



**The Catholic Parishes of
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

[Parishes Office Hours: Wed/ Thur/Fri/Sat 10.00 am – 1 pm]

Chaplain's Office for inpatients at the Royal Stoke: 01782 676400

Website: www.ourladyandstwerburgh.co.uk

Email: catholics.clayton@btinternet.com



Sunday 3rd December 2017

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday Readings Year B Weekday Readings Cycle 1

Responsorial Psalm

**“God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.”**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!**

Mission Prayer

Father, pour your Spirit upon the people of these two Parishes. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service, so that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	Ashley	Clayton	Intentions
Saturday 2nd December 1st Sunday of Advent	6. 00 pm		The Hird family and William and Dorothy Sutton
Sunday 3rd December 1st Sunday of Advent		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes The Rosary – For Peace in the World Jacob
Wednesday 6th December	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	9.30 am	Mary Manimala, Mass followed by Adoration until 10.30 am Adoration Holy Souls
Thursday 7th December		10.00 am 6.30pm	Pat Cattell Vespers with Adoration (to pray for the mission)
Friday 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		9.15 am	The Pankhurst and Mahon Families (School Mass)
Saturday 9th December Vigil Mass for Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent	6. 00 pm	10.00 am	Joan and Noel Walley, Mass followed by Adoration until 11 am People of the parishes
Sunday 10th December 2nd Sunday of Advent		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am	Michael Brennan The Rosary – For Peace in the World Margaret McGibbon

Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 am – 11.30 am. At Ashley Saturday's 5.25pm – 5.45 pm.

Please pray for the sick and elderly of our parishes, including: Marjorie Dray, Neil Beardmore, Private Intention, Bernard Rudd, Bill Doolan, Marie Murphy, Jessie Rowley, Philip Fradley, Barbara Jones, John Cooney, Vicky Anderson – Mellor, Gabriella Watts, Rita Keogh, Chris Fields, Marjorie Leese, Margaret Boden, Elizabeth Mallow, Jo Manley, Nick Goucher, Pat Merry, Father Charles Lloyd, Jean Ford, Michael Cope, Ian Watts, Bridie Gaffey, Ron Hill, Rose Owen, Joseph Lockington, John, Linda O'Rourke, John Stevenson, Michael Somers, Margaret Pankhurst, Tim Gibson, Holly Taylor, Mary Gregory, and all those who have asked for prayers. May the healing touch of the Lord be with them all!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bernard Finney, and remember his family and friends in your prayers. Funeral Service to take place on Tuesday 12th December at Our Lady & St Werburgh's at 1pm.

Advent Fayre – Saturday 9th December 1pm – 3pm: Please bring in cakes/mince pies on 8th/9th December. Please bring any other items in by Friday 8th December. **Lists for Advent Fayre:** Please sign the lists in the porch if you can offer to help setting up on Friday 8th, or help on the day of the Fayre. **Raffle Ticket Money and Stubs:** Please return to Church by Friday 8th December.

Reverse Advent Calendar: As we start our Advent journey, why not try a Reverse Advent Calendar this year? Instead of having a treat each day put something aside for someone less fortunate to help them at Christmas time. We have a collection box for the Foodbank in the porch at Clayton or alternatively, you could donate something each week to ASHA which supports asylum seekers and will be holding a Christmas party for children and their mums. Details of items needed are in the porch.

Masses for Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Ashley: Vigil Mass Saturday 23rd December 6pm

Clayton: Sunday 24th December. **(PLEASE NOTE NO 8.15 AM MASS)** Mass 10 am

Legacy: Clayton Parish is very grateful to have benefited from a legacy from the late Joan Walley. Please remember her and her late husband Noel, in your prayers. A thanksgiving Mass will be offered for the repose of their souls.

Senior Citizens' Party: On Sunday 7th January 3pm – 5.30 pm. Invitations available in the porch today.

Please Note at Clayton: There will be no Mass or Journey in Faith on Tuesday. The school Mass has been transferred to Friday at 9.15 am. Mass on Thursday will be at 10 am.

Readers Sat:	02.12.17: L. Mifflin/V. Thompson	09.12.17: J. Dunlevy/J. Allbutt
Readers Sun:	03.12.17: S. Sammons	S. Rowe/M. Anderson
Readers Sun:	10.12.17: E. Hothersall	M. Tierney/A. Hagan
Counting at Clayton:	03.12.17: Hapuarachi	
Counting at Clayton:	10.12.17: Tunney	Second Collection: Hagan/Pover
Counting at Ashley:	02.12.17: Paul	09.12.17: Stuart
Church Cleaning at Clayton:	W/c 03.12.17: Group 1	W/c 10.12.17: Group 2
Church Cleaning at Ashley:	W/c 04.12.17: L. Mifflin/M. Kingston	11.12.17: S. & A. Sammons
Children's Liturgy:	03.12.17: Francois	10.12.17: Judy
Collections – thank you:	Ashley	Clayton
Gift Aid:	£ 73.00	£217.00
Direct Debit:	£ 50.00	£191.75
Cash & Planned Giving:	£ 27.00	£254.11
Total:	£150.00	£662.86
Catholic Youth Service:	£ 37.40	£189.14

Diary Dates

Wed 6 th Dec	Parent and Toddler Group 10 am – 11.30 am
Thur 7 th Dec	Over 55's Friendship Club 1pm – 3pm
Thur 7 th Dec	Parish Committee Meeting 7pm (Meet at 6pm to set up the hall for the fayre)
Sat 9 th Dec	Advent Fayre 1pm – 3pm
Sun 10 th Dec	Mission Planning Meeting at 15.00 in the upper room
Tue 12 th Dec	Youth Group 6.15 pm – 8.00 pm
Thur 21 st Dec	Carol Singing at the Gatehouse Pub 7.00 pm
Sun 7 th Jan	Senior Citizens' Party 3pm – 5.30 pm
Tue 9 th Jan	Youth Group trip to Stoke Ski Centre
27 th Jan/11 th Feb	Parish Mission

PARISH MISSION - INTO THE LIGHT: 27th JANUARY - 11th FEBRUARY 2018: We are greatly looking forward to welcoming the Sion Community into our parishes early in the New Year; to lead us through a time of celebration, renewal and outreach. This weekend we will continue the Parish Census. The purpose of this is two-fold: to aid the pastoral work of the Parish and as a way to 'opt in' to the home visiting, offered by the Sion Mission Team. The visits are a very informal way of sharing faith, receiving prayer and learning more about the Mission. There are now posters and prayer cards at the back of Church. Please take posters to display in public places or places of work and prayer cards to remind us to pray for the success of the Mission. The next planning meeting will be on Sunday 10th December at 15:00 in the Upper Room, with Karen - all welcome! As ever: **Pray:** Please pray for the success of our Mission. Maybe consider joining us on Thursday's at 6.30pm for Evening Prayer, before the Blessed Sacrament? **Prepare:** Please consider how you might offer your gifts and resources, we really do need all hands on deck! (Volunteer forms at the back of Church) **Invite:** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations!" Matthew 28:19. Please consider making space in your diary now for the Mission and think about inviting friends, family, neighbours and strangers!

Carol Singing at the Gatehouse Pub: On Thursday 21st December at 7pm. Please sign the list in the porch if you would like to join us.

Shoobox Appeal: Thank you to everyone who donated a shoobox. 196 boxes were collected between the school and parishes.

Ashley Flower Rota and Cleaning Rota: Volunteers urgently needed to go on both rotas. Please see Dee Dutton if you can help in any way.

Catholic Rights: Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Dear Parishioners,

Happy New Year as the Church Universal, that is every Catholic and Christian throughout the world, renews its spiritual journey. It is time to begin again in order to better our hearts turning them constantly in faith towards our Saviour Jesus Christ. Last week we celebrated the Solemn Feast of Christ the Universal King. Now Advent helps us to prepare for the beginning of the great Act of Redemption. It is the time when God becomes man, when divinity merges with humanity, for we are his people the sheep of his flock.

During Advent we prepare by fasting and penance for the wonderful revelation of Christmas Day. Yes, we celebrate with gifts and feasting but also with the Feast of Grace as we savour and hopefully are astounded at the wonder of the Birth of Christ, our Saviour. "May our hearts be broken rather than our garments torn," words of scripture that it is a deep conversion of heart that truly makes us followers of Christ.

As part of our dedication at the 10 a.m. Mass I will be blessing some of the New Sacred Vessels that you kindly donated towards in memory of loved ones. They have taken some time to source and we are still searching for suitable cruets. To date we have a new Ciborium and Thurible, so as a gesture towards our renewal in Advent I will bless them for the New Year and Christmas. Thank you for your generous contributions and for the cruets when they arrive.

Also please remember to stay behind at the end of this weekend's Masses if you wish to be anointed, a special blessing to heal both physical and spiritual illness.

Thank you to the children who last week read the bidding prayers, assisted with the collection and offertory procession in recognition of Youth Sunday. It was good to see them so willing and able.

Once more please keep our Parish Mission in your prayers. May Advent and Christmas be a launching point in our minds and hearts for the events to come.

God bless and keep you safe in his care!

Father Anton s.c.j.

