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 **7th November 2020 – 15th November 2020**	Omega

THIRTY SECOND 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: Stan Hughes 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 Second 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 25:1-13

1. While the parable has clear end-of-time applications it can also be applied to any moment of grace. It reminds us that moments of grace come unexpectedly, and we need to be awake to receive them. Recall times when you were alert for such a moment. What were the consequences for you?

2. Grace can also be disturbing. We can be coasting along in life and suddenly an opportunity or a graced moment arrives and we are shaken out of our routine in order to respond. Perhaps you can recall both moments when you were unprepared, and moments when you were able to respond. What lessons have you learned from such experiences?

3. We may be tempted to judge the wise virgins as being selfish for not sharing with the others, but perhaps Jesus is teaching us that there are some things that other people cannot provide for us. We have to acquire them ourselves. What qualities in life do you see as the essential oil that you must provide for yourself?

John Byrne OSA

Something to Think About

Are you a procrastinator? If a task is awkward or unpleasant, are you likely to put it off till another day. In any given week, do you have a 'to-do' list you need to get through. The most important items always get done – things that can't be avoided, like work deadlines or paying bills. But bigger projects can often get put on the long finger and you find myself transferring items to the following week's list. It is part of life to learn how to prioritise, and to be prepared to tackle the important things. Even when we are not ready to face a certain situation, sometimes we need to push ourselves to just dive in.

Among the wedding customs in Jesus' time was a night-time procession from the bride's home to the grooms. The bridesmaids would go out with torches lit to welcome the groom and his entourage. The parable in today's gospel sets two groups in contrast – the 'foolish' bridesmaids who run out of oil because they have failed to prepare, and the 'sensible' ones who are ready with their lamps and oil, who recognise the importance of the task. Only one group was ready when the groom approached.

This parable encourages us to focus on the here and now, to nurture our relationship with God in the present and to live well. There is no point in procrastinating, or waiting until the bridegroom is at the door. As well as having the light of faith, we need the fuel – the actions – to keep it lit so we are ready when the Lord comes

Jane Mellett

A Thought for Remembrance Sunday

At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month in 1918, the guns fell silent. The Great War was over. Such was the scale of loss and destruction that it was hoped that it was to be 'the war to end all wars'. Sadly, the very fact that we now refer to it as the First World War ably demonstrates that it wasn't.

As we commemorate the end of the war, it is time to reflect and take the time to remember all of those who gave their lives in that dreadful conflict. As a result of their sacrifice we are now blessed with the freedom to enjoy the hindsight that has come from over a century of reflecting on whether the war was justified, whether the men died in vain etc.

Today, try and put yourself in the shoes of those who indeed felt it was justified, who gave up their own comforts and family life to go to war. The vast majority of the men who fought in the war were not regular or territorial soldiers but volunteers and conscripts, to whom the idea of war was an alien concept. They firmly believed in what they were doing, and hundreds of thousands gave their lives to protect their country and preserve our freedom.

Remembrance is as relevant today as it was over a century ago and best summed up by George Eliot who wrote:

'Our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them'.

Please remember them in your prayers today and help to ensure that they are truly not forgotten.



FUNERAL THIS WEEK

There will be a funeral service for **Patrick McNulty RIP** on Friday 13th November at 1.30pm at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May He Rest in Peace

Under current restrictions there is only 30 people allowed at Funerals.

Offertory Collection (31 October/1 November)

St Robert Bellarmine £373.10

St Elizabeth of Hungary £184.29

CAFOD

£32.00

MISSIO

£135.94

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity

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

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 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

SYNOD 2020

With the newsletter today we are sending the proposals for Theme Three 'How We Pray Together'

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



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

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

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.

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'

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