

## PALM SUNDAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have arrived at the beginning of Holy Week, celebrating Jesus' welcome into Jerusalem. Holy week is the most significant and important time of the Church's year. On Thursday we celebrate the Washing of Feet, the Last Supper and the Institution of the Eucharist. As the church is prepared for Good Friday there will be watching until Midday. Watching is a time for personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. You can sign up for a half hour slot if you wish in order to be a guardian for the Altar of Adoration.

The following day, Good Friday, is a time when we recognise the death of Jesus, who has given himself for the salvation of humanity. It is the one day in the year when Mass is not celebrated, rather we have the very special liturgy of Good Friday, which traditionally takes place at 3 pm, the time Jesus offers his life for us all. There are also two walks of witness along with children's liturgies.

On Holy Saturday night we have the Easter Vigil, a celebration of the light of Christ coming back into the church, restoring life where for one day there was not life! We start at 8 pm with the lighting and blessing of the Holy Fire, from which we take our new Easter (Paschal) candle into the barren church. With our individual candles then lit we bring everything back to life as we celebrate the promised Resurrection, the life of Christ restored.

Please note that on Good Friday, if we are between the ages of 18 and 60 that we are asked to fast and abstain. That means we eat less and abstain from the consumption of meat. Other ages are invited to take part as well if able!

May I wish you all a very happy and holy Easter! Thank you to all members of our parishes for the voluntary help and support that you give. These two parishes are our parishes. I am most happy when we all play a part in their ownership and look after the witness of Christ and his Church through supporting our parish communities.

Again, God bless and a very Happy Easter and Holy Week to you all!

***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*

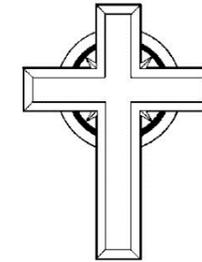
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**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 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday**

**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 28<sup>th</sup> March Vigil Mass Palm Sunday</b>	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	8.15 am 10.00 am	Mildred Brennan Anne Bourne and Marion Thompson  <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>		7.15 pm	Holy Mass
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Maureen and John Mulrooney Adoration Holy Mass
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>		5.30 pm 7.15 pm	Children's Liturgy – Upper Room  Mildred Brennan RIP, Mass followed by watching until Midnight
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Good Friday</b>	10.00am	12 Noon 3.00 pm 5.00 pm	Walk of Witness – Ashley Children's Stations of the Cross Solemn Liturgy Walk of Witness from St Werburgh's to St James
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April Holy Saturday Easter Vigil</b>		8.00 pm	Eileen McClellan RIP
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	People of the Parishes Val Baddeley RIP
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April – No weekday masses</b>			
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April Divine Mercy Sunday</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April Divine Mercy Sunday</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards RIP Jeff Beardmore RIP

**Confessions on Saturdays: At Clayton** – 10.30 – 11.30 am. **At Ashley** before 6 pm Mass.  
**NB: No Confessions on Holy Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April or Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April at Clayton.**

**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.

**Lenten Appeal:** Please bring your Lent donations for Mary's Meals and WaterAid after Easter or you may use the contactless machine in the porch at Clayton.

**Ashley Thanksgiving Meal:** Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April after Mass. All welcome. Please see Hazel after mass for tickets.

**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.

**Holy Week for Children:** As well as the Liturgies of the Easter Triduum, we will be holding two special times of prayer for children. At 5:30pm on Maundy Thursday there will be a short service in the Upper Room, and at midday on Good Friday, we will hold a special Stations of the Cross prayer service for children in Church. If possible, please arrive a few minutes early so we can practice and prepare our songs and readings in the Side Chapel. All are welcome!

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	28.03.26 <b>(Palm Sunday)</b> J. Dunlevy/ H. Brown	<b>05.04.26 Easter Sunday 9am B. Bromfield</b>	11.04.26 L. Mifflin
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	29.03.26 J. Mason	05.04.26 M. O' Hagan	12.04.26 A. Dibie
Readers	Sunday 10 am	29.03.26 A. Goodall/ M. O'Brien	05.04.26 S. Sony/ M. Tierney	12.04.26 A. Hagan/ M. Hughes
Counting	Clayton	29.03.26 Hughes	<b>03.04.26 Good Friday Walker</b>	12.04.26 Eggington
<b>Cleaning</b>	Clayton	29.03.26 Group 6	05.04.26 Group 1	12.04.26 Group 2
<b>Cleaning Ashley</b>	Ashley	April H. Brown/ J. Dunlevy		
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Ashley Easter</b>	All Helpers	<b>Clayton</b> Easter 12.04.26	All Helpers Helen
Offertory Collections – thank you	The Retiring collection this weekend 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)	The retiring collection at Ashley on 11 <sup>th</sup> April is for the Building Fund
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£66.20	<b>Ashley</b>	£60.00
<b>Cash</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£216.21	<b>Ashley</b>	£23.10
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£430.00	<b>Ashley</b>	£92.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£712.41	<b>Ashley</b>	£175.10
<b>Linkline</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£142.79	<b>Ashley</b>	£33.45

**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.

**Gift Aid Envelopes:** The Gift Aid envelopes for the new tax year are available to collect in the Church porch.

**Parish of St James the Great Clayton:** Sixtieth Anniversary Eucharist. On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 10am. Please see poster on noticeboard for further details.