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 **13th February 2021 – 21st February 2021**	Omega

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (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: John Seddon, Billy Farrell, John McCain, Susan Evans, David Rimmer, John Davies

Anniversaries: Father Pat Murray

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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 1:40-45

1. Jesus' compassion for people suffering was an outstanding characteristic of his ministry. We see the healing power of God at work through him. Recall times when the compassion of others has had a healing effect on you. Remember also when your compassion towards someone in trouble brought them hope, healing or strength.

2. 'If you choose, you can make me clean'. Our choice is a key factor in how we affect others. We cannot choose to have no impact on the people in our lives. Even a choice to do nothing has an effect. When have you been particularly aware of the importance of your choice to be a positive influence on another?

3. Lepers were forced to live away from others. The leper's cure meant that he was also readmitted to contact with the community. Perhaps you recall people who were once ostracized being brought back into family or community. Who was the Jesus person who helped this healing to take place?

4. The joy of the leper on being healed was such that he could not keep the good news to himself. Bring to mind occasions when you were so filled with good news that you could not keep it to yourself.

John Byrne OSA

Funeral

The funeral service for the late **Susan Evans RIP** will take place on Tuesday 16th February 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.

Something to Think About

'Stretched out his hand…'

Jesus, in today's Gospel, cures a leper by the healing touch of his hand. A leper was completely outcasted from society due to the huge stigma surrounding the disease, which was highly contagious but was also seen as a punishment from God in Jesus' time. Jesus is moved with pity for this man and reaches out to him. Jesus sends the man to the priests, as a testimony to them. Jesus' 'pity' also conveys anger at the leper's situation. It is the religious hierarchy of Jesus' time who have alienated this man. What they are incapable of doing (healing him), Jesus has done by 'stretching out his hand' in love.

A question for us from this Gospel today might be, who are those our society outcast? Who is alienated in our communities? What moves you with pity? Who is it that we need to reach out to at this time?

Jesus, in Mark's Gospel, is forever asking people to keep quiet and not tell anyone about what he does. Yet, after such a radical encounter with God which frees this man from all that keeps him trapped, of course he wants to shout from the roof tops. Why would Jesus want his miracles to be kept a secret? Jesus wants to be able to fulfil his mission without attracting the wrong kind of attention. Eventually those who are against him will use encounters like this one to compile evidence against him. For now, the less they know the better. We might think today of those who bravely speak out, even if it means they are punished in some way. May all of us have the courage, like the man who is healed in the Gospel today, to proclaim the truth, even if it costs us.

Jane Mellett

'There is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.'

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 225



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's 15th and 22nd February and 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.

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

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



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

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

Echoes of God

A seven week look at Old and New Testament Scripture on Mondays between 7.00pm-8.00pm on Zoom continues on 15th Feb 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.

Happy Birthday

St Robert Bellarmine's Children's Church celebrate its 30th birthday on Wednesday 17th February.

Please remember the children and catechists, past and present, in your prayers this week

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

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