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 **10th October – 18th October 2020**	Omega

THE TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

THE FIRST MASS OF THE TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 10 Oct	5.00 pm	Mass at St Elizabeth's	
Saturday 10 Oct	**6.30 pm**	**Gerry Morgan (Anniversary Remembrance)**	
Sunday 11 Oct	9.30 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's	
Sunday 11 Oct	**11.00 am**	**Snellgrove Family**	
Monday 12 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass	St Wilfrid
Tuesday 13 Oct	**9.00 am**	**Michael Tiernan (Anniversary Remembrance)**	**St Edward the Confessor**
Wednesday 14 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass	
Thursday 15 Oct	**9.00 am**	**Mike Keelan (Remembrance)**	**St Teresa of Avila**
Friday 16 Oct	9.00 am	No Mass	

THE FIRST MASS OF THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 17 Oct	5.00 pm	Mass at St Elizabeth's
Saturday 17 Oct	**6.30 pm**	**Paddy Kinsella (Anniversary Remembrance)**
Sunday 18 Oct	9.30 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's
Sunday 18 Oct	**11.00 am**	**Philip Rushton Jnr (Birthday)**

Please pray for

Lately Dead: Anne Kelly, Madge Daley, Billy Mather, Maureen McNab

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 Eighth 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

Matthew 22:1-14

1. Scripture often speaks of the kingdom of God as a banquet. The image of people being at a meal where everyone is happy and welcome and where all hunger and thirst is satisfied gets across the idea that God loves, accepts and welcomes us and wants us to make that experience available to one another. Think of times in your life when you have had 'banquet' experiences and when you have felt accepted and loved?

2. The host enlists the help of his servants to invite people to the banquet. We are commissioned by the Lord to invite people to the banquet of the kingdom, to the fullness of life – as parents, teachers, friends, etc. What has it been like for you to play a part in leading others to a fuller life?

3. The second parable puts the focus on how we respond to invitations. Some invitations are ones that challenge us to change, to conversion, to put on a 'wedding garment'. What has been your experience of changing in response to an invitation you received?

John Byrne OSA

Something to Think About

Today's Gospel is difficult. Stories of judgement, weeping and gnashing of teeth just do not appeal to most people. We hear about a King whose invitations to his son's wedding banquet are repeatedly refused. In some instances his messengers are killed. One interpretation of this parable is that it us an allegory for the Jesus story, God's invitation to the Messianic banquet has been refused by those who are expected to embrace it. This banquet is therefore opened up to the unexpected, the Gentiles, the poor, those on the margins, the outcast.

Going deeper again, we can hear that God wants to be in a relationship with each of us. We are all invited to this banquet. Yet, sometimes we exclude ourselves from being in fellowship with God. We may be hurt, suffering in a way that is preventing us from accepting the invitation to experience God's love and hospitality. We simply want to be left alone. Notice how the host in this parable persists. God does not give up in us.

And what about that poor chap who did come but was not suitably dressed? If we accept the invitation we should be ready for change and not just change of an outer garment, real change. Because any real experience of God in our lives transforms us in some way or another. Parables were meant to shock those who heard them. The Gospel is meant to make us uncomfortable. Otherwise, what changes for us? We can sit around and listen to nice gentle passages that keep us comforted, or we can be challenged and moved to experiencing something real, something which requires us to show up and be transformed. It is up to us whether or not we accept this invitation.

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.

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.

Funeral this week

The funeral for the late **Anne Kelly RIP** will take place on Tuesday 13th October at 12.00 noon at St Robert Bellarmine's Church.

May She Rest in Peace

Under current restrictions there is only 30 people allowed in Church for a Funeral. Please respect this

Enquirers Group

For those interested in becoming a Catholic, the Enquirers Group meets at St James' Presbytery, Chestnut Grove, Bootle, every fortnight.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm.

All are welcome

For more details, contact St James' Parish on 0151 933 8022

SYNOD 2020

Next weekend, 17 and 18 October, 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.

On Synod Sunday the summary proposals on our four Synod Themes will be published which you will be able to find on the Synod Website. Over the following 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. www.synod2020.co.uk



Restored Lives - Recovery from Divorce and Separation

The Restored Lives course is a series of six meetings by Zoom starting on Monday 12th October.
The course is for any person who has been impacted by the end of a serious relationship whether separated, currently going through a divorce or already divorced, either recently or at any time in the past.
Meetings are free, confidential, informative and affirming.

For further details please contact Maureen O'Brien at m.obrien@rcaol.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.

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

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

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Family Fast Day was on Friday 9th October. Coronavirus has affected us all. This Family Fast Day let us stand alongside communities across the world to help them
SURVIVE, REBUILD and HEAL.

If you wish to donate online please visit cafod.org.uk/give



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