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 **19th December 2020 – 27th December 2020**	Omega

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 19 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	5.00 pm	Ray Downey (Anniversary Remembrance)
Saturday 19 Dec (St Robert's)	**6.30 pm**	**Sandra Clarke (Remembrance)**
Sunday 20 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	9.30 am	Nora Mannion (Remembrance
Sunday 20 Dec (St Robert's)	**11.00 am**	**Kathleen Howard (Remembrance)**
Monday 21 Dec	No Mass	
Tuesday 22 Dec (St Robert's)	**9.00 am**	**Joanna Rushton (Birthday) and Aileen Jones (Remembrance)**
Wednesday 23 Dec	No Mass	

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday 24 Dec (St Robert's)	**5.00 pm**	**Eileen and Eugene Callaghan (Christmas Remembrance)**
Thursday 24 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	**7.00 pm**	**Harry O'Donnell (Anniversary Remembrance)**

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 25 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	**9.30 am**	**John Patrick Sheekey (Christmas Remembrance)**
Friday 25 Dec (St Robert's)	**11.00 am**	**Cathy Morrisroe (Anniversary Remembrance)**
Saturday 26 Dec	No Mass	

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday 27 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	9.30 am	Helen Smith (USA – Successful operation)
Sunday 27 Dec (St Robert's)	**11.00 am**	**Eileen Callaghan (Anniversary Remembrance)**

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: Paul French

Anniversaries: Ray Downey, Jody Pennington

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.)

Seeing Yourself Through the Lens of the Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

1. We are all favoured ones and God is with us. Sometimes we are more aware of this than others. How have you experienced being a favoured person, one blessed by God? How have you experienced God's presence? Who has been Gabriel to you … a messenger of good news?

2. 'Do not be afraid'. Mary was perplexed by the words of the angel. Perhaps you too have sometimes been perplexed by life's path and wondered what it all meant. Perhaps at times you have doubted if God was really with you. In your troubled moments who has been an 'angel' helping to lower your anxiety?

3. Mary was taken by surprise by the invitation, but she did not tell the angel she was not ready, nor ask him to return later. She was prepared to go with the invitation even though it was not the 'right moment'. 'Here I am Lord'. What invitations have come to you at the 'wrong time' and how have you responded?

4. Mary's response serves as a model for us – as one saying 'yes' to what life offers. What is it like for you to say 'yes' to life? Perhaps at this moment in your life you are being invited to say: 'Here I am, Lord'?

John Byrne OSA

Something to Think About

The situation into which Jesus was born was one of huge stigma with dangerous consequences. God's physical birth into this world was condemned socially; Jesus was marginalised from the moment of his conception. Imagine God choosing to be involved so intimately in this world and in such a 'shocking' way. Even the town of Galilee is problematic for this news as Galileans were considered by the religious leaders of the time to be 'second-class Jews'. It is here Jesus comes. God surprises. God stands with the marginalised. God is present in the most hidden places at times.

On the first Sunday of Advent we were invited to 'Keep Awake'. As we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, what have you noticed this advent? What has your waiting been like? How have you prepared? Where have you seen God present this Advent? Where have you seen God being born around you? In the most unexpected places? In the most marginalised? Is your heart more open to receive a new birth of God again?

Jane Mellett

'Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness, that your Word once again may take flesh – this time, within me – as once it did in holy Mary; long Advent days ago.'

Edward Hays,
Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim



A very Happy and Blessed Christmas to all Parishioners of St Elizabeth's and St Robert Bellarmine's.

A big thank you to the stewards and all those who have helped to prepare both churches for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES.

St Robert Bellarmine's
Christmas Eve 5.00 pm and Christmas Day 11.00 am

St Elizabeth's
Christmas Eve 7.00 pm and Christmas Day 9.30 am

Masses at both churches are by ticket only.
If you do not have a ticket you may be refused entry.

There is no mass at either Church on Saturday 26 December

There will be no 9.00 am Mass on Thursday 24 December
The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holydays is still not reinstated.

Reflecting on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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.

The Catholic Pic

The December issue of the Catholic Pic is available at the back of Church and also online. The website is updated regularly with news from around the Archdiocese.

Take some time to visit it at
www.catholicpic.co.uk

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

'A service for those unable to attend a funeral'



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

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



RAFFLE

St Robert Bellarmine's will be holding a 'New Year Raffle' at the beginning of January, and tickets are on sale outside the Church before the weekend Masses.

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

Christmas Cards and Calendars

A limited number of Christmas cards, calendars and diaries is available at St Robert Bellarmine's for sale.

They will be available for you to buy before/after Mass or from the Parish Office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

(A selection can be brought down to St Elizabeth's by prior arrangement with the Parish Office)

Also available, is the 2021 Liverpool Archdiocese Directory for £3.50.

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