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 February 2021 – 7th March 2021**	Omega

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (YEAR B)

Following advice and guidance from the Archdiocese and with the continuing rise in infections, 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: Catherine Booth, Katie Holmes, Fr Peter Fox

Anniversaries:

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 Second 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
Mark 9:2-10

1. Some special spiritual experiences are well nigh impossible to describe in words. The Transfiguration was one of these. Jesus had a new and deeper insight into his relationship with his heavenly Father, one that would sustain him through what lay ahead of him. Have you had WOW moments that you found hard to describe to others? How have these sustained you in difficult times?

2. It can be both scary and wonderful to witness transformation in another, especially a person who is close. At times parents get a taste of this when a child's talent blossoms and is recognised by the child. We may also experience it when a dear friend recognises s/he is in a blind alley and gives up an addiction.

3. 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him.' Peter, James and John were particularly close to Jesus, but they were not good at listening to Jesus, especially when he spoke of the painful road of servant discipleship. Jesus is the one we must listen to, even when his message is hard to hear. It is in this message we find life. When have you found this to be true?

4. Strangely this instruction came to the disciples when they were confused and 'in a cloud'. Perhaps you recall a moment of insight coming to you at a time when you were confused.

John Byrne OSA

Funerals this week

The funeral service for the late **Catherine Booth RIP** will take place on Wednesday 3rd March at 1.15pm 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.

Light in the Darkness

In collaboration with the Synod office, you are invited to a virtual presentation via Zoom on Monday 1st March at 7.00pm. John L. Bell of the Iona Community will reflect with us on ways of coping with the Covid Crisis. It is a version of a talk that John gave for the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre on 2nd February. John is a Church of Scotland Minister and Hymn-Writer, a teacher and broadcaster. He has written many hymns, including The Summons; sometimes known as 'Will you come and follow me?'.
Please join us on Zoom from 7.00pm-8.00pm.

The Zoom Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235289988
Meeting ID: 822 3528 9988

Something to Think About

Can you recall a time when you had an 'aha moment'? One of those moments when something suddenly makes perfect sense to you. It may have been a long time coming, a combination of various pieces of a jigsaw fitting together or it may be an insight you received from spiritual practice. These are special moments. We are never quite the same afterwards, something changes, even a small thing, but something in us changes. These moments move us outside of ourselves or beyond ourselves in some way. They are moments of transfiguration.

In the Gospel today, Peter is desperate to stay on the mountain in that blissful moment with Jesus, so much so that he offers to build tents. One can understand Peter's request, after such an experience of course he would want to stay there. What moments of encounter in your own life do you recall? An encounter where you simply did not want it to end? It may be something very deep and meaningful which gave you a glimpse of God or a moment of complete contentment?

As with all blissful moments, the disciples must come down from the mountaintop. Jesus' way involves walking a very different path, a path that will not be so easy. Jesus' way is different to what Peter may have had in mind. These moments of Transfiguration strengthen us all for walking the more difficult paths, sustaining us on the way.

Jane Mellett

'The Lord is more constant and far more extravagant than it seems to imply. Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?'

(Marilynne Robinson)



Cafod Family Fast Day

This weekend we would normally have a second collection for CAFOD, however, you can still help to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support by donating online at cafod.org.uk/lent

Thank you

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

Everyday God

Reflecting on the Presence of God in our Lives, Scripture Evenings from Irenaeus, led by Sister Moira Meeghan, will take place on Zoom on Monday 1st 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 February issue of the Catholic Pic is available online using the following link.

www.issuu.com/merseymirror/docs/catholic_pic_february_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.

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