

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last weekend was Mother's Day and after Mass I was given this tribute from a daughter to a mother. I thought it worth presenting it to you as a nice afterthought.

*"Growing up, I never know she was tired, I never saw the quiet tears, the strength behind the smile, or if she ever caught a cold. I just know I was loved. And now, as a mother myself, I understand the weight she carried with grace. The love she gave so freely. The way she made the impossible look easy. Becoming a mother didn't just teach me about my own strength, it helped me finally see hers."*

There is something of Christ's love truly exemplified in the above!

This week we have our Reconciliation Service, Tuesday evening at 7.15 p.m. After the service there will be a time for confessions. Three priests will be available. It is a good opportunity to fulfil our Easter Duties. The Easter Duties are the Church's call to renew our commitment to Christ and the Church. Each year we are reminded to go to confession and be in a state of grace to receive the Body of Christ in Holy Communion.

As Holy Week approaches, we will need to cover the stations, statues and crucifixes with purple clothes to remind ourselves of the passion of Christ as he dies to rise again at Easter. Our usual volunteer is no longer able to fulfil the role. We are looking for two people to work together to fulfil the task. Could we have two volunteers!?

We remember Mildred Brennan in our prayers as her Reception into church takes place Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. Her Requiem Mass is the following day 1 p.m. Please keep her and all the family in your prayers.

This weekend we have a Pastoral Letter from our Archbishop to wish us well for Easter, the most important Feast of the Church's year! Let us keep him in our prayers as he works to help us on our Lenten journey.

As Holy Week approaches, we still have time to strengthen our Lenten resolutions. It is never too late to turn towards the Lord.

God bless and take 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*

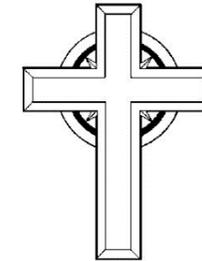
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**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	
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March Vigil Mass Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Frances McCaughley RIP Eileen McClellan RIP
		3.00 pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>		6.00 pm	Reception for Mildred Brennan
		7.15 pm	Lenten Reconciliation Service
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	1.00 pm	Requiem Mass for Mildred Brennan
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>		9.15 am	Michael Devaney (Mass with the School)
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b>		10.00am	Private Intention
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March  Vigil Mass Palm Sunday</b>	6.00 pm	10.00am	Paul Day, Mass followed by Adoration  People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	3.00 pm	8.15am 10.00am	Mildred Brennan Anne Bourne and Marion Thompson  <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.

Please keep Anaiya who is to be baptised this weekend and her family in your prayers.

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

**Coffee Morning at Ashley:** On March 24<sup>th</sup> 10.00 – 11.30 am £3. Coffee and Cake. Book Swap.

**Lenten Reconciliation Service at St Werburgh's:** On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15 pm.

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

**Gift Aid Envelopes:** The Gift Aid envelopes for the coming year are now available at the back of Church.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	21.03.26 J. Bester	28.03.26 <b>(Palm Sunday)</b> J. Dunlevy/ H. Brown	<b>05.04.26 Easter Sunday 9am B. Bromfield</b>
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	22.03.26 K. Lycett	29.03.26 J. Mason	05.04.26 M. O' Hagan
Readers	Sunday 10 am	22.03.26 A. Capper/ J. Capper	29.03.26 A. Goodall/ M. O'Brien	05.04.26 S. Sony/M. Tierney
Counting	Clayton	22.03.26 Lycett/Bullock/ Corrigan	29.03.26 Hughes	<b>03.04.26 Good Friday Walker</b>
<b>Cleaning</b>	Clayton	22.03.26 Group 5	29.03.26 Group 6	05.04.26 Group 1
<b>Cleaning Ashley</b>	Ashley	March M. Heath/ D. Griffiths	April H. Brown/J. Dunlevy	
Offertory Collections – thank you	The Retiring collection 21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup> March is for North Staffs LinkLine	The Retiring collection 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> is for Easter Flowers for the altars	The retiring collection on Good Friday is for Holy Places	The collections at all Easter Masses are for your Parish Priest. (envelopes available in the porch)
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£251.14	<b>Ashley</b>	£60.00
<b>Cash</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£419.71	<b>Ashley</b>	£15.60
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£430.00	<b>Ashley</b>	£92.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£1,100.85	<b>Ashley</b>	£167.60
			<b>Ashley (Building Fund)</b>	£87.20
<b>Mission Appeal</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£381.01		

**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.

**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.

**Archdiocese of Birmingham Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham:** On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026. A coach will leave Holy Trinity at 7am. Booking forms available at the back of Church with cost details and the itinerary form the day or contact Julie Hibbs on 07791759713.