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 4th July– 12th July 2020	Omega

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

Due to the Coronavirus, ALL public celebrations of Mass on Sundays and weekdays are suspended until 6 July.
After this date, some Churches in the Archdiocese will be open for Mass with restricted numbers and restrictions in place.
Our church building is closed at the moment, but we are working towards opening it for Mass shortly.
We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.
Fr Barry is celebrating Mass privately.

(Please read the information later in this newsletter)

Something to think about
Matthew 11:25-30

In the opening lines of the Gospel today, Jesus praises God for the grace of openness and humility he sees around him, for revealing 'these things' to infants and hiding them from the 'wise.'
We imagine Jesus had had enough of the arrogance and the egos of the elite. The authorities of the time who were so closed to his message of love and compassion. Jesus' disciples were not from the upper echelons of society, but they trusted in Jesus, they wanted to understand, they had an openness to learn.
For Jesus, God's grace was found in the humble, in those who were open to new possibilities, in those whose hearts were not hardened or consumed by ego.
Over the past number of months, we have all been humbled a little, whether we were open to it or not. The Covid-19 epidemic stopped us in our tracks and suddenly we realised we were not in control. We were humbled by a microscopic invader with macroscopic consequences. While many opp [illegible] struggling with our new reality.

It has been a traumatic and stressful time for most people. And yet, within it all, our faith asks us to watch out for signs of hope, for stories of resurrection all around us, for good news.

Today, we hear some of the most beautiful lines in the Gospel: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Jane Mellett



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

SYNOD 2020



As many of you know, the four themes for the Synod finished during March and our proposals were submitted.

The Synod Office have been able to add an extra period of reflection, as we consider what our Synod can learn from the experience of living through these difficult and different times. They 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.

As many of us have been using social media and the internet to attend mass, join in with hymnathons, attend retreats and many others, could you take some time to visit the Synod website and make a proposal. If you're unsure how to, please let one of us have your proposal and we will submit it for you.

Please note, this period of reflection has been extended until **1st SEPTEMBER** so if you do have a proposal, please register it, or get in touch with us to do it for you. There will be more news about the Synod next week.

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 14th 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 June 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

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.

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 is to create a piece of artwork about one of these themes and is open to EYFS, KS1, KS2 and those in secondary school.

God's good earth – can you create a work of art that shows what you think about our beautiful world. Who does it belong to? To God? To us? To all the animals?

Holy Words – what words are holy for you? Do you have favourite sayings or stories? Do you have quotes from holy books you love or have learned about? Are there any non-religious wise words that you love? Show your holy words in your artwork. What is great about the words you have chosen?

Closing date is 10th July

CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care

Mass on Thursday 9th July is to be broadcast from Liverpool Cathedral and will be celebrated by Bishop Tom Williams

Links for the live-streaming of the Mass will be found by visiting the relevant Cathedral webpage; www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk, the Cathedral Facebook page or the Cathedral YouTube Channel or the Bishops' Conference Webpage www.cbcew.org.uk

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.

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 can open from 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 are in the process of making this happen at St Robert Bellarmine's and we are actively getting the church ready. Please note, that there will be a maximum number allowed in Church, face masks/coverings must be worn.

We still need help though. More volunteers are needed who will be able to assist at each Mass with stewarding and cleaning. Please help if you can. If you can only commit to one day or a specific time we would really appreciate you volunteering. Those over 70 who are fit and well are invited to join the team but anyone shielding or with underlying health problems should not consider this. We will keep you up to date via e-mail, newsletter and our Facebook page. Please be patient and be assured that we are doing everything we can to get our church opened as quickly as possible.

At the beginning of lockdown, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was removed by the Bishops; this remains in place, and therefore, you do not have to attend Mass once our church is open at this time.

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, please contact Christine in the first instance for more information.



