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 **17th October – 25th October 2020**	Omega

THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

THE FIRST MASS OF THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 17 Oct	5.00 pm	No Mass
Saturday 17 Oct	**6.30 pm**	**No Mass**
Sunday 18 Oct	9.30 am	No Mass
Sunday 18 Oct	**11.00 am**	**No Mass**
Monday 19 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass
Tuesday 20 Oct	**9.00 am**	**No Mass**
Wednesday 21 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass
Thursday 22 Oct	**9.00 am**	**No Mass**
Friday 23 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass

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**	**Mass at St Robert Bellarmine's**
Sunday 25 Oct	9.30 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's
Sunday 25 Oct	**11.00 am**	**Mass at St Robert Bellarmine's**

Should these Masses have to be cancelled, an update will be posted on our Facebook page.

Please pray for

Lately Dead: Bernard King, Anne Kelly, Madge Daley

Anniversaries: We remember 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 Twenty Ninth 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

Something to Think About

Matthew 22:15-21

Continuing our reading of Matthew 22 today, the Pharisees are not impressed with Jesus' teachings and decide to 'entrap' him, quizzing him about paying taxes. It is a dangerous question they ask because a simple yes or no response from Jesus could mean he is reported to the authorities. Jesus has not time for this and is quite direct with them asking, '*Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?*' The response is brilliant: '*Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's,*' This text has sometimes been used to argue that religion should stay out of politics, economics or culture. However, the world we live in is one that falls short of the vision and values which Jesus preached: a dream of a world of love, peace, justice and compassion. Being a follower of Jesus means that one is actively involved in striving for this vision and this includes whatever political, economic or cultural issues we are confronted with. The focus in this passage is getting our priorities straight. Yes, give the emperor his taxes but do not forget what belongs to God i.e. God's vision for this world.

The 'empirical' view and the 'Christ-view' of issues like direct provision, homelessness, evictions, the Black Lives matter movement, climate action… are usually very different. The pharisees we are told, '*were amazed, left him and went away*'.

Jane Mellett



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.

There will be no Masses at either Church this weekend

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.

SYNOD 2020

Today we celebrate the third Synod Sunday in the Archdiocese. Originally this was to be the weekend of our Synod 2020 event but the COVID-19 pandemic means this will now take place in June 2021.

Today the summary proposals on our four Synod Themes will be published which you will find on the Synod Website. Over the coming weeks our local Synod Members will be inviting your responses to these proposals as we continue to discern the Church God is calling us to be. Please visit the website, read the summary proposals, and prayerfully reflect on them. www.synod2020.co.uk



World Mission Sunday

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

As we are celebrating Synod Sunday this weekend, the collection in aid of Missio will take place NEXT WEEKEND 24/25 OCTOBER

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.

Pastoral Message for Synod Sunday 2020

I am writing this to you today because this was to have been the weekend of our Synod 2020 gatherings. The situation we are living in at the moment has, as you know, meant that we felt it was right to move this weekend until June next year.

The work of the Synod has not stopped – God is still asking us to reflect on becoming the kind of Church he is calling us to be and in many ways we have been invited to do this with a new urgency at this time.

Our Synod journey brings together the "imperatives" of co-responsibility, collaboration and genuine listening between Church leaders and the lay faithful. Synodality is an essential aspect of Church life today. Pope Francis is firm on Synodality as the way forward. I am reminded of something that Pope Benedict said in 2012:

"Lay people should not be regarded as 'collaborators' of the clergy, but, rather, as people who are really 'co-responsible' for the Church's being and acting ... It is therefore important that a mature and committed laity be consolidated, which can make its own specific contribution to the ecclesial mission with respect for the ministries and tasks that each one has in the life of the Church."

This is very much your role in the next part of our Synod journey. Over 3,500 proposals were submitted – thank you. The Synod Working Party (and others) have worked with all these proposals and have faithfully kept all the proposals and ideas that you have highlighted. They have produced a summary which we are making available to you this weekend. (You can find them at synod2020.co.uk/proposals).

I need each of you to play your part in discerning the next steps forward. At the beginning of December each Synod Member will have to indicate which of the ideas and issues that they are most drawn to. They will need your input to do this faithfully. This will then enable us to present to you, in March, the Synod Proposals to be voted on in June. After June we will work on drawing up a Pastoral Plan in the light of the Synod Proposals which will be promulgated at the start of Advent 2021.

The next months are an exciting opportunity for us all to listen again to the voice of the Spirit of God guiding and directing us. Please play your part, we will not be able to complete this task faithfully without you.

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP

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 new boxes of Offertory Envelopes are now available as you leave Mass.

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