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 **11th December 2021 – 19th December 2021**	Omega

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

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St Elizabeth's	**Saturday 11 December**	**5.00 pm**	**Eileen Wright (Lately Dead)**
St Robert Bellarmine's	**Sunday 12 December**	**11.00 am**	**Winrow and Faulke Family**
St Robert Bellarmine's	Tuesday 14 December	9.00 am	Eileen Callaghan (Anniversary Remembrance)
St Robert Bellarmine's	Friday 17 December	9.00 am	Christina Culligan (Birthday Remembrance)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

St Elizabeth's	**Saturday 18 December**	**5.00 pm**	**Mary Turner (Remembrance)**
St Robert Bellarmine's	**Sunday 19 December**	**11.00 am**	**Tommy Kelly (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 pray for the following who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Lately Dead: John Smith, Paul Monaghan, Edward Newhall, Joan Eagleton, Hannah Davies

Anniversaries: Eileen Callaghan

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

(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 3:10-18

1. 'What should we do?' The common thread in John's answers was to encourage his questioners to be other-centred rather than self-centred, each in the context of their own circumstances. In your experience what difference has it made for you when you changed your attitude in this way?

2. John told the people in a direct and honest way what they should do. Perhaps you have had friends who did not beat about the bush but have told you honestly what they thought about your behaviour when you asked them? In gratitude recall such friends.

3. The humility of John comes out in this passage, happy to acknowledge that he only had a minor role to play in relation to the Messiah. At the same time, he was enthused by his mission to 'proclaim the good news to the people'. What difference has it made for you when you were able to see the good in yourself, and use your gifts without having to score by portraying yourself as greater than someone else?

Funerals This Week

The Requiem Mass for the late **John Smith RIP** will take place on Tuesday 14th December at 12.00noon at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

The Requiem Mass for the late **Edward Newhall RIP** will take place on Wednesday 15th December at 11.45am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May They Rest In Peace

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS

There is a selection of Christmas Cards and Calendars on 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

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

Irenaeus at Christmas

Scripture Evenings 'A Child Is Born'

Reflections on Matthew and Luke's Infancy Narratives Zoom Scripture Evenings led by Fr Chris Thomas on Tuesday 14th and Tuesday 21st December from 7.00pm until 8.30pm.

Online Carol Service - A Light Shines Out In The Darkness

There will be an online Carol Service on Thursday 16th December from 7.00pm until 8.30pm

To receive the link for the Scripture Evenings and/or the Carol Service 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

St Robert Bellarmine's will be holding a Christmas Raffle in aid of Parish Funds.

Tickets are now on sale.

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.'