Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

It is surprising that Jesus, the Saviour of the world, asks to be baptised by John. The request symbolises his desire to identify with us. At the same time, he is filled with the Holy Spirit. That step of identifying with us is an important element in his being able to help us. Have you ever found that when someone identifies with you, it is easier for him/her to help you? Has your ability to identify with others had any impact on your effectiveness in helping others?

A Thought

John the Baptist was driven by one mission: to point people to Jesus, to prepare the way for Jesus. Yet John is uneasy in this account of Jesus' baptism. The moment has arrived, but he is standing before someone much greater than himself and is being asked to minister. John feels unqualified, unworthy of such a task. After some persuasion '*John gave into him'* and accepted his responsibility. This is a lesson to all of us, not to let feelings of inadequacy stop us from carrying out our various missions and vocations in our lives. Jesus explains to John that this is necessary as a sign for the beginning of his ministry, a public statement of identity.

Today we might consider our own baptism and what it means to us. At that moment we were anointed as priests, prophets and Kings. To what extent do we live this out in our Christian lives? John points us towards Jesus and we can ask, do we also point the way to Jesus for others? How can we be a signpost for others?

Remember today those who pointed the way for you at various times in your life. Maybe a chaplain in school or college, a teacher, grandparent, a friend, a retreat you participated in. At various times in our lives we meet these 'signposts' which help us to grow in our faith and deepen our awareness of Christ's love. Let us celebrate all of these 'baptismal' moments today.

There will be a **Requiem Mass** for **Michael Keelan RIP** on Friday 24th January at 12.15pm at St Elizabeth's Church
May he rest in peace

Offertory Collection

£397.84

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity

Aid to the Church in Need

There will be a 'talk and appeal' by Aid to the Church in Need at Mass this weekend 11th and 12th January.
Please support them in their work supporting persecuted and suffering Christians around the world.

Exposition and Holy Hour at St Elizabeth's Church will take place on Friday 17th January from 6.00pm to 7.00pm.
All are welcome.

300 Club

Membership subscriptions are now due for 2019.
New members are welcome to join.
Please speak to Christine for details

Synod 2020 – Theme Three

Next week we celebrate the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary time. As we begin this Ordinary time we also begin discerning, as a Parish, as an Archdiocese and as Church, the proposals for action that we believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to look at under the Theme of 'How we pray together'.
There will be more information about this theme with your newsletter next week, at our Parish Synod table and in the George Inch Hall.

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 in Wrightington.
Please see the poster at the back of Church.

Synod 2020 Talks

The fourth talk 'Faith in The Family' takes place on Monday 13th January at LACE at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee from 7.00pm.
What does Scripture teach about faith and family? What does it mean to call home 'the domestic church'? What foundations for faith can be laid in the family? More details on the poster at the back of church.

ROSES

Could you please check your Rose Memorial Label is still attached to your rose, and if it is missing please let Delia know.

As all the roses are now planted, pruning, feeding and spraying will be done in the spring under the supervision of Tom O'Connor, our gardener.

If you have any questions, or for more information, please speak to Delia

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 **11th January 2020 – 19th January 2020**	Omega

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

THE FIRST MASS OF THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SATURDAY	**6.30 pm**	**Parishioners Intentions**	
SUNDAY	**11.00 am**	**Thomas Breen (Birthday Remembrance)**	
Monday	9.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's	St Hilary
Tuesday	**9.00 am**	**Pat Kelly (Remembrance)**	**St Kentigern**
Wednesday	9.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's	
Thursday	9.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's	
Friday	**9.00 am**	**Ann Burke (90th Birthday Celebration)**	**St Anthony**

THE FIRST MASS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY	**6.30 pm**	**Parishioners Intentions**
SUNDAY	**11.00 am**	**Violet Edith Morrison-Wells (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: Mike Keelan, Elizabeth Ashcroft, Ann Bowling, Mary Dargan

Anniversaries: Mary Angela Brown, Elizabeth Clarke, Anthony Clarke, Violet Edith Morrison-Wells

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, Gerald Culligan Snr, 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