



***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

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**Sunday 18th February 2018
First Sunday of Lent
Sunday Readings Year B Weekday Readings Cycle 1**

Responsorial Psalm

**“Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love
for those who keep your covenant.”**

Gospel Acclamation

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

Mission Prayer

Father, pour your Spirit upon the people of these 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please Note this newsletter covers the next two weeks

| | Ashley | Clayton | Intentions |
|--|--------------------|--|---|
| Saturday 17th February Vigil Mass for Sunday 1st Sunday of Lent | 6. 00 pm | | People of the Parishes |
| Sunday 18th February 1st Sunday of Lent | | 8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am 4. 00 pm | Mrs Mary Florence The Rosary – for peace in the world Repose of the Soul of Isidor Abraham Stations of the Cross |
| Saturday 24th February Vigil Mass for Sunday 2nd Sunday of Lent | 6. 00 pm | 10. 00 am | No Intention, Mass followed by Adoration until 11 am People of the Parishes |
| Sunday 25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent | 4. 00 pm | 8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am | Michael Riley The Rosary – for peace in the world Lois Whitehurst Stations of the Cross |
| Tuesday 27th February | | 7.15 pm | No Intention |
| Wednesday 28th February | 6.45 pm 7.15 pm | 9.30 am | No Intention, Mass followed by Adoration until 10.30 am Adoration Margaret Bromfield |
| Thursday 1st March St David | | 9.15 am | No intention |
| Friday 2nd March St Chad | | 10.00 am | Bob Hedges |
| Saturday 3rd March Vigil Mass for Sunday 3rd Sunday of Lent | 6. 00 pm | 10. 00 am | Pat & Allen Cattell Mass followed by Adoration until 11 am People of the Parishes |
| Sunday 4th March 3rd Sunday of Lent | | 8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am 4. 00 pm | Bill Anyon The Rosary – for peace in the world Matthew Whitehurst Stations of the Cross |

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: Lily Emery, Michael Devaney, Kathleen Rouffet, 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 Derek Hulse and keep his family and friends in your prayers.

Please pray for Isla Grace Evans; she is to be baptised on Sunday.

Walk with Me Booklets and Calendars for Lent: Please take one as you leave Mass today.

Lenten Appeal – WaterAid: We will be supporting WaterAid for our Lenten charity. Please take a label from the porch and drop into an empty jar at home and collect all your loose change throughout Lent.

North Staffs Area Pastoral Council: Evenings of training and reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. On Tuesday 27th February 2018 at 7.30 pm and Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 7.30 pm (each session should last for 1 hour) at Holy Trinity, Newcastle, Community Centre (upstairs room)

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| Readers Sat: | 17.02.18: S. McKenna/E. Mifflin | 24.02.18: L. Mifflin/H. Brown 03.03.18: J. Dunlevy/S. McKenna |
| Readers Sun: | 18.02.18: R. Hartley | C. Pover/B. Walker |
| Readers Sun: | 25.02.18: M. Lycett | A. Goodall/B. Tierney |
| Readers Sun: | 04.03.18: K. Lycett | J. Somers/M. Hughes |
| Counting at Clayton: | 18.02.18: Hughes | |
| Counting at Clayton: | 25.02.18: Hapuarachi | Second Collection: Hapuarachi |
| Counting at Clayton: | 04.03.18: Myatt | Second Collection: Myatt |
| Counting at Ashley: | 17.02.18: Paul | 24.02.18: Stuart 03.03.18: Bernard |
| Church Cleaning Clayton: | W/c 18.02.18: Group 6 & 6b | W/c 25.02.18: Group 1 W/c 04.03.18: Group 2 |
| Church Cleaning at Ashley: | W/C 19.02.18: L. Mifflin/M. Kingston | W/C 26.02.18: S. & A. Sammons W/C 05.03.18: S. Urquhart/M. Heath |
| Altar Flowers: | No Flowers During Lent | |
| Children's Liturgy: | 18.02.18: Half Term 25.02.18: Half Term | 04.03.18: Wendy |

Diary Dates

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| Tue 27 th Feb | Journey in Faith 8pm |
| Wed 28 th Feb | Parent and Toddler Group 10 am – 11.30 am |
| Wed 28 th Feb | Parish Committee 8pm Upper Room |
| Thur 1 st March | Over 55's Friendship Club 1pm – 3pm |
| Thur 8 th March | First Forgiveness for First Holy Communion children 7pm |
| Fri 23 rd March | Closing Mass at Holy Trinity 7pm for Deanery Parish Visitations |
| Sun 22 nd April | St Werburgh Parish AGM after 10 am Mass in the Parish Hall |

St Thomas Aquinas Study Weekend – February 23rd - 25th: At St Dominic's Convent, Stone ST15 8EN. For further information contact Sister Valery Walker OP on 01785 812091 or email valerywalker@yahoo.co.uk

Lenten Prayer and Reflection Group: At Coolock Pastoral Centre 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm on 20th, 28th February, 5th, 13th and 20th March. For further information contact Phil Mayland on 01782 660229.

The Keele Chapel Singers Spring Concert: On Saturday 24th February 7.30 pm. For further information contact Kath Lawrence on 01782 782608 or email kath.lawrence75@btinternet.com

CAFOD Lent Fast Day: On Friday 23rd February. A retiring collection will take place the weekend 24th/25th February.

The Birmingham Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – Saturday 26th May to Friday/Saturday 1st/2nd June: Booking forms now available in the porch. Please speak to Judy Somers if you are interested in going.

Marriage Care: Marriage Care in North Staffordshire is looking for volunteers to train as marriage preparation facilitators locally. We are holding an information evening at St Gregory's Meeting Room, Longton on April 11th at 7pm if you would like to know more about the role and what it involves. Otherwise please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

Mother's Day: Male volunteers are required to serve tea and coffee on Sunday 11th March after 10 am Mass. Please sign the list in the porch if you can help.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Lent has started and we begin our spiritual journey of renewal. Jesus went into the desert for forty days and forty nights in order to prepare himself for his ministry. We prepare for the celebration of the gift of his ministry – we prepare for the promised Resurrection. During this time we are encouraged to make some sort of sacrifice in order to improve our self-discipline and offer help to the poor. It is also a time to strive to be closer to the Lord through prayer and meditation. Good luck and may the grace of God assist us all in our commitments and dedications.

Again thank you to everyone who supported the Parish and Parish School Mission. We have had much positive feedback and hope that many spiritual benefits come the way of each one of us in our time ahead.

Our Gospel this week reminds us that the kingdom of God is close at hand. In other words life is short and the hour unknown. Let us be committed in our preparation for the day the Lord calls, by our fasting, prayer and meditation.

Half-term starts this weekend. May I wish you all a good break from your routines, especially our school staff. For those going away, come back safe and enjoy your travels.

Please keep in your prayers, Bernard Rudd and Jo Manley who are very ill. Also pray for Jean Green who is unwell at this moment in time. Also pray for Derek Hulse who died this week and Paul Thompson whose funeral service took place this past few days. Remember too family and friends. We also pray for little Grace Evans who is to be baptised this weekend.

God keep you safe in his care!

Father Anton s.c.j.