Seeing your Life through the Lens of the Gospel

John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of opposition. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been content to be yourself, without pretending to be more than you are? What was it like to have that freedom, even in the face of criticism from others?

A Thought

'Once again, we come to the Holiday season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice'

[Dave Barry]

We might recognise ourselves in the above statement! We are so used to the commercial side of Christmas – the frenzy of ads and gift-buying, the extravagant decorations and parties – that it is easy to forget what we are really celebrating. That's where John the Baptist comes in. We first meet John in Luke's Gospel, before he is even born: Elizabeth's pregnancy is announced at the same time as Mary's although John will be born first. The next we hear of John, he appears as God's messenger (as we hear in today's Gospel{ preparing the way of the Lord. His job is to set the stage for Jesus to begin his ministry, and his central message is repentance, The Greek word for repentance was *metanoia*, which literally means turning ones life around, So John is inviting his audience to make a break with the past, turn to God and go in a different direction. When Jesus begins his own ministry, his first message is the very same: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

This is a fitting message as we enter the second week of Advent. As we prepare to welcome Jesus, we are invited to *metanoia* or change of heart. As we ponder the mysteries of Christmas, we are nudged onwards in a new direction. This week, we could make a conscious effort to move away from the noise and lights of 'the mall,' to still our minds, and to open our hearts to God's call.

There will be a **Funeral Service** for **Peter Myerscough RIP** on Monday 9th December at 11.00am at St Robert Bellarmine's Church
May he rest in peace

Offertory Collection

£371.44

Cafod

£21.00

Many thanks for your kindness and generosity

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, at the Parish meeting on **15th December** from 12 noon until 1.00pm or via the Synod website: www.synod2020.co.uk

All Called and Gifted by God – Synod Theme One

Thank you for your proposals for the first theme of the Synod. As a Parish we have submitted 5 proposals to the Synod Office. It is possible that some of the items raised by the proposals and at our Parish meeting could be introduced sooner.

The first of these is to 'involve more lay people in services.' If you can help in any way at any of our services, 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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Please pray for the children from Year 4 of St Robert Bellarmine's Primary School, who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week.

Christmas Draw

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

Synod 2020 Talks

The third talk takes place on Monday 9th December November at the Hope University Chapel. More details on the poster at the back of church.

School Bingo

St Robert Bellarmine School are holding a Bingo on Friday 13th December in the Parish Club.
Doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 7.30pm

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

Roses

All the roses requested have now been planted. Any queries please speak to Delia.

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 **7th December – 15th December 2019**	Omega

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

THE FIRST MASS OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY	**6.30 pm**	**Parishioners Intentions**	
SUNDAY	**11.00 am**	**Albert Ney and family**	
Monday	9.00 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**	**Eileen Callaghan (Anniversary Remembrance)**	**St Lucy**

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)**

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, Joan Coyne

Anniversaries: Emanuel Wainwright, John Irving, Ted Byrne

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

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