

#### FOURTH SUNDAY IN YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus Our Lord,

We are called to pray for **Racial Justice**, a reminder that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, and therefore of equal worth and dignity in his eyes. We may not always see each other in this way, but our creator does. This basic principle of our faith is extremely important when we approach life, and particularly the lives of others. Race, creed or colour should not deviate us from this teaching.

It is well to remember that last Tuesday was **Holocaust Memorial Day**, a reminder of what human beings can be capable of. Each generation needs to be educated, and the reality of original sin acknowledged so that we live according to Jesus and the teachings of his church.

This week is the **Feast of St Werburgh**, officially Tuesday but also to be celebrated at the Thursday School Mass and next weekend. I have asked the hall volunteers to purchase **some cakes** to mark the occasion! If you wish to bring a little something along for after the 10 a.m. Mass next Sunday, please feel free to do so and enjoy a little bit of togetherness in community.

St Blaise's **Blessing of the Throat** is also available at the Tuesday evening Mass this week if you would like to avail yourselves of it. It is still for many a popular devotion and desirable protection.

Thursday evening is **First Holy Communion Preparation Meeting** for Parents 7 p.m. in the school hall. Also, next Sunday Mass 10 a.m. is also a **First Holy Communion Preparation Mass**. I look forward to seeing you all and sharing with you an understanding of the beauty and joy of the sacrament.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mariella Vella and consolation for all her family and friends. May she rest in peace!

Also note that the **Friday Mass will be at an earlier time of 9.15 a.m.** as I have to attend a meeting for my Congregation of Priests and Brothers in Birmingham.

Meanwhile let us continue in prayer for one another.

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*

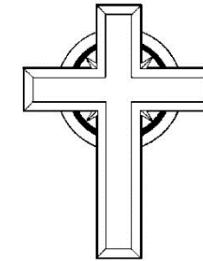
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026  
Fourth Sunday of the Year  
Sunday Readings Year A  
Weekday Readings Year 2**

#### **Diocesan Prayer for Vocations**

**Heavenly Father,  
we ask you to send labourers  
into your harvest.**

**Inspire, in the hearts of your people,  
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate  
and religious life.**

**Bless our families with a spirit of generosity,  
so that those whom you call  
have the courage to give themselves  
to your Church in faith.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen**

	<b>Ashley</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of the Year</b>	6.00 pm		Holy Souls
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of the Year</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes Maureen and John Mulrooney
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b> <b>Feast of St Werburgh</b>		7.15 pm	Private Intention
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Holy Souls Adoration Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>		9.15 am	Forgotten Holy Souls (Mass with the school)
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>9.15 am</b>	Tim Cree RIP
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of the Year</b>	6.00 pm	10.00am	Forgotten Holy Souls, Mass followed by Adoration  People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of the Year</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Mariella Vella (First Holy Communion Commitment Mass)

**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.

#### **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!

#### **Youth Events:**

**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.

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

<b>Readers Saturday</b>	6.00pm	31.01.26 S. McKenna	07.02.26 J. Dunlevy	14.02.26 B. Bromfield
<b>Readers</b>	Sunday 8.15 am	01.02.26 C. Dibie	08.02.26 M. Corrigan	15.02.26 C. Pover
<b>Readers</b>	Sunday 10 am	01.02.26 A. Goodall/ M. O'Brien	08.02.26 S. Sony/ M. Tierney	15.02.26 A. Hagan/ M. Hughes
<b>Counting</b>	Clayton	01.02.26 Lycett/ Bullock/ Corrigan	08.02.26 Hughes	15.02.26 Walker
<b>Cleaning</b>	Clayton	01.02.26 Group 4	08.02.26 Group 5	15.02.26 Group 6
<b>Cleaning Ashley</b>	Ashley	February S. & L. Mifflin		
<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<b>Ashley</b> <b>02.02.26</b> <b>09.02.26</b> <b>16.02.26</b>	Chris Hazel Hazel	<b>Clayton</b> <b>01.02.26</b> <b>08.02.26</b> <b>15.02.26</b>	Catherine Rosalind Helen
Offertory Collections – thank you			<b>31<sup>st</sup> January/1<sup>st</sup> February retiring collection is for Racial Justice</b>	<b>The retiring collection at Ashley on 7<sup>th</sup> February is for the Building Fund</b>
<b>Gift Aid</b>	Clayton	£127.51	Ashley	£55.00
<b>Cash</b>	Clayton	£266.10	Ashley	£21.00
<b>Standing Orders</b>	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
<b>Total</b>	Clayton	£823.62	Ashley	£168.00

**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.

**Altar Servers Albs:** Please can the parents of altar servers take home an alb to wash.

**Altar Cloths:** Help is needed to wash and iron the altar cloths. Please speak to Rita or leave your details at the parish office.

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