

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we began Lent with the receiving of Ashes last Wednesday, it was heartening to see such a good attendance at Masses. We travel together in this time of penance, prayer and care of the poor. Above all let it be a time of renewal and strengthening of our bond with God and each other. Although we may undertake several things regarding Lent, such as giving things up, additional prayer and perhaps a little fasting, the fundamental aim is to help us turn to God. That is the meaning of the word repentance i.e. turning towards God, directing our lives accordingly. Remember that to achieve good we can ask for and express a true need of God's grace to do so.

Forgiveness can be a very appropriate part of our repentance and to heal our souls the Sacrament of Forgiveness and Reconciliation is an important part of the Lenten Journey. The church asks that we all renew our commitment to Christ and his church by completing our Easter Duties. Around the time of Lent and Easter we are required to go to confession and communion as a sign and reality of our commitment to Christ and the Church.

This week we keep our Church Leader firmly in our prayers. Pope Francis is very ill in hospital. He welcomes your prayers. May the Lord accompany him closely on whatever journey is decided!

This weekend the Diocese asks us to pray for all those preparing to receive the Sacraments. We remember our children making preparation for First Forgiveness and Holy Communion. There are many adult catechumens throughout the diocese i.e. those adults preparing to enter the church. We pray for them that God's will strengthens them for their life ahead.

We continue to pray for the repose of the soul of Amanda Ford, remembering her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass takes place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 11 a.m. at St Werburgh. Can you also remember in your prayers Kathleen Parr who has died, 104 years old. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord!

A reminder that the Parish Council meets this Thursday at 7.15 p.m. in the Upper Room.

Finally, have you made your Lenten resolutions!

Take care and 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*

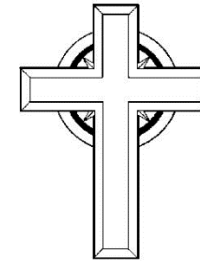
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023**

**Email: [olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025  
First Sunday of Lent  
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.

<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March Vigil Mass 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Ashley</b> 6.00 pm	<b>Clayton</b>	Holy Souls
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes Recently Deceased Parishioner
		3.00 pm	Stations of the Cross Clayton
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>		7.15 pm	Ann McVeigh RIP
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7.15 pm	10.00 am	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>		9.15 am	Harry & Monica Gillard (Anniv) (School Mass)
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>		10.00 am	Louis & Julia O'Leary RIP
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00 pm	10.00 am	People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	3.00 pm	8.15 am 10.00 am	Stations of the Cross Ashley

**Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 am – 11.30 am At Ashley before 6pm Mass**

**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 pray** for Amanda Ford and Kathleen Parr who have died recently. Amanda's funeral will take place at Clayton on 21<sup>st</sup> March at 11 am.

**Lenten Lunches** will be held in Ashley every week in Lent. The Anglican Church will host on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon.

**Vocations Mass:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at Holy Trinity at 6.30 pm. All are welcome. There is also an invitation to parish choir members across the deanery to join together and lead the singing for the Mass.

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

**Two Saints Way Day: On 22nd March**, the Potteries Museum is hosting a day celebrating 'The Two Saints Way,' run by Festival Stoke. The Two Saints Way is a pilgrimage route between Chester (St Werburgh) and Lichfield (St Chad). More details available from [www.festivalstoke.co.uk](http://www.festivalstoke.co.uk) or notice board in the porch.

Over the coming weeks, we will be conducting a **Parish Census** in order to update our records. Census forms will be available from Sunday Masses and should be returned to Father Anton/Parish Office in a sealed envelope. Please see our website for the Privacy Notice.

<b>Readers</b>	<b>Saturday 6 pm</b>	08.03.25 C. Byrne	15.03.25 B. Bromfield	22.03.25 R McKenna
<b>Readers</b>	<b>Sunday 8.15 am</b>	09.03.25 M. O'Hagan	16.03.25 S. Sammons	23.03.25 C Pover
<b>Readers</b>	<b>Sunday 10 am</b>	09.03.25 S. Sony/ M. Tierney	16.03.25 A. Hagan/ M. Hughes	23.03.25 B Walker / J Somers
<b>Counting</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	09.03.25 Walker	16.03.25 Thompson/Carter	23.03.25 Eggington/Evans
<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	09.03.25 Group 3	16.03.25 Group 4	23.03.25 Group 5
<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Ashley</b>	M. Heath/C. Byrne	M. Heath /C. Byrne	M. Heath /C. Byrne
<b>Flowers</b>		No flowers during Lent	No flowers during Lent	No flowers during Lent
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	09.03.25 Anne Claire O	16.03.25 Judy Peter	23.03.25 Catherine Debbie
	<b>Offertory Collection Thank you</b>	Retiring Collection at Ashley 08.03.25: Building Fund	Sunday 16.03.25 CAFOD Family Fast	
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£143.00	<b>Ashley</b>	£52.00
<b>Cash</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£497.77	<b>Ashley</b>	£40.91
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£430.00	<b>Ashley</b>	£92.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£1070.77	<b>Ashley</b>	£184.91
<b>Cathedral Maintenance</b>		£113.44	<b>Ashley</b>	£18.00
<b>February Tap n Go</b>		£112.00		

**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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

**Kenelm Youth Trust** are recruiting new members (aged 18 – 25) to the Mission Team at Alton Castle, including opportunities for Gap Year applicants. Further details available at [www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk](http://www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk) (QR code in church porches)