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 **14th November 2020 – 22nd November 2020**	Omega

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (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: Cathy Morrisroe, William Murphy 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 Thirty Third Sunday of 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
Matthew 25:14-30

1. A gift given in love, is given to be enjoyed, treasured, and used. Through fear, one servant failed to recognise the loving trust being shown to him and buried the talent. When have you found that overcoming fear helped you to make the most of opportunities in life?

2. On the level of our own personal life, faith is not given to us to be locked away, but to be "traded" with. We trade with it when we believe in its value, trust it, and use it, bringing it into the experiences we have in daily life. Can you recall times when relying on your faith has brought you rewards?

3. Likewise with our own personal gifts and talents. We can fall into the trap of seeing these as our personal possession so that we can do with them as we like, rather than share them as gifts so that they can be multiplied. What is your experience of hoarding or sharing your own gifts? When did you feel most alive?

4. Pope Francis in his letter The Joy of the Gospel wrote, 'I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. … The important thing is to not walk alone, but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters.' EG (33) How is your parish responding to this call?

John Byrne OSA

SYNOD 2020

With the newsletter today we are sending the proposals for Theme Four 'Building Community, Nurturing Belonging'

We are inviting your responses to these proposals, and while we cannot hold a meeting to discuss, we welcome 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

It is hard not to feel sorry for the third servant in today's gospel. The first two servants are praised for making the most of the 'talents' (money) given to them by their master. In return, they are promised even greater things. The third man, paralysed by uncertainty, buries his small amount of money in the ground instead of doing something with it. His actions are based in fear – he has heard the master is tough and he does not want to take any risks. At least he is able to return what he has been given; he reasons.

But he is shocked to learn that instead of praise, or even a neutral reaction to match his own neutral actions, he is reprimanded as 'wicked and lazy' and cast out. This parable has been described as a story of 'tragic miscalculation'. The servant didn't do anything awful – which is why we tend to have some sympathy for him – but he didn't do his best either. The real tragedy is not that he didn't make any more money; it is that he failed to appreciate the opportunity he had been given and to make the most of it.

We are all dealt different cards in life, and undoubtedly some are much tougher than others. We are like the servants in the parable who are given different amounts of money to look after. The point is not the amount of 'talents' given to each. It is not the circumstances of our lives or our natural gifts that are important, but how we use them. Jesus was cautioning against playing it safe. Instead of turning inwards or living in fear, we are called to meet challenges head on and discover what wonderful things might happen.

'Talent is like electricity. We don't understand electricity. We use it' (Maya Angelou)

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