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 **30th May – 7th June 2020**	Omega

PENTECOST SUNDAY (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.

PEACE BE WITH YOU
John 20:19-23

The word for peace in the Gospel today, Shalom, is more than a wish for a good evening. It is a deeper peace, a peace of mind, body and spirit. A peace that comes from a deep spiritual relationship with Christ. It is a peace that says, no matter what we face, we can remain rooted in something deeper.

Over the past number months our lives have changed dramatically. At the beginning of 2020 one could scarcely imagine the historical events that were about to unfold across the world. A staggering death toll, half of the globe on lock down, airlines grounded, businesses closed, major sporting events cancelled. Many of us in that first week of social isolation were in shock, which turned to anxiety and fear. We experienced a collective grief as a human race as this new reality unfolded.

One can imagine that same fear and disbelief that Jesus' followers endured during those days in Jerusalem following the crucifixion, their lives utterly changed forever. Yet our faith shows us that the tomb does not have the last word. The Easter story is a message of hope. It shows us that darkness will not always prevail, there will be a turning point, there will be light and renewal. Things will be different, yes. One does not emerge from a crisis unchanged.

We have witnessed so many acts of that light during this crisis from the heroes on the front line, in good neighbours, in friends and family reaching out to one another. These rays of light remind us of Christ at work in this world, offering peace and love when everything seems hopeless. May we experience this deep peace Christ offers us in the Gospel today and may we carry that peace to others.

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 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 Pentecost Sunday

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

As well as the May issue of the Catholic Pic being available online their website is updated during the week with news from around the Archdiocese.

Please visit 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

Bishop Vincent Malone RIP

We remember in our prayers Bishop Vincent Malone, whose funeral arrangements are as follows;

Monday 1st June at 4pm. Archbishop Malcolm will celebrate Mass for Bishop Vincent at the Metropolitan Cathedral. This Mass will be live-streamed to allow those who wish to participate in the celebration. The live-streaming is via the Cathedral website/Facebook.

Tuesday 2nd June at 11.30am. The funeral service for Bishop Vincent will take place at Allerton Cemetery, Liverpool, where his body will be buried in a family grave. The service, which will be recorded, will be conducted by Bishop Tom.

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.

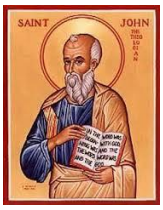
Reflections on John's Gospel

Fr Chris Thomas from Irenaeus has prepared a reflection on John's Gospel which you could use as a mini retreat. It lasts just under 20 minutes.

There's also a short video for children lasting 7 minutes which has some activities in it that they could do.

You'll find both presentations here, under Sustaining Prayer Life, The Resurrection Appearances

https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com



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 4th June is to be broadcast from Salford Cathedral and will be celebrated by Bishop John Arnold

Links for the live-streaming of the Masses will be found by visiting the relevant Cathedral webpage www.salfordcathedral.co.uk or www.churchservices.tv/salfordcathedral 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

St Robert Bellarmine – Year 4

This Friday, 5th June, we should have been celebrating the First Holy Communion of our Year 4 children.



They, their families and teachers have been planning for this for a long time and we know that they will be disappointed.

Please remember them in your prayers.

Coming on Monday

Details of an Art competition for our 'younger' Parishioners

