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 **13th June – 21st June 2020**	Omega

CORPUS CHRISTI (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.

Corpus Christi
John 6:51-58

It has been a challenge for Christians across the globe, as the coronavirus outbreak saw Masses and church services cancelled and the faithful called upon to stay at home. Physically, we are separated from our church community, but thankfully most of us have been able to tune in to live-streamed Masses on TV, radio or online, where we could unite with the church in prayer.

It brings to mind the experiences of all those who are unable to attend Mass for various reasons, perhaps because they are housebound or in hospital or living in a place where there is no priest available, but who are nonetheless united in communion with the Body of Christ.

Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are 'apart, yet together.'

In the Mass, we are united with the whole church across the world – those in the church building with us, as well as all those who are not.

Today, the Feast of Corpus Christi, St Paul tells us: 'Though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all share in this one loaf.' In challenging times, we are united by Jesus, the living bread.

Triona Doherty



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

There are special resources for children this weekend – Family Life>Family Catechesis

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. If you have any problems with them please contact Christine and she will help if she can or direct you to a contact at the Archdiocese.

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 Corpus Christi

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.

Mass live on the Radio

On Sunday 14th June at 8.10am, Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrates Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi live from Westminster Cathedral. Whilst some Catholic churches have been streaming masses on the internet, this will be the first live radio broadcast, and the first radio outside broadcast of a church service in the UK since the lockdown.

Please pass this information on to any friends or relatives who don't have internet access.

Phased Reopening of Church

As we now know, some Churches are being 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.

More details on churches in our area will be made known shortly.

Although at this time we are not reopening for private prayer, when the time comes for our churches to open we will still need volunteers to enable this to happen. Volunteers must be under 70 years of age and must not fall into the Government shielded categories.

If you can volunteer, please let Christine know.

Parish Grounds



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

Hopefully, we'll be able to post some photos next week if the weather improves.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES
Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and care homes are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those involved in the ways above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral, which will be live-streamed for people to join in.

This will take place every Thursday at 7.00pm

Mass on Thursday 18th June is to be broadcast from Birmingham Cathedral and will be celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley

Links for the live-streaming of the Masses will be found by visiting the relevant Cathedral webpage;
www.stchadscathedral.org.uk or www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-chads-cathedral-birmingham

or the Bishops' Conference Webpage www.cbcew.org.uk

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

