Alpha	St Robert Bellarmine Church 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 **24th October – 1st November 2020**	Omega

THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

THE FIRST MASS OF THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 24 Oct	5.00 pm	Mass at St Elizabeth's	
Saturday 24 Oct	**6.30 pm**	**Paddy Kinsella (Anniversary Remembrance)**	
Sunday 25 Oct	9.30 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's	
Sunday 25 Oct	**11.00 am**	**Philip Rushton Jnr (Birthday)**	
Monday 26 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass	Sts. Chad and Cedd
Tuesday 27 Oct	**9.00 am**	**Brian Murray (Anniversary Remembrance)**	
Wednesday 28 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass	Sts. Simon and Jude
Thursday 29 Oct	**9.00 am**	**John Tiernan (Anniversary Remembrance)**	
Friday 30 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass	

THE FIRST MASS OF THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

Saturday 31 Oct	5.00 pm	Mass at St Elizabeth's
Saturday 31 Oct	**6.30 pm**	**Alex Wright (Birthday Remembrance)**
Sunday 1 Nov	9.30 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's
Sunday 1 Nov	**11.00 am**	**Anne Kelly (90th Birthday Remembrance)**

Please pray for

Lately Dead:	Bernard King, Christopher Byrne
Anniversaries:	Brian Murray and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time
Sick;	Please pray for the sick, their relatives, friends and those who care for them.

Reflecting on the Thirtieth 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 attend Mass or 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

1. You may feel some sympathy with the Jews struggling to cope with 613 laws and wondering which were the important ones. Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the rules and regulations of your own tradition? And have you ever been blessed by meeting someone, or reading something, that was able to cut through all the layers and point out to you what is essential in life? Who was that person? What did s/he say or do? Is there some phrase or text that encapsulates such wisdom for you?

2. If you were asked what is most important in life, what would your answer be? Recall the experiences and relationships you have had. Which are the ones that you treasure most? What has particularly enriched your life? How would you encourage another person who asked you how s/he could live a full life?

John Byrne OSA

Something to Think About
Matthew 22:34-40

The Pharisees continue their harassment of Jesus in today's Gospel by asking him which commandment is the greatest. What follows is the most famous verse of the New Testament: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul... And... You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' We probably can't hear this enough. Love is the greatest commandment and this is a radical statement. Because this love is *agape* love, i.e. a love of those we don't even know or even like! It is a love that binds all of humanity.

We cannot separate love of God and neighbour; are like two sides of a coin; they only work together. If we do not treat others with compassion, then how can we say we love God? Jesus often spoke about approaching the altar whilst holding a grudge against someone (Mt 5:24) and continuously challenged those who were hypocrites. Those critical of social justice movements in the church often say we should not be involved in doing 'social work'. But this is exactly what we must do because this is how we love God, by loving our neighbour who is suffering, who is oppressed, who is in pain. We can love God and love people, there does not have to be a dichotomy.

There is a beautiful practice in India of using the mystical phrase '*Namaste*' in greetings which means the Divine in me greets the Divine in you'. Usually this accompanied by a deep bow towards the person. How wonderful it would be to really see God present in each other and, more importantly, in those that society would rather cast aside. In this way we are being true to the greatest commandment.

The Reopening of Church

We are now part of the NHS Track and Trace system. If you have got the COVID-19 app on your smartphone you can register your attendance here at St Robert Bellarmine's.
The QR code is located in the porch as you enter Church.
Please speak to one of the stewards if you need help

Please note, that the maximum number of people allowed in St Robert Bellarmine's for Mass is 50.
Face masks/coverings must be worn, and your hands must be sanitised on entering and leaving.
Your name and contact details will be taken as a precaution for 'Track and Trace' and your details held under GDPR guidelines and the Archdiocesan privacy notice.

Mass at St Robert Bellarmine's will be on Saturday evening at 6.30pm, Sunday morning at 11.00am, Tuesday morning at 9.00 am and Thursday morning at 9.00am

Mass at St Elizabeth's will be on Saturday evening at 5.00 pm and Sunday morning at 9.30 am.

The Church will be opened approximately 30 minutes before Mass begins but once we reach the maximum number we are allowed we will be unable to let anyone else in. We don't want to have to turn people away – but should we reach our maximum capacity, we will have to.
At the beginning of lockdown, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was removed by the Bishops; this remains in place, and therefore, if you can attend Mass during the week we would ask that you please do so. Also, you do not have to attend Mass especially if you are shielding or still do not feel comfortable about attending places with large numbers.

We will continue to keep you updated via e-mail, newsletter and our Facebook page.

FUNERALS THIS WEEK

The requiem mass for **Bernard King RIP** (late of Bailey Drive) will take place on Wednesday 28th October at 10.00 am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

There will be a funeral service for **Christopher Byrne RIP** (late of Gardner Avenue) on Wednesday 28th October at 2.00pm at Thornton Crematorium

May They Rest in Peace

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

PIOUS LIST

Traditionally, November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls. If you wish for your deceased loved ones to be remembered at Mass for this intention, please take a pious list envelope, 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.

NHS TRACK AND TRACE

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World Mission Sunday

Last Sunday, 18th October, was World Mission Sunday, when the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission.

The collection in aid of Missio will take place NEXT WEEKEND 31 OCTOBER/1 NOVEMBER as you leave Church

Alternatively, you can make your gift online and Gift Aid your donation, if possible, at missio.org.uk

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.

SYNOD 2020

The new timetable for the time of discernment leading up to our Synod in June 2021 is with your newsletter today together with the proposals for Theme One 'All Called and Gifted by God'

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 and leave them in the Synod box at the back of church, post through the house letterbox, email 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

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.

The Catholic Pic

A limited number of the October issue of the Catholic Pic is available at the back of Church.

The latest issue is available online and the website is updated 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'

Online and Text Giving

Online Giving

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

which will take you to a specific site for St Robert Bellarmine's church. 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

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* 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* to 70085.

Text *STROBERT* 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* to 70450.

Text *STROBERT* 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* to 70460.

Text *STROBERT* 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* to 70470.



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

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