

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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*

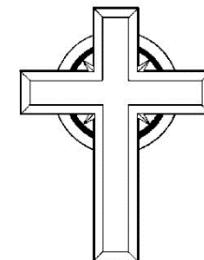
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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***

	<b>Ashley</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b> <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	6. 00 pm		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am	Holy Souls Hilda and Tom Parkes and Arnold Achtmanis
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	12 Noon		Requiem Mass for Pauline Capper
		7.15 pm	Anne Turner and James Unsworth
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>		10.00am	Holy Souls Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>		9.15 am	Holy Souls (Mass with the school)
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>		10.00am 1.00 pm	Holy Souls Funeral Service for Marian Thompson
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b> <b>Second Sunday of the Year</b>		10.00am	Mary Sutton ,Mass followed by Adoration
	6.00 pm		Holy Souls
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>Second Sunday of the Year</b>		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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm.

**Clayton Parish Council Meeting:** On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 7pm in the upper room.

**Funeral Details.**

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

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

<b>Readers Saturday</b>	6.00pm	<b>10.01.26</b> To be arranged		
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	11.01.26 A. Dibie	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
<b>Cleaning</b>	Clayton	11.01.26 Group 1	18.01.26 Group 2	26.01.26 Group 3
<b>Cleaning Ashley</b>	Ashley	January: A. & J. Capper		
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	Ashley	See rota	Clayton	18.01.26: Julia 25.01.26: Sujen
Offertory Collections – thank you				<b>Retiring collection 10<sup>th</sup> January at Ashley is for the Building Fund</b>
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](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.

**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.