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 8th May 2021 – 16th May 2021	Omega

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)

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St Elizabeth's	**Saturday 8 May**	**5.00pm**	**Grams Family (Remembrance)**
St Robert Bellarmine's	**Sunday 9 May**	**11.00 am**	**Kathleen Howard (Remembrance)**

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

St Elizabeth's	**Saturday 15 May**	**5.00 pm**
St Robert Bellarmine's	**Sunday 16 May**	**11.00 am**

All Covid restrictions remain in place.

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: Barbara Johnson, Tommy O'Toole

Anniversaries: Mary Murray, John Dolan (Snr)

Please remember the sick and those who care for them.

(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 15:9-17

1. A commandment of love is something of a contradiction in terms. Love is a free choice. That is what gives the thrill to the experience of being loved. Recall times when you received gestures of love from another – a spontaneous embrace from a husband or wife; a wave from a friend; words of comfort and affirmation – not because the other person felt obliged to reach out to you but because they wanted to let you know that you were loved. What effect did that have on you? Perhaps you have had a glimpse of the truth of what Jesus said, that it is in loving that our joy is complete.

2. Often love and friendship make demands on us. Parents give freely of their times and energy to the care of their children but sometimes it requires a lot of effort. Also, in responding to the needs of friends or spouses we can be challenged to 'lay down' our own 'lives' at least for a time. Can you recall a time when putting yourself out for others bore fruit for them and for you?

3. 'I chose you'. Have you had the experience of being 'chosen' by someone? What was it like for you to be chosen? What is it like for you to consider yourself as one chosen by Jesus? That is what we are – chosen by Jesus to bear fruit through our love.

John Byrne OSA

SYNOD 2020

Here are the next two recommendations.

Please let us know how important each one is to you on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being a high priority that should be enacted soon and 4 being not the right way forward for the Archdiocese.

Recommendation 5. Ecumenism

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a commitment for parishes and schools to develop education about ecumenism which would lead to concrete actions with ecumenical partners.

Recommendation 6. Young People and Young Adults

We, the people of the Archdiocese, recommend that the pastoral plan include a plan to assist parishes in understanding, meeting, forming and welcoming young people and young adults, and developing locally employed and volunteer youth ministers to work with young people and young adults.

Please speak to your Synod members or send your response to the Parish Office at St Robert's. Thank you.

Something to think about

'Love? Above all things I believe in love. Love is like oxygen. Love is a many-splendoured thing. Love lifts us up where we belong. All you need is love.' In an attempt to express the depth of his love, the character Christian from the film *Moulin Rouge* pulls together the lyrics of some of the most famous love songs of recent decades. Since time began, poetry, prose, and song have attempted to put into words the great mystery that is love. 'At the touch of love, everyone becomes a poet,' the philosopher Plato put it.

Today's Gospel offers one of the most eloquent passages on love in the Gospels. It reveals the vision of Jesus for his followers and explains how we should treat one another. We are to love each other with the same love Jesus showed during his time on earth, that great and generous love that culminated in his 'laying down his life for his friends'. It is in the way we love one another, the way we understand and forgive and support one another, that we experience the life and love of Jesus.

There are more than 20 references to love in today's readings. In the second reading we hear that 'everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God'. That love that God showed by sending his son for us, is the same generous, wholehearted, self-sacrificing love we are called to show others – all others. God does not have favourites.

Triona Doherty

IRENAEUS

Reflections on the Book of Job.
Thursday13th May from 10.30am until 12.00noon (via Zoom)

Reflections on the Acts of the Apostles and prayers for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
17th – 21st May from 7.00pm until 8.30pm.
(via Zoom)

Email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk to book your place.

During this time while we 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

SRB 300 Club

The 300 Club draws which should have taken place during 2020 will now take place shortly.

Apologies

The Catholic Pic

The May issue of the Catholic Pic is available at the back of Church or online using the following link.

www.issuu.com/merseymirror/docs/catholic_pic_may_2021

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'.

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.

Echoes of Isaiah

On Mondays at 7.00pm - reflecting on elements of Isaiah chapter 43 via Zoom using clips from 'The Chosen'

Register your interest at
www.thegodwhospeaks2020.org.uk

Facilitated by Pastoral Associates
Jo Wallace and Helen Jones

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. Please contact Christine for the bank account details if you still wish to do this.

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 have donated in this way.

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 contact Christine at the Parish Office if you have any problems and she will either help or provide you with a contact at the Archdiocese.

Many thanks