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 **5th December 2020 – 13th December 2020**	Omega

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

THE FIRST MASS OF SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 5 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	5.00 pm	Sandra Doyle (2nd Anniversary Remembrance)
Saturday 5 Dec (St Robert's)	**6.30 pm**	**John Murphy (Remembrance)**
Sunday 6 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	9.30 am	Tom Houghton (Recovery)
Sunday 6 Dec (St Robert's)	**11.00 am**	**Bernard Carey (10th Anniversary Remembrance)**

Monday 7 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	First Holy Communion Mass	St Ambrose
Tuesday 8 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	First Holy Communion Mass	**The Immaculate Conception**
Wednesday 9 Dec	No Mass	
Thursday 10 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	First Holy Communion Mass	
Friday 11 Dec	No Mass	

THE FIRST MASS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 12 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	5.00 pm	Paddy Doran (1st Anniversary Remembrance)
Saturday 12 Dec (St Robert's)	**6.30 pm**	**Special Intention (Kath and Gerry Houlton)**
Sunday 13 Dec (St Elizabeth's)	9.30 am	Special Intention (Josie Daniels)
Sunday 13 Dec (St Robert's)	**11.00 am**	**Fr Frank Carey WF (10th 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.

We also have a Facebook Page – Parishes of St Robert Bellarmine, Bootle and St Elizabeth's, Litherland. Please 'like and follow' us.

Please pray for the following who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Lately Dead: John Cain, Constance Edwards

Anniversaries: We remember all those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Please remember the sick and those who care for them.

(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 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

Seeing Yourself Through the Lens of the Gospel
Mark 1:1-8

1. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to way in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?

2. In recent days there are many and conflicting voices advising us on how to deal with the threat of the Covid19 pandemic. What messengers have helped you to find a way of combining due care with living a full life?

3. John calls the people to repentance (a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?

4. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?

John Byrne OSA

Funerals

The funeral for the late **Constance Edwards RIP** will take place on Thursday 10th December at 12.45pm 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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Next week, the children from Year 5 at St Elizabeth's Primary School, will be making their First Holy Communion.

Please remember them in your prayers.

Something to Think About

The second Sunday of advent turns our attention to John the Baptist. John was an interesting individual. We are told he dressed a bit strangely and spent a lot of time in the desert, '*the voice of one crying out in the wilderness*'. Yet it seems he was very popular with '*all the people of Jerusalem*' went out to hear him. John must have been a dynamic speaker and one in whom people found hope and inspiration. In John the Baptist's time, the people lived under the oppression of the Roman Empire and were waiting for someone who would liberate them. John points to one that is greater than he, he point the people to Jesus.

When Pope Francis released the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* in October this year he noted that dark clouds hang over our world and he urged everyone to embrace a spirit of friendship, kindness, compassion and solidarity as we move forward, to help ensure the dignity of every person and a more sustainable world for all. We have certainly experienced a type of *wilderness* this year as we continue to battle the effects pf Covid19 and find a way forward. Our communities need messengers, like John, who bring good news, hope and a vision for the future, who point us towards a new way forward.

As we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives once more, let's make the most if this advent time, the most of this waiting time. May we use this space to reflect on what type of world can be born out of this wilderness we find ourselves in. May we reach out to those who are crying our for hope during these difficult months, like John the Baptist, offering a positive vision for the future.

Jane Mellett



CHRISTMAS

Our Christmas masses will be very different this year and all Parishes have been asked to follow the same guidelines.
Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be by ticket only to ensure that we keep to the numbers allowed in Church.
Please see the separate sheet for details on how to obtain your tickets.
Tickets will be allocated on application, from next weekend, and if necessary a waiting list will be formed.

NB. Tickets will be allocated to regular Mass goes first.

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

The Catholic Pic

The November issue of the Catholic Pic is available to view online and the website is updated with news from around the Archdiocese.

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



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 will be on sale outside the Church before the weekend Masses.

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

'A service for those unable to attend a funeral'



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