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 **11th July– 19th July 2020**	Omega

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

Due to the Coronavirus public celebrations of Mass on Sundays and weekdays were suspended until 6 July.
Since then many Churches in the Archdiocese have opened for Mass with restricted numbers and restrictions in place.

Our church is reopening for Mass with effect from Tuesday 14th July at 9.00am.

(Please read the information later in this newsletter)

Something to think about
Matthew 13:1-23

Todays' Gospel is in three parts: the parable Jesus taught, an explanation on how to listen, and an explanation of the parable Jesus taught. The parable itself is well known and concerns seeds, where they land, and what happens to them. We might take note of the seeds as representing God's Word and the effect it has, or does not have, on us. What makes the difference in the parable is the type of soil the seed lands on and how suitable it is for growth to take place. Let us consider our own hearts as the soil: how open are we to receiving seeds that may be planted there? What condition is our 'soil' in? Any decent gardener will know that good soil is key in order to cultivate anything. Soil needs to be weathered, broken down; it can be too acidic, or it can be too alkaline. Good soil needs organic matter such as compost or manure. It needs lots of air and water; it needs to be tended and prepared. We too are weathered down by various forces in our lives, and at times have manure thrown at us. This can either close us down and harden our hearts, or it can open us up help us to grow, ready to receive the seeds that are scattered. Like the soil, we must take care of our bodies, hearts, and minds, adopt a holistic approach to our well-being. The lesson on 'hearing' in the Gospel

Do we listen or read God's word while being distracted by many things, or are we fully attentive, even for a few minutes each day? How do we listen to one another? Fully attentive or with one eye on our phone? There is a great richness in the text today, spend time with it. Perhaps think about how you might prepare better the soil for planting. 'The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.' (Wendell Berry)

Jane Mellett



For more reflections and other resources, please follow this link to the Archdiocesan resources;
www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com

Cautious reopening of Church

We are sure that you will have heard on the news about churches re-opening for public worship. The Archbishop and the Archdiocese have provided guidelines and churches in the Archdiocese began to reopen on 6th July.

In order to comply with all the requirements and to keep everyone safe we must ensure that Health & Safety guidelines are implemented and authorised before we can open.

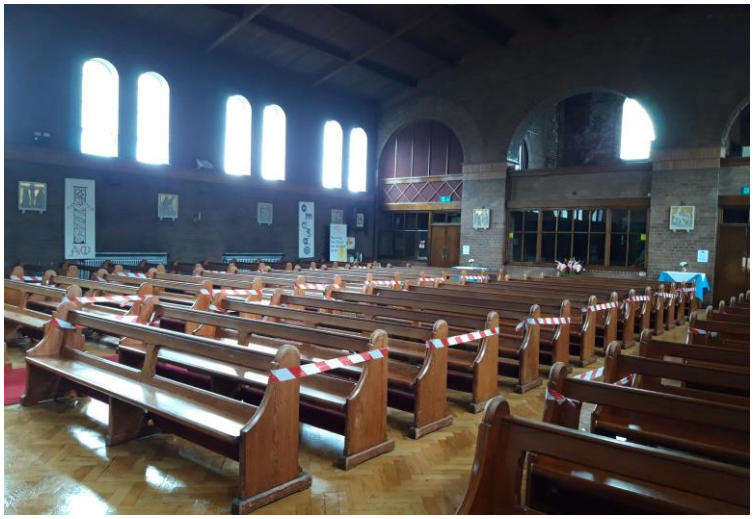
We have been able to make this happen at St Robert Bellarmine's and the church is now ready to reopen for Mass.
Please note, that there will be a maximum number of 50 people allowed in Church,
face masks/coverings must be worn, and your hands must be sanitised on entering and leaving.

Our first Mass will be on **TUESDAY 14TH JULY** at **9.00am**
The Church will be opened at 8.30am but should we reach 50 people, we will be unable to allow any more people to enter.

Mass will then be celebrated on **Thursday at 9.00am**, **Saturday evening at 6.30pm** and **Sunday morning at 11.00am.**

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 once our church is open especially if you are shielding or still do not feel comfortable about attending places with large numbers.

We don't want to have to turn people away – but should we reach our maximum of 50, we will have to.



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

The Archdiocese have produced a leaflet which explains more about the changes which can be located by using this link http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/userfiles/files/Cautious%20reopening%20of%20our%20churches%20-%20what%20to%20expect%20(web).pdf

and also a video from Archbishop Malcolm which explains the new procedures that we will have to follow when Mass resumes. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nArwoMZvll&feature=youtu.be

If you have any questions or feel able to volunteer, please contact Christine in the first instance for more information, or speak to one of the volunteers at Mass.

SYNOD 2020

When we began the Synod 2020 journey with the words: "together on the road" and "becoming the Church God is calling us to be", we never imagined what God had instore for us. While the last few months have been unexpected they have taught us all that the road has many twists and turns, and the Synod journey continues with God calling us to listen in often new and exciting ways. Archbishop Malcolm has issued a video message and a revised Synod timetable has been published. The Synod weekend will now take place in June 2021. You can watch the message and find full details of the changes on the Synod 2020 website www.synod2020.co.uk

An extra period of reflection was added during the lockdown period and you still have a chance to reflect on this and submit a proposal. The Synod Office have produced a short film (this link will take you to a YouTube video) and a leaflet (this link takes you to the leaflet) to help guide your reflection. Please use them and encourage others to reflect too as we continue to discern the Church God is calling us to be.

This period of reflection will close on **1st SEPTEMBER**.

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. 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 at the end of this newsletter. Thank you to those who have donated in this way.

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

Reflecting on the 15th 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

The Catholic Pic

The July issue of the Catholic Pic is now available online and the website is updated during the week 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'



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

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

300 Club Draws

While we have not been able to attend church, the 300 Club has been on hold. As time has passed we wanted to let all members know that this has not been forgotten. The plan is to have a "Grand Draw Weekend" once Masses are resumed during which we will draw all the months we have missed.
Thank you for your patience and for your understanding!!!

RE/Art Competition

The competition closed on Friday 10th July and our winners will be chosen this week.

We aim to display all the entries in Church so that parishioners can see the work our school children have done.

Thank You

Massive thank you's are due to many people who have been working very hard behind the scenes during lockdown to keep our Church and grounds looking beautiful and ready for opening.

A very big thank you to **Delia**, for arranging the flowers in Church each month and those special occasions such as VE Day and Easter. For polishing the floor in Church and for all the other hidden tasks she has been doing. It looks fantastic.

A big thank you also to **Tom** our gardener, who has kept our grounds looking beautiful, and for the many odd jobs he has been doing.

To the **Friday ladies**, who have helped with the weeding, cleaning church and cleaning the plaques from the memorial garden in readiness for their new home.

To our **volunteers** who from this week will be acting as stewards/cleaners as we are able to reopen our doors and slowly begin to welcome people back to Church.

To **Christine** for our Facebook and email updates.

To **you**, our **Parishioners**, for your prayers.

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.

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.