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 February 2021 – 14th February 2021**	Omega

THE FIFTH 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: Elaine Connell, John Seddon, Billy Farrell, John McCain, Susan Evans, David Rimmer, John Davies

Anniversaries: John Kelly, Margaret Dolan

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 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 1:29-39

This passage contains three stories and there is food for thought in each of them.

1. The first story (vv. 29-31) is one of healing. You might reflect on times when you were sick in body, mind or spirit and someone was a 'Jesus person' to you, someone who 'took you by the hand and lifted you up'. Remember them with gratitude. Have there been times also when you did this for others?

2. The second story (vv. 32-34) adds another dimension. People are freed from demons. Have you had the experience of being freed from demons that imprisoned you: fear, anxiety, guilt, low self-esteem, addictions, bitterness, etc.? What was it like for you to get that freedom? Who were the 'Jesus people' who helped to free you?

3. The third story (vv. 35-39) has a number of different elements we can consider

a) Jesus goes off to a desert place to pray. After a hectic day he felt the need for quiet to ground himself once more. In the busyness of life how do you keep in touch with what is going on inside yourself? How do you keep in touch with God? Where do you find your 'deserted place'? What difference does it make for you when you do succeed in taking time out?

b) Jesus shows himself as a person seeking to break new ground. The disciples want him to continue ministry where he is. He wants to move on. What has been your experience of breaking new ground, moving beyond your comfort zone, or trying something you had not tried before? When has this had a life-giving effect for you?

John Byrne OSA

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

This year we will be holding the Archdiocese of Liverpool Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Mass online only.

It will be held remotely and broadcast on **Thursday 11th February 2021 at 7.00pm** from Our Lady's RC Church, Lydiate.

Our Celebrant will be Fr Des Seddon.

You will be able to watch using the Facebook link https://www.facebook.com/Archdiocese-of-Liverpool-Feast-of-Our-Lady-of-Lourdes-Mass-106532301406114 or the CSTV link for Our Lady's Church Our Lady's, RC Church, Lydiate Merseyside - Southport Rd,Lydiate,Liverpool , England (churchservices.tv)

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Something to Think About

In today's Gospel we read about Jesus' first healing in Mark's Gospel. Jesus hears of the illness of the mother of Simon's wife and goes to her. Due to the purity laws of his time this scene would have been considered controversial. His first healing is of a woman and we are told that he touches her, raises her up; he completely restores her to health. Many of his actions here would have been considered inappropriate.

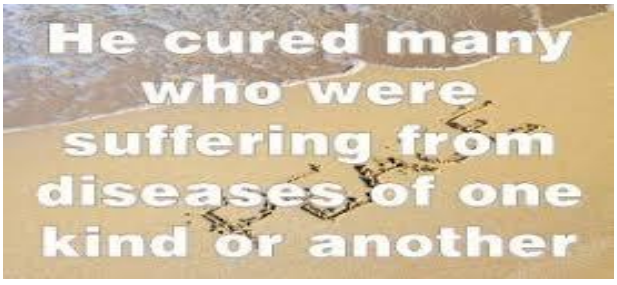
The 'whole city' was crowded around the door as many people wanted to be healed. What a commotion! Jesus, very early on in his ministry is clearly a very popular and attractive figure. Another important aspect of this story is that Jesus does not remain comfortable in this house. He keeps moving, keeps going outward. This requires so much energy and an outpouring of love for those in need. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel what it takes to stay energised for our various ministries: quiet time and space for real encounter with God. Even then, the people hunted for him and said, 'Everyone is searching for you', and still today everyone is searching.

We too are called to bring healing to others in any way that we can, to those who are seeking, those who are lost, those who are isolated. Jesus shows us that to do this we must be connected to that Divine Presence within us and in our world. Today we can ask ourselves, what do I need healing from? Bring this to Jesus in prayer. And also, how can I reach out, with a healing presence, to others, especially during this time of pandemic?

Jane Mellett

'I ask God to prepare our hearts to encounter our brothers and sisters, so that we may overcome our differences rooted in political thinking, language, culture and religion. Let us ask him to anoint our whole being with the balm of his mercy, which heals the injuries caused by mistakes, misunderstandings, and disputes. And let us ask him for the grace to send us forth, in humility and meekness, along the demanding but enriching path of seeking peace'.

Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 254



Funeral

The funeral service for the late **Elaine Connell RIP** will take place on Tuesday 9th February 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.

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's 8th, 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.

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 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.

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