Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

In response to the question of John, Jesus let his actions speak for him. Some people show by the way they live what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Who has given you such an example? Perhaps there have been times when you have done the same for others.

A Thought

'The sights and sounds and smells of the season are all around us. Is there a particular sound that reminds you of Advent or Christmas – perhaps a carol you've always loved, or the sound of jingle bells? For many, the smell of mince pies or mulled wine are real signs of Christmas. Our towns and cities are filled with wonderful sights too: festive lights and decorations, trees decked out with tinsel and baubles, while our churches display Nativity scenes. Another common sight in the run-up to Christmas are the charity collectors we meet on the streets, singing carols or shaking buckets, urging us to give generously to a good cause. It is a feast for the senses, with these experiences often evoking warm Christmas memories and putting us in good humour.

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday – *Gaudete* means 'rejoice.' In our churches, the rose-coloured candle is lit on the Advent wreath to symbolise joy. Today's readings bring out this sense of joyful anticipation of the Lord's coming. The people of Jesus' time would have been familiar with Isaiah's talk of 'everlasting joy and gladness.' And Jesus tells us: 'Happy is the man who does not lose faith in me'. It is this personal encounter with Jesus that we celebrate at Christmas, God becoming man, the Good News announced by John the Baptist in today's Gospel. We have reason to be happy – let's make this Gaudete Sunday a real celebration.

Synod 2020

The second Synod Theme is **'Sharing the Mission of Jesus.'**

In this theme we reflect on how we are sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation.

Reflection leaflets and forms are available – please take time to explore and reflect on this theme.

You can submit Proposals on this second Theme by handing them to our Synod members at Church, placing them in the Synod box at the display table.

Our Parish meeting to discuss this theme will now be held on **Sunday 5th January 2020** from 12.00 noon and will last for 1 hour. We apologise for this change; however, we hope you will be able to join us on this new date.

ROSES

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Robert Bellarmine's Church;

Christmas Eve – Carols from **4.30pm**
First Mass of Christmas **5.00 pm**
Christmas Day – **11.00 am**

St Elizabeth's Church;

Christmas Eve – First Mass of Christmas **7.00 pm**
Christmas Day – **9.30 am**

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

Offertory Collection

£384.37

Cafod

£11.00

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity

All Called and Gifted by God – Synod Theme One

One of the proposals we received for theme one was to 'involve more lay people in services.'

If you can help in any way at any of our services, or you would like to be involved in some other way within the Parish, could you please speak with Christine, Anne-Marie or Michael and make us aware of what you would like to be involved with and we can discuss it with you further

Christmas Draw

Raffle tickets are now on sale for the Christmas Draw which will take place this Sunday 15th December.

St Robert Bellarmine School Advent Service

On Thursday 19th December at 7.00pm in Church.

Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Concert

On Thursday 19th December at 2.00pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral.
All are welcome

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 **14th December – 22nd December 2019**	Omega

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

THE FIRST MASS OF THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY	**6.30 pm**	**Parishioners Intentions**
SUNDAY	**11.00 am**	**Paddy Kinsella (65th Wedding Anniversary Remembrance)**
Monday	10.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's
Tuesday	**9.00 am**	**Joe Morley (Remembrance)**
Wednesday	9.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's
Thursday	9.00 am	Mass at St Elizabeth's
Friday	**9.00 am**	**Mary McCoy (Remembrance)**

THE FIRST MASS OF THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY	**6.30 pm**	**Parishioners Intentions**
SUNDAY	**11.00 am**	**Jody Pennington (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: Peter Myerscough, Mary McCoy, Carol Burke

Anniversaries: Eileen Callaghan, Jody Pennington

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, Mike Keelan.

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