

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A
Peace Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Following the Christmas festivities which I hope has been a blessed and restful time for many of you, we find ourselves in what we call "Ordinary Time" in the schedule of Liturgy, i.e. the Mass and church timetable of readings. We are now into the ministry of Christ; it is as though he has grown into adulthood overnight and is out and about bringing new life into the people he meets. May our next few weeks before Lent arrives be a time of growth in prayer and spiritual life.

This week is a reminder to pray for Christian Unity, reminding ourselves that we have more in common than what separates us. The values of Christ's love, compassion, forgiveness and healing are now increasingly more important than ever. At the same time, we give thanks that our country emphasises the values of inclusiveness, peace and justice and care for those in need. It is not perfect in all its values, but the gift of living in peace and harmony with one another is so important for life in general.

It is a reminder to give thanks to God for what we have and to pray that other countries experience peace and justice, tolerance in living and understanding. Let us always keep the value of compassion in our hearts and allow ourselves to be challenged regarding our prejudices. Let us have the strength and courage to challenge them and think them through time and time again.

Let us keep family and friends in our prayers. We remember Pauline Capper and Marian Thompson whose funerals took place this week. We are also asked to pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen McClellan. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Meanwhile please keep one another in prayer.

God bless,

Father Anton s.c.j.

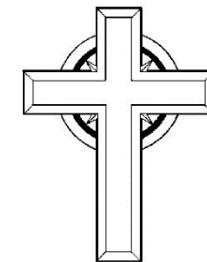
**Our Lady & Saint John the Baptist, Ashley
and
Our Lady & Saint Werburgh, Clayton**

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 18th January 2026
Second Sunday of the Year
Sunday Readings Year A
Weekday Readings Year 2**

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 17th January Vigil Mass Second Sunday of the Year		6. 00 pm	Holy Souls
Sunday 18th January Second Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes Michael Somers
Tuesday 20th January		7.15 pm	Private Intention
Wednesday 21st January	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Holy Souls Adoration Holy Souls
Thursday 22nd January		9.15 am	Holy Souls (Mass with the school)
Friday 23rd January		10.00am	Maureen & John Mulrooney
Saturday 24th January Vigil Mass Third Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm	10.00am	Forgotten Holy Souls ,Mass followed by Adoration People of the Parishes
Sunday 25th January Third Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Steve, Kath and Kevin Dunn

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 Romy who is to be baptised this weekend, and her family in your prayers.

Prayer Life Workshop: On Thursday's 10.15 am – 12.15 pm in the upper room at Clayton. All welcome to attend this Thursday.

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

Live Streaming of Masses

Due to the lack of uptake in our live streaming of Sunday mass, it has been decided to discontinue this service. Live streaming is available at other local parishes.

Anyone who is housebound for a long period and unable to attend Sunday mass should contact the parish office should they need Pastoral Assistance.

Youth Group will next meet on Saturday 7th February, 6:00pm - 7:30pm, in OLSW Church Hall. All young people in Years 4-13 are welcome. Come and join us for fun and friendship. Subs £2 and the tuck shop will be open!

For young people Years 7-13, we will also be going to the free Kenelm Youth Trust event 'Go with Hope' at Oscott College on Saturday 7th March. This is a great opportunity to grow as community, deepen our lives of faith and learn more about the legacy of our Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope.' Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes. Please contact Claire O'Hara (07929036596) for more details and how to register. Limited lifts will be available.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	17.01.26 C. Bland	24.01.26 J. Bester	31.01.26 S. McKenna
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	18.01.26 M. Hill	25.01.26 S. Sammons	01.02.26 C. Dibie
Readers	Sunday 10 am	18.01.26 L. Machin/H. Carter	25.01.26 A. Capper/J. Capper	01.02.26 A. Goodall/ M. O'Brien
Counting	Clayton	18.01.26 Whitehurst/ Machin	25.01.26 Grannell	01.02.26 Lycett/Bullock/ Corrigan
Cleaning	Clayton	18.01.26 Group 2	25.01.26 Group 3	01.02.26 Group 4
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	January: A. & J. Capper	February S. & L. Mifflin	
Altar Flowers	Ashley 19.01.26 26.01.26 02.02.26	Sue M Chris Chris	Clayton 18.01.26: 25.01.26: 01.02.26;	Julia Sujen Catherine
Offertory Collections – thank you			17 th /18 th January retiring collection Pax Christi	24 th /25 th January retiring collection SPUC
Gift Aid	Clayton	£111.00	Ashley	£50.00
Cash	Clayton	£185.90	Ashley	£43.00
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£726.90	Ashley	£185.00
			Ashley Building Fund	£53.97

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.

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

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.