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 27th June – 5th July 2020	Omega

SAINTS PETER and PAUL (YEAR A)

Due to the Coronavirus, ALL public celebrations of Mass on Sundays and weekdays until further notice.

Our church building is now also closed for private prayer and visiting.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Fr Barry will be celebrating Mass privately.

During this time, there are many masses being streamed on the internet from around the Archdiocese and Walsingham. If you want the information sending again, please let Christine know.

A Thought

Today we celebrate the two founders of the Christian church, Peter and Paul, in some ways not ideal disciples. Peter, originally Simon, was the fisherman who made many mistakes along the way including denying Jesus, but became the 'rock' upon which Jesus built his church. Paul, formerly Saul, turned from persecuting Christians into the greatest missionary and theologian in the early Church.

The Gospel we hear today tells us something about this discipleship to which Peter and Paul were called. It is not easy, and it is not always what we would expect. Jesus tells Peter; 'When you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.' We are told that Jesus is indicating how Peter is to die.

Yet his next words are still an invitation: 'Follow me.' Peter is left in no doubt that discipleship will not be a bed of roses. He will not be able to 'walk where he likes' and do his own thing. Following Jesus is going to take him to places he would rather not go. If Simon or Saul had known what was ahead, would they have taken the path they did?

So it is with our lives. We never know what is around the next corner and what we may have to deal with, whether illness, loss or the many other obstacles that can come our way. The twists and turns of life may indeed bring us where we would rather not go.

But we are called to follow Jesus, and trust that he has a plan for us.



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 FURTHER NOTICE** so if you do have a proposal, please register it, or get in touch with us to do it for you. Thank you

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES AND MASS OFFERINGS

Many thanks to all those who have been passing their Offertory envelopes to Church, and also 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 Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

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.

Parish Grounds

The parish grounds are looking beautiful now and the roses are flowering. If you're able to walk or drive past, take a look.





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. Any subscription cheques received at the beginning of the year will be banked during the week. Thank you for your patience and for your understanding!!!

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 2nd July is to be broadcast from Southwark Cathedral and will be celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson

Links for the live-streaming of the Masses will be found by visiting the relevant Cathedral webpage; www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk (YouTube channel) or the Bishops' Conference Webpage www.cbcew.org.uk

Next week the service is from Liverpool, and will be celebrated by Bishop Tom Williams

Phased Reopening of Church

As we now know, some Churches were allowed to open for private prayer from Monday 15th June. Unfortunately, at this time St Robert Bellarmine's and St Elizabeth's are not included.

Our Lady of Walsingham Church is open for private prayer on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri between 8.30am – 10.00am; Saturday 5.00pm-7.00pm and Sunday 9.00am-11.00am

St Benet's Church is open for private prayer on Tues, Thurs & Sunday between 10.00am-11.00am

Blessed Sacrament Church, Walton Vale, is open for private prayer between 11.00am - 1.00pm on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

As the newsletter was getting prepared the news came through that the Archbishop has authorised that churches can reopen for the public celebration of the Mass from Monday 6th July, with restricted numbers and one metre plus social distancing rules in effect. This is subject to a risk assessment for each church, - and meeting all of the criteria in the said risk assessment. Thank you to those who have offered to act as stewards and to clean before/after the Church re-opening. If there are any other people willing to help please let Christine know as soon as possible.

We're now awaiting further advice/instruction from Father Barry.

Should we receive permission to open, there will be limited numbers and restrictions in place, and these will be shared if we are to open.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

Online and Text Giving

Online Giving

The Archdiocesan online giving website is now ready to be used and can receive 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's where you will see a picture of 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 now available for each parish 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.

Please contact Christine if you have any problems and she will either help or provide you with a contact at the Archdiocese.

Many thanks

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

