

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Dear Parishioners,

As we journey towards Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, many candidates prepare for entrance into the church, to become Catholics. Such a journey, when made in faith, is a time of questioning and discernment, a time of prayer and heart searching. To commit as an adult is a far cry from being a cradle catholic, born into the faith through family baptism. Yet we are all called to be adults in faith, to commit to Jesus and his teachings. Let us pray for all who are entering the church this Easter, that their lives will be changed and fulfilled in Christ.

May I remind everyone of the Lenten Devotion, the Stations of the Cross, a time of prayer and meditation about the love and self-sacrifice of Jesus, from the Judgement before Herod and Pontius Pilate to the Death and laying in the tomb the body of Jesus. As Jesus says, "Can you not spend one hour with me?" This week it is at Clayton 3 p.m.

How are the Lenten Resolutions going? Have you slipped and need to get back on course. Jesus falls with us on calvary but rises three times for our salvation. Let our prayer, fasting and care of the poor bring us close to God our Heavenly Father, helping us also to unhook ourselves from the controls of the world around us.

Youth group are organising a trip to Lazer Quest on Saturday 21 March evening time. If your child (Year 4 and older) would like to come, please contact a member of the youth team or Anne O'Brien through the parish office.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mildred Brennan who went to the Lord this week in full sacramental union with the church which she served for so many years. Please also remember her family and friends; she was known to many in the parish. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord!

Finally, we pray for peace, a peace that will last, a peace that will make us whole again and unite the world in harmony and grace.

Keep well and safe, close to Jesus that he may walk with you in life!

God bless and keep you,

**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***

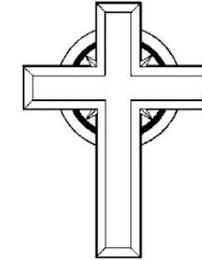
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

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

**Third 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 7<sup>th</sup> March Vigil Mass Third Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00 pm		Holy Mass
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March Third Sunday of Lent</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am 3.00 pm	People of the Parishes Margaret Gillen RIP <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Maureen & John Mulrooney  Adoration Holy Mass
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>		9.15 am	Mildred Brennan RIP (Mass with the school)
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>		10.00am	Holy Mass
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>		10.00am	Jose Mathew RIP, Mass followed by Adoration
<b>Vigil Mass Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	8.15am 10.00am	Mary Richards Deceased members of the O'Neill and Donahue families <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.

**Kenelm Youth Trust 'How to Be'** : 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.

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

**First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting:** On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7pm in the school hall.

**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.

**Mission Appeal at St Werburgh's on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March:** The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver will be here on 15<sup>th</sup> March to appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missions Committee of England and Wales. The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver work in solidarity with missionaries around the world, especially in regions where the Church is poor and resources are limited. Through prayer and practical support, they help sustain missionary work in pastoral ministry, education and healthcare. Please keep the missionaries and their work in your prayers.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	07.03.26 C. Bland	14.03.26 L. Mifflin	21.03.26 J. Bester
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	08.03.26 R. Hartley	15.03.26 D. Mason	22.03.26 K. Lycett
Readers	Sunday 10 am	08.03.26 M. Larkin/J. Parks	15.03.26 L. Machin/ H. Carter	22.03.26 A. Capper/ J. Capper
Counting	Clayton	08.03.26 Whitehurst/ Machin	15.03.26 Grannell	22.03.26 Lycett/Bullock/ Corrigan
<b>Cleaning</b>	Clayton	08.03.26 Group 3	15.03.26 Group 4	22.03.26 Group 5
<b>Cleaning Ashley</b>	Ashley	March M. Heath & D. Griffiths		
Offertory Collections – thank you		The retiring collection 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> March is for Cathedral Maintenance	The retiring collection at Ashley on 14 <sup>th</sup> March is for the Building Fund	The retiring collection at Clayton on 15 <sup>th</sup> March is for the Mission Appeal
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£179.13	<b>Ashley</b>	£35.00
<b>Cash</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£214.49	<b>Ashley</b>	£105.85
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£430.00	<b>Ashley</b>	£92.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£823.62	<b>Ashley</b>	£232.85
<b>CAFOD</b>	<b>Clayton</b>	£236.47	<b>Ashley</b>	£77.20
<b>CAFOD</b>	<b>Tap &amp; Go</b>	£185.00		
			<b>Ashley Building Fund</b>	£ 45.00

**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.

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

**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.