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 **27th November 2021 – 5th December 2021**	Omega

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

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St Elizabeth's	**Saturday 27 November**	**5.00 pm**	**Kathleen Fearn (Remembrance) and Sandra Doyle (3rd Anniversary Remembrance)**
St Robert Bellarmine's	**Sunday 28 November**	**11.00 am**	**April O'Hara-Boyd (Remembrance)**
St Robert Bellarmine's	Tuesday 30 November	9.00 am	Ruth Richardson (Special Intention)/Pious List
St Robert Bellarmine's	Friday 3 December	9.00 am	Clarice Clarke (Birthday Remembrance)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

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**

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: Mary Jones, Mark Brady, Patricia Disley, Tommy Moss, Jenny Meehan. Eileen Connell

Anniversaries: Sandra Doyle

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 21:25-28, 34-36

1. We live in a time when we are told that disaster lies ahead for us and for our planet if we do not change our ways. But perhaps this new awareness can be a prelude to us changing our ways? The gospel was written to give hope to Christians in danger. What gives you hope amid the dangers facing our world today?

2. Our church community is also in crisis. The numbers of people attending church services have dropped. We have fewer clergy and religious. Scandals have rocked the church community. What helps you to keep faith in such circumstances?

3. This passage can be taken as a metaphor for personal experiences when it seemed that your world was collapsing around you: plans thwarted, deep disappointment, something out of your control altering the course of your life, etc.? When have such experiences been a prelude to something new? Allow the dramatic language of the passage remind you of this experience, making sure that you recognise the double movement of collapse and liberation.

4. Jesus himself is the model in this gospel story as he taught his disciples the spirituality of 'waiting in joyful hope'. What difference has watchfulness (in the sense of being watchful in prayer) and hope made to you in facing difficult situations?

5. Advent is a time that calls us to be alert to the signs of the hidden presence of God in our world. What reminds you of this presence of God? Have there been occasions when something woke you up in an unexpected way to the presence of God in the world, e.g., through love, beauty, nature, etc.?

Funeral Mass

The Requiem Mass for the late **Mary Ellen Jones RIP** will take place on Thursday 2nd December at 2.00pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May She 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

On this 1st weekend of Advent, the beginning of a new Church year, we are delighted to be able to receive 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 will be 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.

There is a summary document for you at Mass this weekend and a postcard for you to take home containing some of the key words from the plan and details of how to access the pastoral plan online.

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

Saturday 4th Dec 11.00am – 12.30pm in St Mary's Church, Leyland

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

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.
Amen

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.'