass of Christmas 5.00 pm

Saturday Christmas Day – 9.30 am

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family – 9.30 am

There will be no evening mass at St Elizabeth's on Christmas Day

St Robert Bellarmine's;

Friday Christmas Eve – Carols from 4.30pm
First Mass of Christmas 5.00 pm

Saturday Christmas Day – 11.00 am

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family – 11.00 am

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from 11.30am on Friday 24 December until Wednesday 27 December at 9.30am

Irenaeus Scripture Evening

'A Child Is Born'

Reflections on Matthew and Luke's Infancy Narratives Zoom Scripture Evenings led by Fr Chris Thomas on Tuesday 21st December from 7.00pm until 8.30pm.

To receive the link please email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

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.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to all those who supported the Christmas Raffle. You will find a list of winners 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.

The Catholic Pic

The November issue of the Catholic Pic is available online using the following link.

www.issuu.com/merseymirror/docs/catholic_pic_november_2021

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.'