

The Baptism Of The Lord

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord! Why did Jesus need to be baptised. I suppose the truth is that he did not need baptism because of who he was. His actions were for us and for his Father in heaven. John wanted Jesus to take over the baptising, but Jesus insisted on John baptising him. His actions show us the way forward and simultaneously confirming his humanity. Perhaps that is why it was heard from heaven, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Jesus subjects himself to all he requires of us. Whenever we think of our Baptisms, may we think of those words and ask ourselves, "Is the heavenly Father pleased with me and how I have lived out my promises to him and those made by parents and friends on my behalf?"

This week is somewhat sad in that we have the funeral services of two very devoted catholic members of our parishes. Please pray for the repose of the souls of Pauline Capper and Marian Thompson. Details and times of their services are in the newsletter. Please pray for them and give thanks for their devoted service and commitment.

This week the snow and ice have made things difficult. Tuesday, the Epiphany, the school had to close, and people were unable to join for the Solemn Feast. It was a beautiful day of prayer reminding us that this Sunday is the last official day of Christmas. Unless of course you wish it to continue until the Presentation of the Lord Monday February 2nd.

First Holy Communion is to take place this year Saturday June 13th at 12 noon. All our school parents should be receiving notification this weekend. If you live in this parish and have a child not at a catholic school and wish them to prepare for and receive Holy Communion please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

Next weekend we begin the Octave of Christian Unity. Keep the intention in your prayers. Christians need to be together in mind and heart as a remedy for the ills of the world and the renewal of the message of Christ's love for the world.

Meanwhile keep safe and warm.

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***

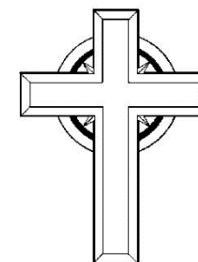
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 67640



**Sunday 11th January 2026
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Sunday Readings Year A
Weekday Readings Year 1**

The Prayer of the Servant Church

***Loving Father, fill us all with your
Presence, in Jesus your Son.***

***May we THINK with the mind of Christ
SEE with the eyes of Christ
SPEAK with the words of Christ
SERVE with the hands of Christ
LOVE with the heart of Christ
and LIVE with the life of Christ
who is Our Lord for ever and ever
Amen***

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 10th January Vigil Mass Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 11th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord		8.15 am 10.00 am	Holy Souls Hilda and Tom Parkes and Arnold Achtmanis
Tuesday 13th January	12 Noon		Requiem Mass for Pauline Capper
		7.15 pm	Anne Turner and James Unsworth
Wednesday 14th January	7.15 pm	10.00am	Holy Souls Holy Souls
Thursday 15th January		9.15 am	Holy Souls (Mass with the school)
Friday 16th January		10.00am 1.00 pm	Holy Souls Funeral Service for Marian Thompson
Saturday 17th January Vigil Mass Second Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm	10.00am	Mary Sutton ,Mass followed by Adoration Holy Souls
Sunday 18th January Second Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes Michael Somers

Confessions on Saturdays: At Clayton – 10.30 – 11.30 am. **At Ashley** before 6 pm 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 keep Theo who is to be baptised this weekend, and family in your prayers.

Prayer Life Workshop: Starting on Thursday 15th January 10.15 am – 12.15 pm in the upper room at Clayton. All welcome. This weekend we welcome Jo Kirkham who will speak to us about the workshop.

Ashley Parish Council Meeting: On Wednesday 14th January at 6pm.

Clayton Parish Council Meeting: On Thursday 29th January 7pm in the upper room.

Funeral Details.

Requiem Mass for Pauline Capper: On Tuesday 13th January at 12 Noon at Our Lady & St John the Baptist R. C. Church, Ashley.

Funeral Service for Marian Thompson: On Friday 16th January at 1pm at Our Lady & St Werburgh's Clayton.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	10.01.26 To be arranged		
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	11.01.26 A. Dible	18.01.26 M. Hill	25.01.26 S. Sammons
Readers	Sunday 10 am	11.01.26 M. Larkin/J. Parkes	18.01.26 L. Machin/H. Carter	25.01.26 A. Capper/J. Capper
Counting	Clayton	11.01.26 Eggington/A N Other	18.01.26 Whitehurst/Machin	25.01.26 Grannell
Cleaning	Clayton	11.01.26 Group 1	18.01.26 Group 2	26.01.26 Group 3
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	January: A. & J. Capper		
Altar Flowers	Ashley	See rota	Clayton	18.01.26: Julia 25.01.26: Sujen
Offertory Collections – thank you			Retiring collection 10th January at Ashley is for the Building Fund	17th/18th January retiring collection Pax Christi
Gift Aid	Clayton	£102.00	Ashley	£50.00
Cash	Clayton	£205.28	Ashley	£31.00
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£737.28	Ashley	£173.00

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 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.

Newcastle Staffs Foodbank: Thank you for your generous donations throughout 2025. Please check the noticeboard for the list of current shortages.

Altar Servers: We always welcome new altar servers who wish to offer their services in this Important role, however, we now must have parental permission before they can start to train. Forms are available from Kate [on sg.olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk)

Rotas:

Clayton: Cleaning, Counting and Reading Rotas 2026 are available in the porch.

Clayton Flower Rota: The updated rota is now available in the porch.

Ashley: Cleaning Rota 2026 is now available.

First Holy Communion Preparation – Children not attending a Catholic Primary School. Preparation classes will begin shortly for children living in the parishes of Our Lady & St Werburgh and Our Lady & St John the Baptist, Ashley. Please can parents contact the parish office to fill in the necessary form.