

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR C

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Ash Wednesday is here this very week. Masses for the receiving of Ashes are as follows. First Mass of the Day is the School/Parish **Mass at 9.15 a.m. Clayton**. The Second Mass of the Day is at **Ashley 2.15 p.m.** And thirdly **7.15 p.m. at Clayton**. Come and receive your ashes as a sign of your desire for and the need of God. Personally, I find it a great time of renewal, a time to be able to focus on parts of life that need to be given attention and/or changed. Make Lent a blessed time for the soul, heart and mind, perhaps even the waistline! Three things to focus on are prayer, penance and the poor!

Please note that throughout Lent there will be the devotion “**Stations of the Cross.**” It takes place alternatively at Clayton then Ashley at 3 p.m. Sunday afternoons. It certainly fulfils the element of additional prayer and penance.

If you make a small sacrifice and you wish a suggestion as to where to place the offering, then the parish project is to collect for Mary’s Meals and Water Aid. Any donations to the fund will be split equally between the two charities at the end of Lent. There are indeed many other good causes to choose from.

A couple of thanks to people of the parish. Firstly, for the £2,000 donation give anonymously for the repairs of the Ashley Church. Secondly to Archie for his efforts at fundraising for “Linkline”. Every little is a help!

Our young people are meeting this weekend and will help at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday at Clayton, doing readings, offertory procession and collections. Our young servers will be there also. We give thanks for their generosity and commitment and for their work of witnessing to the life of Christ.

Finally, this Sunday we are asked to pray for the unemployed, especially those who can work and are finding it difficult to access it. May they find work and their dignity be restored!

Take care and God bless everyone!

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*

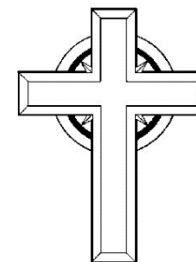
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 2nd March 2025
Eight Sunday of the Year
Sunday Readings Year C
Weekday Readings Year 1**

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 1st March Feast of St David Vigil Mass Eighth Sunday	6.00 pm	10.00am	No Intention, Mass followed by Adoration until 11am for Peace in the World People of the Parishes
Sunday 2nd March Eighth Sunday		8.15 am 10.00 am	Anna Jones Kathleen Thomas (Youth Mass)
Tuesday 4th March		7.15 pm	Fr Dominic Innamorati
Wednesday 5th March Ash Wednesday	2.15 pm	9.15 am 7.15 pm	The Holy Father (School Mass) No intention Margaret Gillen
Thursday 6th March		10.00 am	No intention
Friday 7th March		10.00 am	Holy Souls
Saturday 8th March Vigil Mass 1st Sunday of Lent	6.00 pm	10.00 am	Ackers Family Holy Souls
Sunday 9th March 1st Sunday of Lent		8.15 am 10.00 am 3.00 pm	People of the Parishes Recently Deceased Parishioners Stations of the Cross

**Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 am – 11.30 am At Ashley before 6pm Mass
No Confessions at Clayton on Saturday 22nd February.**

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.

Appeal for Organists: We have been fortunate to have, over many years in our parishes, a strong tradition of music to accompany and enhance the liturgy. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain this. In particular, we have need of additional organists across all Masses. If you can play the piano to Grade 5 or higher, will you volunteer to help? Please contact the parish office if you would like more information. Guidance will be given for playing the organ.

Gift Aid Reminder: Gift aid may only be collected on Second Collections for Poor Parishes Fund, Cathedral Maintenance, Clergy Training and N Staffs LinkLine. You may still use any envelopes you might have for second collections, but gift aid will not be claimed by the parish.

The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following positions, which will all be closing for applications shortly: Operations Director, IT Manager, Finance Manager and Gift Aid Officer. Full details/closing dates can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs.

North Staffs Christian Aid Sponsored Walk – Saturday 29th March at 10 am. If you would like to take part, contact Sr Marie on 01782 614459

Vocations Mass: Wednesday 19th March at Holy Trinity at 6.30 pm. All are welcome.

World Day of Prayer: 7th March at 7 pm at Mucklestone C of E church. This year's theme: 'I made you wonderful' focussing on the Cook Islands.

Readers	Saturday 6 pm	01.03.25: J. Allbutt	08.03.25 C. Byrne	15 th March B. Bromfield
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	02.03.25: K. Lycett	09.03.25 M. O'Hagan	16.03.25 S. Sammons
Readers	Sunday 10 am	02.03.25 A. Goodall/ M. O'Brien	09.03.25 S. Sony/ M. Tierney	16.03.25 A. Hagan/ M. Hughes
Counting	Clayton	02.03.25 Hughes	09.03.25 Walker	16.03.25 Thompson/Carter
Cleaning	Clayton	02.03.25 Group 2	09.03.25 Group 3	16.03.25 Group 4
Cleaning	Ashley	March:	M. Heath/C. Byrne	
Flowers	Ashley	No flowers during Lent	No flowers during Lent	No flowers during Lent
Children's Liturgy	Clayton	02.03.25 Sister Geraldine Natalie	09.03.25 Anne Claire O	16.03.25 Judy Peter
	Offertory Collection Thank you	1 st /2 nd March: Cathedral Maintenance	Retiring Collection at Ashley 09.03.25: Building Fund	Sunday 16.03.25 CAFOD Family Fast
Gift Aid	Clayton	£112.00	Ashley	£30.00
Cash	Clayton	£255.78	Ashley	£19.02
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£797.78	Ashley	£141.02

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.

North Staffs Eucharistic Congress – For our Deanery Jubilee celebration we are going to have a weekend Eucharistic Congress from the evening of Thursday 10th July to Saturday 12th July. **Planning Meeting: On Monday 3rd March at 7pm at St Joseph's Goldenhill.** There will be Mass and Adoration before the meeting at 6pm for those who wish to come. Each parish will need a representative to attend. Please can you let Father Anton know if you are able to represent the parish.

Ashley: Thank you to all who supported the coffee morning and book exchange at Ashley which raised £51 towards the building fund. The next one on 25th March, will have an Easter/Spring theme.