

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week we focus on the history and significance of our Archdiocese of Birmingham. Why? Because we are remembering special people who have formed our history. Last week we had the remembrance of St Nicholas Owen, a Jesuit Religious Brother, who went around the country building priests hiding holes in large country houses. There are many of them, the most impressive for me have been Harvington Hall and Coughton Court that both house several of these holes.

Also, this week we remember Blessed Edward Oldcorne, who was born in York in 1561 and was ordained a priest in 1587 and became a Jesuit the following year. He was arrested on 27th January 1606, and although his involvement in the Gunpowder Plot was unclear, he was executed at Red Hill, Worcester on 7th April of the same year. He was beatified in 1929.

Other great feasts this week are that of St Thomas Aquinas and St John Bosco, great workers for the sake of the Church and the messages of Jesus Christ!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mariella Vella who died during the week. Please also keep family and friends in your prayers at this sad time.

As the New Year gets under way our Youth Group is going to give a reminder of their activities and proposed plans for the next few events. Let us thank them and be grateful for their dedication and energy. They bring a special element to the life of our parish and parish youth.

This week we are asked by the Diocese to pray for vocations, to married life, to single life, to priesthood and religious life!

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

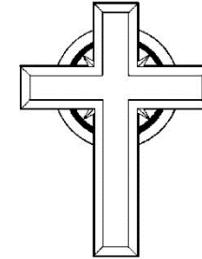
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 25th January 2026
Third 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***

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 24th January Vigil Mass Third Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm		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
Tuesday 27th January		7.15 pm	Anne Turner and James Unsworth
Wednesday 28th January	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Holy Souls Adoration Holy Souls
Thursday 29th January		9.15 am	Holy Souls (Mass with the school)
Friday 30th January		10.00am	Marion Thompson
Saturday 31st January Vigil Mass Fourth Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm	10.00am	Holy Souls ,Mass followed by Adoration Holy Souls
Sunday 1st February Fourth Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes Maureen & John Mulrooney

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.

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

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.

Coffee and Cake: At Our Lady and St John's on Tuesday 27th January 10-11.30am. All welcome to join us for home made cake and drinks. £3 to raise money for the building and decoration fund. Book swap. Bring a craft to share.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	24.01.26 J. Bester	31.01.26 S. McKenna	07.02.26 J. Dunlevy
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	25.01.26 S. Sammons	01.02.26 C. Dibie	08.02.26 M. Corrigan
Readers	Sunday 10 am	25.01.26 A. Capper/J. Capper	01.02.26 A. Goodall/ M. O'Brien	08.02.26 S. Sony/ M. Tierney
Counting	Clayton	25.01.26 Grannell	01.02.26 Lycett/Bullock/ Corrigan	08.02.26 Hughes
Cleaning	Clayton	25.01.26 Group 3	01.02.26 Group 4	08.02.26 Group 5
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	February S. & L.Mifflin		
Altar Flowers	Ashley 26.01.26 02.02.26 09.02.26	Chris Chris Hazel	Clayton 25.01.26: 01.02.26; 08.02.26	Sujen Catherine Rosalind
Offertory Collections – thank you			31st January/1st February retiring collection is for Racial Justice	
Gift Aid	Clayton	£131.00	Ashley	£55.00
Cash	Clayton	£238.76	Ashley	£30.82
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£799.76	Ashley	£177.82
	Clayton Pax Christi	£106.11	Ashley Pax Christi	£40.40

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 contact the parish office to fill in the necessary form.