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 6th March 2021 – 14th March 2021	Omega

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR B)

Following advice and guidance from the Archdiocese both of our churches will remain closed at the moment, but this remains under review.
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: Katie Holmes, Winnie Smith

Anniversaries: Moira Hanton

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 Third 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 2:13-25

1. In the Old Testament the privileged place of God's presence was the Temple in Jerusalem. In the New Covenant, this was replaced by the person of Jesus. This is the symbolism of the action of Jesus in the Temple. Recall how Jesus has helped your relationship with God and give thanks for this.

2. But we are the Body of Christ. When have you been particularly aware of the sacredness of people (yourself or others)?

3. There are many ways in which people, the temples of God, are being profaned today. Where are you aware of the sacredness of the human person being violated? Who are the people seeking to cleanse the temple, by promoting respect for the dignity of every human person? Perhaps in ways you have done this.

4. We may also think of institutions as in some way temples of God's presence. In this time when aspects of our institutions are crumbling we can perhaps identify with the Jews who were horrified at the suggestion that the Temple would be destroyed. What is it like for you living in a time when some of the things you have taken for granted are collapsing? Where do you find hope in such circumstances?

John Byrne OSA

Funerals this week

The funeral service for the late **Katie Holmes RIP** will take place on Friday 12th March at 1.00pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May She Rest in Peace

Under current restrictions there is only 30 people allowed in Church for a Funeral.
Please respect this.

Could you be a Deacon?

There is to be two online information evenings for enquirers about the diaconate on Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th March between 7.30pm and 9.00pm.

If you would like to hear more about this and feel it may be your calling, please join Archbishop Malcolm and the diaconate team in one of the two meetings.

To receive the Zoom link, please email diaconate@rcaol.org.uk

Something to Think About

It is tough at times to figure out who has authority on certain issues. There are 'experts' everywhere, telling us how we should eat, exercise, manage our finances… the list goes on. Something that has struck me during the current pandemic is how hard it can be to know who to believe. We hear from doctors and virologists, politicians and economists, and their opinions don't always align. It can take us a while to trust the voices we hear in the media.

The Temple scene in today's gospel sparks a debate about Jesus' authority. While he certainly cuts an authoritative figure as he drives out the stall holders and money changers, he is immediately questioned. The Jews demand a sign to explain his provocative words and actions, as if to say 'Who do you think you are?' It is interesting to note that in John's Gospel, this scene takes place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry (unlike the Synoptic Gospels where it comes towards the end). This would explain the disbelief of the witnesses.

In calling the Temple 'my Father's house' Jesus identifies the source of his authority. But his interrogators do not understand, nor do his disciples, though we are told it later makes sense to them after the resurrection. This scene offers more than an angry Jesus and a clueless audience. It is a public revelation of Jesus' identity and authority, as the one in whom God's presence dwells. It also emphasises the radical new way of living that Jesus has come to bring about. As we journey through Lent, we ask ourselves where the message of Jesus has become obstructed in our lives, and how we might open our hearts again to his presence and guidance.

Triona Doherty

'I invite all Christians, everywhere, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them… The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms.'

(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium)



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 10th, 17th, 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.



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

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

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

Echoes of God

A seven week look at Old and New Testament Scripture on Mondays between 7.00pm-8.00pm on Zoom continues on 8th March 2021. Using David McLoughlin's scripture sessions that start with Exodus and end with St Paul's Letters, an opportunity to read, reflect and share facilitated by Pastoral Associates. Registration and materials (free) at www.thegodwhospeaks2020.org.uk

Please follow the link to register and to explore the materials.

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