

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are now in a time of repentance, prayer and fasting.

Repentance is a turning towards God, opening our lives to the grace of his relationship with us. It is brought about by prayer and fasting. Are you praying a little extra, are you fasting a little extra? Ten days of the forty have already gone and before we know it, it will be Easter and Lent will be over.

Remember as a true catholic the church requires us to observe our Easter Duties, i.e. to go to confession and ensure that we are in full communion with the church. This is an annual renewal and is the minimum requirement to demonstrate one's catholic allegiance.

This weekend we are asked to pray for all those candidates who are getting ready to enter fully into the catholic church. It is a beautiful and challenging time in the lives of these individuals. It is also a joyful time, to find oneself that much closer to and strengthened in one's relationship with God. Pray for them as well as praying for the grace for ourselves to be assisted in life.

This Tuesday is the Solemn Feast of St Chad, the Patron of our Archdiocese. "St Chad was born in the seventh century. He was educated at Lindisfarne. As a bishop he established his See at Lichfield. His reputation spread quickly and favourably as a kind pastor who sought out the lost and cared for the sick. He died at Lichfield in 672. Today his shrine is located in St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. He is the Patron Saint of the Archdiocese."

Friday is the World Women's Day of Prayer! Let us remember to pray for all women who are suppressed, victimised, and abused, that they may be freed from oppression and be able to live full and fruitful lives.

We continue to pray for all the sick and ill of our parishes. Also please pray for all those who still grieve at the loss of their loved ones. May God strengthen the faith of us all that one day all will be well again, and that we will reside in heaven eternally happy with our loved ones and with God himself.

God bless and keep you all safe 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*

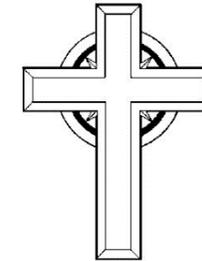
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023**

**Email: [olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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> March 2026  
Second Sunday of Lent  
Sunday Readings Year A  
Weekday Readings Year 2**

***Psalm 116***

***O Praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples!  
Strong is his love for us;  
he is faithful for ever.***

	Ashley	Clayton	
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February Vigil Mass Second Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March Second Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	8.15 am 10.00 am	Frank & Lillian Thomas Maureen & John Mulrooney <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>		7.15 pm	Holy Mass
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Aubrey Sammons  Adoration Holy Mass
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>		9.15 am	Holy Mass (Mass with the school)
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>		10.00am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March Vigil Mass Third Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00 pm	10.00am	Maureen & John Mulrooney, Mass followed by Adoration  Holy Mass
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March Third Sunday of Lent</b>		8.15am 10.00am <b>3.00 pm</b>	People of the Parishes Margaret Gillen RIP <b>Stations of the Cross</b>

**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.

**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.

**Parish Committee:** We will meet on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.15pm upper room.

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

**Lenten Lunch – Our Lady & St John the Baptist R.C. Church Ashley:** On 13<sup>th</sup> March 12.30 pm. Volunteers to help on the day are needed and donations of food are welcome.

**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](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT



to 70085 to donate £10.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	28.02.26 S. McKenna	07.03.26 C. Bland	14.03.26 L. Mifflin
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	01.03.26 M. Mason	08.03.26 R. Hartley	15.03.26 D. Mason
Readers	Sunday 10 am	01.03.26 B. Tierney/ R. Gallimore	08.03.26 M. Larkin/J. Parkes	15.03.26 L. Machin/ H. Carter
Counting	Clayton	01.03.26 Eggington	08.03.26 Whitehurst/Machin	15.03.26 Grannell
<b>Cleaning</b>	Clayton	01.03.26 Group 2	08.03.26 Group 3	15.03.26 Group 4
<b>Cleaning Ashley</b>	Ashley	March M. Heath & D. Griffiths		
Offertory Collections – thank you			The retiring collection 28 <sup>th</sup> February/1 <sup>st</sup> March is for CAFOD Lent Fast Day	The retiring collection 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> March is for Cathedral Maintenance
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£126.15	<b>Ashley</b>	£15.00
<b>Cash</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£597.62	<b>Ashley</b>	£12.10
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£430.00	<b>Ashley</b>	£92.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£1,153.77	<b>Ashley</b>	£119.10
<b>Tap &amp; Go</b>	<b>Clayton</b>			
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£160.00		
<b>Non Gift Aid</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£ 65.00		
<b>Aid</b>	<b>Clayton</b>			
<b>Donations</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£20.00		
<b>Pax Christi</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£52.00		

**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.

**'How to Be' :** On Tues 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

