

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are halfway through Lent and celebrate Rose Sunday, sometimes called Laudate Sunday, the Sunday of Praise signifying that we are at the turning point of Lent. We are on the rise towards the celebration of the Resurrection, the greatest Feast of the Church calendar. How are the resolutions going? Remember we can always restart.

This weekend we welcome The Missionary Sisters who are here to present the annual national appeal. We are all called to spread the Goodnews, the Gospel of Christ, actively and by supporting the work of those who give their lives to this very special task.

We continue to pray for those suffering from Dementia, as the church asks us to keep in mind those suffering and all those who care for them. When we ask God's healing it can be in many areas, physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. All are part of the overall peace that Christ wishes to bring to us.

This Thursday we celebrate First Forgiveness for our Year Three children and their families. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful and powerful grace that God gives us. Its healing powers are wonderful to behold.

This week we have St Patrick's Day on Tuesday, and we pray for the well-being of all those who live in or are associated with Ireland. On Thursday we have the Feast of St Joseph, the husband of Mary, and so give thanks for all our schools named after such a noble saint.

And of course, very specially we celebrate Mother's Day this weekend. Please take a few daffodils to mark the occasion when you leave church from the weekend Masses. Happy and Blessed Mother's Day to all mothers. We also pray for those of our mothers who have gone before and give thanks for their devotion, love and service.

We continue to pray for our sick and housebound and all who care for them. Please also keep Mildred Brennan in your prayers. Remember the family and friends who will miss her greatly.

May God keep you in his care!

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*

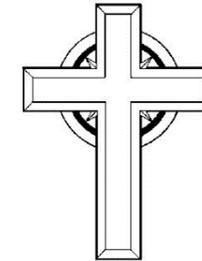
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 15th March 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

(Mothering Sunday)

Sunday Readings Year A

Weekday Readings Year 2

Psalm 23

***The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.***

***Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.***

***Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.***

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 14th March Vigil Mass Fourth Sunday of Lent	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 15th March Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday	3. 00 pm	8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Deceased members of the O'Neill and Donahue families Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 17th March Feast of St Patrick		7.15 pm	Holy Mass
Wednesday 18th March	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Mildred Brennan RIP Adoration Pauline Capper
Thursday 19th March Solemnity of St Joseph		9.15 am 7.00 pm	Peter Scott RIP (Grandparents Mass) First Forgiveness
Friday 20th March		10.00am	Enid & Eddie Edwards
Saturday 21st March Vigil Mass Fifth Sunday of Lent	6.00 pm	10.00am	Maureen & John Mulrooney, Mass followed by Adoration People of the Parishes
Sunday 22nd March Fifth Sunday of Lent		8.15am 10.00am 3. 00 pm	Mary Frances McCaughley RIP Eileen McClellan RIP Stations of the Cross

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.

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

Mission Appeal at St Werburgh's on Sunday 15th March: The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver will be here on 15th March to appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missions Committee of England and Wales. The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver work in solidarity with missionaries around the world, especially in regions where the Church is poor and resources are limited. Through prayer and practical support, they help sustain missionary work in pastoral ministry, education and healthcare. Please keep the missionaries and their work in your prayers.

In Memory of Father Simon Hall: The Story of St Therese of Lisieux. A talk by Father Michael Miners. On March 20th 2026 7pm. At St Teresa of the Child Jesus Church, Trent Vale ST4 6SR. All welcome.

Lenten Reconciliation Service at St Werburgh's: On Tuesday 24th March at 7.15 pm.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	14.03.26 L. Miffiin	21.03.26 J. Bester	28.03.26 (Palm Sunday) J. Dunlevy/ H. Brown
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	15.03.26 D. Mason	22.03.26 K. Lycett	29.03.26 J. Mason
Readers	Sunday 10 am	15.03.26 L. Machin/ H. Carter	22.03.26 A. Capper/ J. Capper	29.03.26 A. Goodall/ M. O'Brien
Counting	Clayton	15.03.26 Grannell	22.03.26 Lycett/Bullock/ Corrigan	29.03.26 Hughes
Cleaning	Clayton	15.03.26 Group 4	22.03.26 Group 5	29.03.26 Group 6
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	March M. Heath/ D. Griffiths	April H. Brown/J. Dunlevy	
Offertory Collections – thank you		The retiring collection at Ashley on 14 th March is for the Building Fund	The retiring collection at Clayton on 15 th March is for the Mission Appeal	The Retiring collection 21 st /22 nd March is for North Staffs LinkLine
Gift Aid	Clayton	£111.16	Ashley	£60.00
Cash	Clayton	£186.87	Ashley	£57.70
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£729.03	Ashley	£209.70
Cathedral Maintenance	Clayton	£102.76	Ashley	£58.62

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.

Easter Monday Mass: Traditional North Staffordshire Men's Mass in thanksgiving for the Blessed Sacrament. At Sacred Heart Church, Tunstall 10.00 am. Chief Celebrant Rt Rev Timothy Menezes.

Lenten Lunch at Ashley: Thank you to all who donated food for the and to those who organised and attended the lunch. We raised £145 for Christian Aid.

Lists for Washing of Feet and Watching until Midnight at the Mass of the Lord's Supper: On Thursday 2nd April 7.15 pm at St Werburgh's. Please sign the lists in the porch.