Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

It was a day that started without an expectation of anything unusual. Simeon and Anna set about making a visit to the Temple that had become part of their daily routine. Joseph and Mary were going to make the presentation of their child in the Temple, an optional but common practice of God-fearing parents. What started out as an ordinary day turned out to be a day with a meeting they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you too have had significant meetings in what you expected to be just an ordinary day?

A Thought

It was an important day for this little family, when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Did they expect everything to go smoothly, or had they already had to let go of some of their dreams and plans? After all, the story of Jesus' birth had already been unusual, not to mention the shepherds turning up to visit the newborn Messiah.

Still, they could not have expected two elderly people to suddenly appear in the Temple with a message about their child – that he was going to do great things but also would be rejected and cause great pain to his mother. Was it at this moment that they realised life would never be the same again?

The most important messages can come from unexpected sources. Anna and Simeon were advanced in years, wise and devout people who had lived well, and still hoped and trusted in God's plan. This encounter was unexpected for them too, taking place close to the end of their lives; but they were ready, willing and able to recognise its significance. Their call was to be among the first people to encounter the Messiah and to share the Good News.

What is our call? The story of Anna and Simeon shows us the value of being open to an encounter with Jesus. Despite what we have been through, or what stage we are at in life, there are good things to come. Each of us has something unique to offer. We pray that we will recognise the unexpected opportunities to encounter God that come our way.

Funeral Service

There will be a **Mass of the Angels** for **Baby Isaac Theo Taylor RIP** on Monday 3rd February at 10.15am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church

May He Rest in peace

Offertory Collection

£411.93

CAFOD

£1.00

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity

Exposition and Holy Hour takes place at St Elizabeth's Church on Friday evenings from 6.00pm to 7.00pm.
All are welcome.

Why we need more Deacons

There is an evening for men who may be wondering if they are called to serve as Deacons on Wednesday 5th February at St Joseph's Parish Centre in Wrightington from 7.30pm to 9.00pm.

Please see the poster at the back of Church.

Synod 2020

The third Synod Theme is **'How we Pray Together'**

In this theme we will explore how we can help people to engage more profoundly with and understand how they fully and actively participate in the celebration of the Eucharist in our Parishes?

Reflection forms and leaflets are available at the back of Church and in the George Inch Room. Please take time to explore the information at the Synod Prayer Station.

You can submit Proposals on this third Theme by handing them to our Synod members at Church, placing them in the Synod box, at the Parish meeting to be held on 16th February 12.15pm – 1.15pm or via the Synod website: www.synod2020.co.uk

Annual Mass for Marriage and Family Life

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon invites you to join him in celebrating the Annual Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Sunday 9th February 2020 at 11.00am.
All are welcome to attend.

The Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those celebrating significant anniversaries.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room

Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes

Mass will be celebrated at Christ the King Church, Queens Drive on Tuesday 11th February at 7.30pm.

All are welcome

Recovery from Divorce and Separation

A course for any person who is going through, or has gone through, a relationship breakdown, will begin on Wednesday 12th February to Wednesday 16th March.

For more details contact Maureen on 07967 753371 or Jacqui on 07793 825815

Any donations of tea, coffee, soup or biscuits would be gratefully received by The Whitechapel Centre. Please leave your gift at the back of Church.
Thank you

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 **1st February 2020 – 9th February 2020**	Omega

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

THE FIRST MASS OF THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

SATURDAY	**6.30 pm**	**Parishioners Intentions**	
SUNDAY	**11.00 am**	**Frances Sullivan (Remembrance)**	
Monday	9.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's	St Blaise
Tuesday	**9.00 am**	**Moira Hanton (Birthday Remembrance)**	
Wednesday	9.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's	St Agatha
Thursday	9.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's	St Paul Miki
Friday	**9.00 am**	**Alice and James O'Meara (Anniversary Remembrance)**	

THE FIRST MASS OF THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY	**6.30 pm**	**Parishioners Intentions**
SUNDAY	**11.00 am**	**Eric Kelly (Anniversary Remembrance)**

Confessions – St Elizabeth's – Saturdays -11.30 – 12 noon and on request

Please pray for the following who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time.
Please remember the sick and those who care for them.

Lately Dead: Isaac Theo Taylor, Maureen Alty, Vera Morrison, Mrs Yu, June McGrath

Anniversaries: Violet Kelly, John Kelly, Eric Kelly, Alice O'Meara, James O'Meara, Peter Dolan

Sick; James Roche, Daniel Harden, Robbie Pennington, Bill Sainsbury, Amanda Fessey, Christopher Brown, Joyce Sainsbury, Jonathan Noble, James Johnson, Philip Shepherd Eleanor McCaffrey, Sheila Thompson, Jacqueline Johnstone, Peter West, Julie Machell, Katie Rushton, Sandra Dryhurst, Thomas Smith, Dorothy Corris, Eddie Swarbrick, Ann Mardell, Colin Faulke, Richard Potts, Poppy Jessop, Mary (Traynor) Hemmings, Ann & Joe Johnson, Chris Parkes, Gerard Burke, Cayle Royce, David Morgan, Tom Niblock, Jose Howard, Michael Hanton, Hilda Prince, Roisin Dooley, Baby Lucy Hand, Ethan Hand, Ann Bretherton, Thomas Bainbridge, Mary Wild, Karl McGee, Arthur Snellgrove, Seanie Jones, Ann Bailey, Susan Neary, Jimmy Doyle, Mary Simpson, Doug Faulke, John Rimmer, Phil Jones.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS

6.30pm – J Rehm, S Jolley, M Murphy
Reader – J Jones

11am – D Faulke, P Faulke, M Wildman
Reader – T Wainwright