

SIXTH SUNDAY YEAR A

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This week we celebrate Ash Wednesday when we receive the symbol of our repentance and desire to improve our lives and become closer to God. In days past, especially the early church, as a sign of repentance sinners would don a sack cloth and pore ashes over the heads. Nothing so drastic or dramatic today, but still a chance to deepen one's relationship with God. We emphasise three things, firstly prayer, secondly a form of fasting whereby we refrain from some pleasure or indulgence and then thirdly give what we have saved to the poor.

If you do not have a specific charity that you want to contribute your sacrifice to, then you are welcome to join with the parish group offering towards Water Aid and Mary's meals. Donations will be equally split between the two charities. Water Aid brings fresh water to parts of the world that cannot reach it. Mary's meals is a help for children in need, providing thousands upon thousands of nourishing meals for children in need all over the world. Both are simple but beautiful charities, and I am sure they have God's blessing.

Note the Ash Wednesday Masses are as follows; Clayton 10 a.m. and 7.15 p.m. And Ashley is at 2 pm. Let us together mark a sacred day.

Lent, a period of forty days is also a time to renew one's commitment to the church by doing our Easter Duties. Easter duties consist in going to confession around Easter time and ensuring that you are truly in a state of grace to receive Holy Communion, thereby being in full communion with the church, and of course with Christ himself.

Next week is also half term, and I hope that you manage some form or R and R, so that you come back refreshed and renewed.

Please continue to pray for the repose of the souls of Mariella Vella, Eileen McClellan, Tim Cree and Brian Bratt. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them!

God bless and look after yourselves!

Father Anton s.c.j.

P.S. I hear that the cakes went down well last week for St Werburgh's Feast!

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

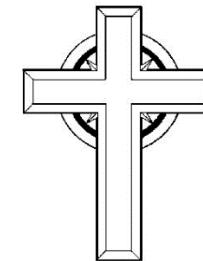
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 15th February 2026
Sixth Sunday of the Year
Sunday Readings Year A
Weekday Readings Year 2**

Psalm 18:1-2

**I Love you, Lord,
You are my strength.**

**The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my saviour;
My God is my rock, in whom I find protection.
He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.**

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 14th February Vigil Mass Sixth Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 15th February Sixth Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00 am	Aubrey Sammons Holy Souls
Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday	2.00 pm	10.00am 7.15 pm	Father Dominic Innamaratti Brother Michael Richards Father Colin Fortune
Saturday 21st February Vigil Mass First Sunday of Lent	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 22nd February First Sunday of Lent		8.15 am 10.00am 3.00 pm	Mary Frances McCaughley RIP Wyn Bunting and Barbara Riley RIP Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 24th February		7.15 pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 25th February	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Holy Souls Adoration Holy Souls
Thursday 26th February		9.15 am	Holy Souls (Mass with the School)
Friday 27th February		10.00am	Holy Mass
Saturday 28th February Vigil Mass Second Sunday of Lent		10.00am	Holy Mass, Mass followed by Adoration People of the Parishes
Sunday 1st March Second Sunday of Lent	6.00 pm	8.15am 10.00am 3.00 pm	Frank & Lillian Thomas Maureen & John Mulrooney Stations of the Cross

Confessions on Saturdays: At Clayton – 10.30 – 11.30 am. At Ashley before 6 pm Mass.
No Confessions at Clayton on Saturday 21st 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.

Lenten Appeal: We will be collecting throughout Lent for Mary's Meals and WaterAid.

On Tues 10th March in Keele University Chapel, Kenelm Youth Trust will be running an event 'How to Be,' in partnership with Keele CathSoc, for young adults (16 years +). The evening begins with Mass at 6pm, followed by an informal time of discussion about 'what it means to be Catholic.' See flyer at the back of church.

North Staffs Deanery Vocations Mass: On Monday 2nd March 2026 at St Joseph's Goldenhill ST6 5RD at 6.30 pm. Principal celebrant Father Julian Green.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	14.02.26 B. Bromfield	21.02.26 R. McKenna	28.02.26 S. McKenna
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	15.02.26 C. Pover	22.02.26 M. Anderson	01.03.26 M. Mason
Readers	Sunday 10 am	15.02.26 A. Hagan/ M. Hughes	22.06.26 B. Walker/ J. Somers	01.03.26 B. Tierney/ R. Gallimore
Counting	Clayton	15.02.26 Walker	22.06.26 Thompson/Carter	01.03.26 Eggington
Cleaning	Clayton	15.02.26 Group 6	22.02.26 Group 1	01.03.26 Group 2
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	February S. & L.Mifflin	March M. Heath & D. Griffiths	
Offertory Collections – thank you			The retiring collection 14th/15th February is for Pro-Life	The retiring collection 28th February/1st March is for CAFOD Lent Fast Day
Gift Aid	Clayton	£141.00	Ashley	£65.00
Cash	Clayton	£286.87	Ashley	£13.40
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£857.87	Ashley	£170.50
Building Fund			Ashley	£98.50

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.

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day collection: This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT



to 70085 to donate £10.

The parish collections will be held on 28th February and 1st March.