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 **21st November 2020 – 29th November 2020**	Omega

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING (YEAR A)

Due to the further lockdown announced by the Government, ALL public celebrations of Mass on Sundays and weekdays are suspended until the beginning of December. Our church buildings are also closed for private prayer and visiting. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

During this time, there are many masses being streamed on the internet from around the Archdiocese. If you want the information sending again, please let the Parish Office 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.

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: Patrick McNulty

Anniversaries: Ann Bjork, Jim Fessey and 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 Feast of Christ the King

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
Matthew 25:31-46

1. This judgement scene contains surprises for us. One surprise is that nobody is condemned for doing wrong, but for their failure to do good. Being a disciple of Jesus is a positive choice about how we live and relate to others. Perhaps sin-avoidance has sometimes dominated your view of what was being asked of you. What difference has it made for you when you viewed your Christian life as a daily opportunity to make a positive difference to others?

2. Another way of saying this is that the aim of Christian living is not me-centred (about my personal sanctification) but other-centred (about responding to the needs of others). What happens to you when you get caught up in yourself? Is your life not better, and often more enjoyable, when you can look beyond yourself to others?

3. Another surprise is to hear Jesus tell us that when we do something for another, he considers it done to himself. When has seeing Christ in others helped you in your dealings with them?

4. The story is about the judgement of the whole of humanity. It presents an ideal of society in which human relationships at all levels are governed by the law of love. In your experience what difference has it made to a group to which you belonged when there was a definite sensitivity to the needs of all members?

John Byrne OSA

SYNOD 2020

Many thanks to those who have sent us their responses to the four themes. If you haven't done so yet, please take the opportunity this week to view the themes and the proposals and let us have your responses.

Please send us your written responses by either posting through the house letterbox, emailing the Parish office strobert@rcaol.org.uk or send a message via our Parish Facebook page

The proposals can be viewed online at the Synod website www.synod2020.co.uk

Something to Think About

Today's gospel leaves us in no doubt as to what Jesus expects of his followers. It is a gospel of contrasts. It begins with a scene of judgement, with Jesus in the role of king, sitting on the throne of glory. It would have been a familiar image to the people of the time, who were expecting a great Messianic king. In the time of Jesus, kings were powerful rulers, and some were tyrants. We know from earlier in Matthew's Gospel that kings like Herod were capable of brutal acts. It is an image that remains familiar to us today, thanks to popular fairy tales, movies and TV shows – the all-powerful ruler sitting on their throne, passing judgement on their subjects.

But the king that Jesus talks about here turns these images upside down. He is not focused on riches or power, or inciting terror or fear. Instead, he is a fair judge, a shepherd who knows his flock. He invites all those who have acted with justice and generosity to take their place in his kingdom. He is in solidarity with the 'least' of his people – a king whose main concern is those who are hungry, displaced, sick or imprisoned. He refers to them as 'brothers'.

Jesus' kingdom is centred around charity, compassion and forgiveness. He expects us to treat everyone we encounter with welcome. There are simple acts of kindness we can carry out each day. Such love for others is love for God: 'In so far as you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

Jane Mellett



PIOUS LIST

Traditionally, November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls. If you wish for your deceased loved ones to be remembered during this time, write their name(s) on a piece of paper and return it to Church or post it in the presbytery letter box, together with your donation.

Names will be placed at the Altar in St Robert Bellarmine's Church

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

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