

PALM SUNDAY OF LENT C

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The blessing of palms this weekend marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most Sacred and important time in the life of the Church. Easter Vigil and Easter Day mark the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. By his rising to new life, he promises us hope, salvation and eternal life.

This week we celebrate the **Triduum**, which consists of **Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil**. These services are markedly different from what we might celebrate on a normal Sunday. Maundy Thursday has the “Washing of the Feet” of twelve representative disciples, the renewal of “Eucharistic Ministers” promises for the year, the stripping of the altar and procession of the “Blessed Sacrament” to the side chapel, watching until midnight. ***Please note that the times of next weekend Masses are different from the usual times!***

Good Friday has a special service which consists of the reading of the Passion of Christ, the Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. Note that we are not allowed to celebrate Mass on Good Friday. Please also note that there are two walks of witness, one at Ashley and the other at Clayton. Come along and represent us!

The Easter Vigil begins with the lighting of a bonfire outside church, the blessing and lighting of the Easter Candle, the sign of Christ’s Resurrection, the procession into a darkened church and the grand celebration of the “Lord’s Resurrection.”

Note that during Holy Week the crucifix, statues, pictures and stations of the cross are all covered in purple to remind us of the passion of Christ and the sadness of the time when he goes to Calvary to die for our sakes.

A CRY FOR HELP! The Parish Hall has sprung a leak, and we are having difficulty getting someone out to deal with it. We are not looking for a freebie but would appreciate it if anyone has a contact and can get someone out to deal with it before Easter. Thanks in advance for any assistance!

Meanwhile a very Happy and blessed Holy Week and Easter to you all!

All times are in the newsletter!

God bless,
Father Anton s.c.j.

***Our Lady & Saint John the Baptist, Ashley
and***

Our Lady & Saint Werburgh, Clayton

*The parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No
234216*

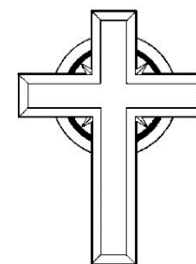
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023

Email: olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk

[Parishes Office Hours: Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat 10.00 am – 1 pm]

Chaplain’s Office for inpatients at the Royal Stoke: 01782 676400



**Sunday 13th April 2025
Palm Sunday
Sunday Readings Year C
Weekday Readings Year 1**

Pax Christi

Loving God of Peace

Strengthen my determination to work for a world of peace and justice;
My conviction that, whatever our nationality or race, we are all global citizens,
one in Christ;

My courage to challenge the powerful with the values of the gospel;

My commitment to find nonviolent ways of resolving conflict – personal, local,
national and international;

My efforts to forgive injuries and to love those I find it hard to love

Amen

Saturday 12th April Palm Sunday	6.00 pm		Pauline Fowler
Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday	3.00 pm	8.15 am 10.00 am	Dec'd members of the Ford & Gillard Family People of the Parishes Stations of the Cross at Ashley
Tuesday 15th April		10.00 am	NB different mass time Amanda Ford
Wednesday 16th April	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00 am	No intention Benediction Jane & Henk Boendermaker & Family
Thursday 17th April Maundy Thursday		5.30 pm 7.15 pm	Children's Liturgy in the Upper Room Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 18th April Good Friday	10 am	12 noon 3 pm 5 pm	Ashley Walk of Witness Children's Service Solemn Liturgy Walk of Witness Clayton
Saturday 19th April Holy Saturday		8.00 pm	Easter Vigil - Mary Richards
Sunday 20th April Easter Sunday	9.00 am	11.00 am	People of the Parishes Pope Francis

Please pray for the sick and elderly of our parishes and all those who have asked for prayers. May the healing touch of the Lord be with them all.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF MASS TIME ON TUESDAY 15TH APRIL.

Penitential Services: Holy Trinity – Monday 14th April at 7 pm, Trent Vale – Tuesday 15th April at 7 pm

Good Friday: Walk of Witness at Clayton begins at St Lukes, Severn Drive at 5 pm.

Maundy Thursday: Please sign one of the lists in the porch if you are able to watch in the side chapel for a period of time on Maundy Thursday, or are willing to have your foot washed during mass. Watching takes place from the end of the Mass until Midnight and 2 people are required at all times.

Easter Monday: There will be the traditional Men's Mass at Holy Trinity at 10 am. Chief Celebrant Bishop Timothy Menezes.

Fr Anton will be celebrating his **Golden Jubilee in June, 50 years of Holy Priesthood**. Please collect an invitation to the mass and party planned for Friday 27th June (1 per family). RSVP by Sunday 27th April.

Parish Census forms for parishioners are still available to collect from the porch. Please return completed forms in a sealed envelope and return to Father Anton/Parish Office.

Readers	Saturday 6 pm	12.04.25 M Hartley/H Brown/J Dunlevy	20.04.25 B Bromfield	26.04.25 L Mifflin
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	13.04.25 K Lycett	20.04.25 M O'Hagan	27.04.25 S Sammons
Readers	Sunday 10 am	13.04.25 M Larkin / J Parkes	20.04.25 A Capper / J Capper	27.04.25 A Goodall / M O'Brien
Counting	Clayton	13.04.25 Hagan	20.04.25 Walker	27.04.25 Thompson/Carter
Cleaning	Clayton	13.04.25 Group 3	20.04.25 Group 4	27.04.25 5 & 5b
Cleaning	Ashley	H Brown/J Dunlevy	H Brown / J Dunlevy	H Brown / J Dunlevy
Flowers	Ashley	No flowers during Lent	20.04.25 All on rota please	27.04.25 All on rota please check
Flowers	Clayton	No flowers during Lent	Julia & helpers	Julia & Helpers to check
Children's Liturgy	Clayton	No Children's Liturgy	No children's liturgy	No children's liturgy
Offertory Collections Thank you		Retiring Collection Easter Flowers	Good Friday: Retiring collection: Holy Places Collections at Easter Services: Easter Offering to our Parish Priest	
Gift Aid	Clayton	£126.00	Ashley	£12.00
Cash	Clayton	£294.44	Ashley	£38.95
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£850.44	Ashley	£142.95
			Building Fund	£58.50

Safeguarding: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Kate Hagan She can be contacted at:

sg.olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk or 01782 613023 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

A Pilgrims of Hope Walk - Monday 5th May in aid of CAFOD. More details are available on the flyers in the porch and on the notice board.

Musicians: If any musicians wish to join the existing parish groups, you would be warmly welcomed!

Lenten Alms for Wateraid and Mary's Meals will be collected in after Easter.