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 **20th March 2021 – 28th March 2021**	Omega

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR B)

Although many Churches are now beginning to reopen, both of our churches will remain closed, but this continues to be reviewed.
Therefore, there will be no celebrations of mass in either of our Churches until further notice.
We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

There continues to be masses being streamed on the Internet from around the Archdiocese and if anyone needs any help in locating once, please let us know.

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 Billington

Anniversaries: Gerry Morgan

Please remember the sick and those who care for them. Hilary Smith

(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.)

Reflecting on the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Once again, the Archdiocese have put together a resource for this Sunday which you may find useful if you're unable to watch a Mass being live-streamed. Please use the following link to the Archdiocese resources https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/sunday-reflections

Seeing Yourself Through the Lens of the Gospel
John 12:20-30

1. The parable of the grain of wheat reminds us of a truth that any parent can testify to, namely that it is in dying to ourselves that we can give life to others. We will never be of benefit to others if we remain wrapped up in ourselves. In what ways has your dying to yourself brought life to another? How has the generous giving of another brought life to you?

2. Sometimes our emotions rebel at the thought of what lies ahead and we feel like praying Father, save me from this hour. Then a realisation may come for you as a parent, a teacher, a spouse, a friend: No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Recall times when you have accepted pain or hassle and been a source of life to others for doing do.

3. The story presents the death of Jesus as the moment of his glorification by God. We are also glorified when the grace of God enables us to give generously of ourselves. When have you experienced this in yourself or in another?

4. This voice has come for your sake and not for mine. The angel spoke that we might recognise the love being shown us by Jesus. Sometimes it requires the voice of another to draw our attention to love that is being offered to us. When was this your experience?

John Byrne OSA



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Tuesday 23rd March is the anniversary of the first national lockdown and the day has been designated as a National Day of Reflection.

As well as a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8.00pm we are asked to make this a Day of Prayer. In reflection we ponder on all that has taken place; in prayer we bring this to our Heavenly Father. For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand. Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens our life to its true horizon. Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. So, let us make the 23rd March truly a day of prayer.

May Tuesday 23rd March be a great day of prayer that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God's Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come.

Something to Think About

Those poor Greeks. Did you notice that they never actually get to meet Jesus? At the start of today's gospel, some Greeks who are followers of Jesus come to Jerusalem. They are travellers, outsiders, and would like to meet Jesus in person. But when Philip and Andrew relay the request, Jesus begins to talk about how his 'hour' is coming. It is the last we hear of the Greeks, who disappear from the story altogether.

But they are important nonetheless. Firstly, they indicate that word about Jesus is spreading. More importantly, they prompt Jesus to reveal that, when his hour comes, he will draw 'all people' to himself. In the space of a few short verses, we go from a brief mention of a group of foreigners seeking Jesus, to Jesus making it clear that his saving mission is for all people, of all nations, both Jews and Gentiles – including these Greeks! There is no suggestion from Jesus that some groups are 'in' and others 'out'. All are included. All are invited. All are welcome.

I remember once hearing someone describe their home as a domestic church, a place of 'indiscriminate welcome'. As we continue our journey through Lent and soon into Holy Week, we listen carefully to these words of Jesus. He came for everyone. He wishes to draw all people to himself. Notwithstanding the current restrictions on gatherings and public worship, let us take this time to reflect on the world we would like to build when things open up again. Are we open to everyone, including 'outsiders'? Do our homes, parishes and communities radiate welcome, where all who enter experience God's love?

Triona Doherty

'For some, the good news is that there are insiders and outsiders and they are the insiders. For others, the good news is that there are no outsiders.'

Rachel Held Evans

SYNOD 2020

Last week, the Synod members met via Zoom to receive the recommendations from the Synod proposals.

Our members now have until 19th June to discern these recommendations before voting on them.

The recommendations are available on the Synod website for anyone to view and reflect on and your members will, restrictions permitting, be arranging some discussion groups to assist in their discerning.

SRB 300 Club

The 300 Club draws which should have taken place during 2020 will now take place when our Church reopens after this current period of lockdown.

Apologies

'Come back to me'.

Reflections on the Book of Hosea, Scripture Mornings from Irenaeus, will take place on Zoom on Wednesdays 24th and 31st March at 7.00pm.

To book a place and receive the link, please contact Jenny on jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

The event is free but donations would be appreciated.

The Catholic Pic

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

www.issuu.com/merseymirror/docs/catholic_pic_march_2021

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.

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



Don't forget to light your 'Candle of Hope' on Sunday evening at 7.00pm.

Download the poster at www.cte.org.uk/prayersofhope

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

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.

CENSUS 2021

Despite the backdrop of a pandemic, lockdowns, home schooling, furloughs and post Brexit planning - the decennial Census is still on schedule to take place on 21st March this year.

Completing the Census is critical as the data is used to plan services such as community organisations, doctors' surgeries, hospitals, schools, faith, community and cultural groups and transport routes. The information is also used by charities for funding purposes.

The Census has been carried out every decade since 1908, with the exception of 1941. It will be the first done predominantly online, with households receiving a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. Paper copies are available for those who require them. Once the relevant information is passed on for planning and projects, it is then locked away untouched for 100 years. Confidentiality, safety and the security of this information is critical.

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