

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY YEAR A
EDUCATION SUNDAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate Education Sunday, a time of great importance. Education is the root of a grace filled life, whereby we learn the truths and values of living in this world. Through learning we achieve co-operation with one another and are able to enhance life in general. Learning is not simply about facts; it is also about the worth of what we have learned and how to apply it to life so that we may have life to the full.

Catholic education emphasises the value of every human being, it builds a community on the body of Christ, we become his people, his family, his brothers and sisters. Life is a gift and is to be treasured from conception until its natural end.

Our world is not as civilised as we would hope. The anniversary of New York 9/11, the voting on End of Life bill, are both signs that we need to keep before us the love of Christ and how he put the whole world before himself. We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Let us pray to live the life he wants for us! Education is such a gift especially when it strives to find the goodness and truth of life and our destiny. Love is never simple but nonetheless let us love as Jesus himself taught us.

We continue our prayers for the repose of the souls of Esther Bourne and Aileen Bell along with their family and friends. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

This Sunday we also give thanks that the weather seems to be holding and the Parish Picnic can be celebrated to the full. Burgers, Bouncy Castle, Tug o War, Quiz, Rounders and Football. Let us get together for the love of fun and being with one another.

God bless and keep you safe in his care!

Father Anton s.c.j.

Education Sunday

An Invitation from Archbishop Bernard Longley

Today we give thanks for the gift of Catholic education. Our schools have a mission to form Christ-centred pilgrims of hope, with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for justice.

There is a real need for more foundation directors and governors to help guide our schools and keep Christ at the heart of their mission. This is not simply an administrative role; it is a true vocation and a practical way to serve Christ and His Church.

If you are a practising Catholic, committed to our mission, and willing to share your time, skills and faith, you can make a lasting difference for thousands of children and young people. No prior experience is required, as full training and support are provided.

God's unconditional love and readiness to forgive our sins remind us that service is not always easy, but it is always fruitful when rooted in love.

Please speak to your parish priest or visit the Diocesan Education Service website for further details and to complete an online application form.:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/could-you-be-a-foundation-governor-or-director-at-your-local-catholic-school> and <https://www.bdes.org.uk/governor-online-application-forms.html>.

***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***

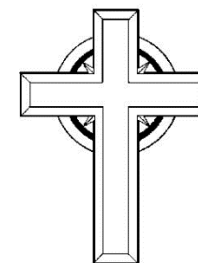
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 September 2026
Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year
Sunday Readings Year A
Weekday Readings Year 2**

**Night Prayer to My Guardian Angel
O Angel of God, my guardian dear
to whom God's love commits me here.
Ever this night be at my side
to light, to guard, to rule and guide.
Amen**

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 12th September Vigil Mass for Sunday Twenty- Fourth Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 13th September Twenty - Fourth Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00am	Doctor John Kennedy RIP Private Intention
Tuesday 15th September		7.15 pm	Gerry Eaton RIP
Wednesday 16th September	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00 am	Holy Mass Adoration Felix Fitzpatrick
Thursday 17th September		9.15 am	For Our Families (Mass with the school)
Friday 18th September		10.00am	Holy Mass
Saturday 19th September Vigil Mass for Sunday Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year	6. 00 pm	10.00am	Holy Mass, followed by Adoration Dee Dutton RIP
Sunday 20th September Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10. 00am	People of the Parishes Michael Somers RIP

Confessions on Saturdays: Ashley before 6pm Mass. Clayton 10.30 – 11.30 am
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.

Toddler Group at St Werburgh's: Every Wednesday term time 9.15 am – 11 am in the parish hall. All welcome.

Parish Picnic at St Werburgh's: On Sunday 13th September after 10am Mass. See flyer for further details.

Feast Day Mass for Our Lady of Walsingham: At St Wulstans Church, Wolstanton on Thursday 24th September at 6.30PM

Care for Creation: A Scriptural Vision: Date: Monday, 14th September 2026 Time: 6:45pm – 8.30pm . Place: The Catherine Room, Our Lady of the Angels & St Peter in Chains, 106 Hartshill Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7LG.

Youth Group: IS BACK! If you're Year 4 or more, come and join us at Youth Group on Saturday 19th September between 6pm and 8pm in the Church Hall for some fun, faith and friendship. Subs are £2 and you might want some spare change for the tuck shop. Details on Alton Castle retreat coming soon!!

Readers Saturday Ashley	6.00pm	12.09.26 R. McKenna	19.09.26 J. Dunlevy	26.09.26 S. McKenna
Readers Clayton	Sunday 8.15 am	13.09.26 K. Lycett	20.09.26 J. Mason	27.09.26 M. O'Hagan
Readers	Sunday 10 am	13.09.26 L. Machin/ H. Carter	20.09.26 A. Goodall/ M. Hughes	27.09.26 T. Gauvin/ C. O'Hara
Counting	Clayton	13.09.26 Eggington/ Beardmore	20.09.26 Whitehurst/ Machin	27.09.26 Grannell
Cleaning	Clayton	13.09.26 Group 6	20.09.26 Group 1	27.09.26 Group 2
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	September H. Brown/ J. Dunlevy		
Flowers	Ashley 14.09.26 21.09.26 28.09.26	Sue M Sue M Chris	Clayton 13.09.26 20.09.26 27.09.26	Catherine Rosalind Julia
Offertory Collections – thank you	Second Collections: 13.09.26 Catholic Education Service 20.09.26 Home Mission			
Gift Aid	Clayton	£318.19	Ashley	£45.00
Cash	Clayton	£663.43	Ashley	£29.20
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£1411.62	Ashley	£166.20
Tap & Go August Gift Aid Cash	Clayton £149.00 £ 60.00			

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.

Caritas Parish Ambassadors: Could you be a Caritas Parish Ambassador? We're inviting people from across the Archdiocese of Birmingham to act as a link between your parish and Father Hudson's Caritas. Interested? Attend our information session on Tuesday 15th September at 7pm online. Contact Emily Pugh, emilypugh@fatherhudsons.org.uk or 07385 472924 for the link to join.

CAFOD ECUMENICAL WALK with prayer stations: On Sunday 20th September 2026. Please meet at Apedale museum car park at 2pm. This walk is weather permitting. Participants to bring own refreshments.