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 **4th December 2021 – 12th December 2021**	Omega

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

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St Elizabeth's	**Saturday 4 December**	**5.00 pm**	**Esther Kelly (Remembrance)**
St Robert Bellarmine's	**Sunday 5 December**	**11.00 am**	**Williams and French Family**
St Robert Bellarmine's	Tuesday 7 December	9.00 am	Nicholas Jackson and Family
St Robert Bellarmine's	Friday 10 December	9.00 am	Billy Mather (Remembrance)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

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**

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: Mark Brady, Patricia Disley, Eileen Potter Baines Connell, John Smith, Paul Monaghan, Edward Newhall

Anniversaries: Margaret Mary Shaw

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 3:1-6

1. The manner in which Luke identifies in detail the time when John the Baptist started his preaching shows that Luke regarded this as a historic moment. Perhaps you can recall in detail the time and the circumstances of particularly significant moments in your life?

2. John called people to give expression to their desire for a change of heart by a symbolic baptism in the Jordan. When have you found it helpful to symbolise your desire to change for the better by some symbolic gesture, e.g., burning a packet of cigarettes, sending a card, making a phone call, etc.?

3. 'A voice crying in the wilderness' is sometimes taken to refer to a voice that is ignored. Pope Francis has issued a call to all of us to take part in the consultation process preparing for the Synod in 2023. What can you, and your faith community, do to make sure his call is answered?

Funerals This Week

The Requiem Mass for the late **Mark Brady RIP** will take place on Monday 6th December at 12.00noon at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

The Funeral Service for the late **Patricia Disley RIP** will take place on Thursday 9th December at 12.30pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

The Funeral Service for the late **Eileen Potter Baines Connell RIP** will take place on Friday 10th December at 10.15am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May They Rest In Peace

Charity Bingo

There will be a Charity Bingo at St Elizabeth's Club on Thursday 9th December, eyes down at 8.00pm Admission is by ticket only, priced at £10.00 which includes Bingo and Raffle tickets. Contact Anne-Marie on 07833 226501 for more details and tickets.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS

There is a selection of Christmas Cards and Calendars on sale at St Robert Bellarmine's.

The Pastoral Plan

Last weekend saw the launch of the pastoral plan. As the Archbishop has said: "This is to chart the way forward for the archdiocese in the years to come." The Plan is available online at https://liverpoolpastoralplan.org.uk/or you can arrange to purchase it from Pauline Books and Media, 84 Church Street, Liverpool at a cost of £2 per copy.

To find out more, you are welcome to any of these open meetings:

Tuesday 7th Dec 7.00pm – 8.30pm in Holy Rosary Church, Aintree

Thursday 9th Dec 7.00pm – 8.30pm on Zoom. The link is: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?pwd=SVd5cFhtQ0dwUFJzQjhLSlQ5VjJJQT09 . Meeting ID: 864 2151 2557 Passcode: 132667

Christmas Mass Times

We hope to be able to confirm Christmas Mass times for both Parishes on the newsletter next weekend. At the moment, places will not have to be booked, but current guidelines from the Archdiocese remain in place.
If you have any questions or comments please contact the Parish Office before Thursday 9 December.

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.'