

**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 March 2018
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday Readings Year B Weekday Readings Cycle 1**

Responsorial Psalm

“A pure heart create for me, O God!”

Gospel Acclamation

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

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.

	Ashley	Clayton	Intentions
Saturday 17th March Vigil Mass for Sunday 5th Sunday of Lent	6. 00 pm		Vincent and Caroline Capper
Sunday 18th March 5th Sunday of Lent		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am 4.00 pm	People of the Parishes The Rosary – for peace in the world Intentions of the Members of the Catenian Association Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 20th March		7.15 pm	Bernard Rudd
Wednesday 21st March	11.30 am	9.30 am	No Intention, Mass followed by Adoration until 10.30 am No Intention
Thursday 22nd March		9.15 am 6.30 pm	Anthony and Karen Pankhurst Vespers with Adoration
Friday 23rd March		10.00 am	Betsy Kirk
Saturday 24th March Vigil Mass for Sunday Palm Sunday of The Passion of the Lord	6. 00 pm	10.00 am	No Intention, Mass followed by Adoration until 11 am People of the Parishes
Sunday 25th March Palm Sunday of The Passion of the Lord	4. 00 pm	8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am	Michael Riley The Rosary – for peace in the world Phillippa Darby (nee Stokes) 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: Paul Day, Michael Devaney, Kathleen Rouffet, Marjorie Dray, Neil Beardmore, Private Intention, 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 Lily Emery, and remember her family and friends in your prayers. Reception into Our Lady & St Werburgh's on Monday 26th March at 6.00 pm. Requiem Mass on Tuesday 27th March at 11.30 am.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Bernard Rudd, and keep his family and friends in your prayers. Requiem Mass at Our Lady & St Werburgh's on Wednesday 28th March at 12.30 pm.

Please Note at Ashley: Mass on Wednesday 21st March will be at 11.30 am.

DEANERY VISITATION CLOSING MASS: On FRIDAY 23rd MARCH 7pm at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Newcastle-under-Lyme. All welcome.

Lenten Appeal – WaterAid: Please collect your loose change throughout Lent and donate to WaterAid.

Ecumenical Lent Course at St John the Baptist Anglican Church Ashley: On Tuesday's at 2pm during Lent. For further information contact Reverend Roger Legge on 01630 672766.

Mass of the Lord's Supper - Lists for Washing of Feet and Watching until Midnight: On Thursday 29th March 7.30 pm at St Werburgh's. Lists available in the porch.

Good Friday - Stations of the Cross for Children: At St Werburgh's 12 noon. All very welcome.

Readers Sat:	17.03.18: C. Byrne/E. Mifflin	24.03.18: I. Thompson/V. Thompson
Readers at Clayton:	18.03.18: S. Sammons	L. Machin/H.Carter
Readers at Clayton:	25.03.18: E. Hothersall	R. Gallimore/M. Larkin
Counting at Clayton:	18.03.18: Tunney	Second Collection: Hagan/Pover
Counting at Clayton:	25.03.18: Carter/Waters	
Counting at Ashley:	17.03.18: Peter	24.03.18: Stuart
Church Cleaning Clayton:	W/c 18.03.18: Group 4	W/c 25.03.18: Group 5 (for Easter)
Church Cleaning at Ashley:	W/C 19.03.18: D. Dutton/P. Hartley	W/C 26.03.18: L.Mifflin/M.Kingston
Children's Liturgy:	18.03.18: Judy	25.03.18: Martin

Diary Dates

Tue 20 th March	Journey in Faith 8pm
Wed 21 st March	Parent and Toddler Group 10 am – 11.30 am
Wed 21 st March	Parish Committee Meeting 8pm
Thur 22 nd March	Over 55's Friendship Club 1pm – 3pm
Tue 27 th March	Lenten Reconciliation Service at Clayton 7.00 pm
Sun 22 nd April	St Werburgh Parish AGM after 10 am Mass in the Parish Hall

Red Mission Boxes: Please return the contents of the red boxes in the brown envelopes provided back to Church during March.

Gift Aid Envelopes at Clayton: Envelopes for the coming year are now available in the porch. If you do not already Gift Aid your weekly donation, but would like to do so please contact the parish office for a form.

A Date for your Diary - After the Mission - What next? On Thursday 26th April, again following Evening Prayer at 6.30pm Karen from Sion, will be leading a Post Mission session to help us to consolidate what the Mission meant for us as a Parish and where it might lead us to next. - All very welcome.

Catholic Today Final Edition: Now on sale 50p in the porch.

Easter Monday Men's Mass: At Sacred Heart, Tunstall at 10.00 am. All welcome.

North Staffs Area Pastoral Council – Training/Awareness sessions for parish readers: At St Teresa's, Trent Vale on Tuesday 17th April and Tuesday 24th April 8.00 pm – 9.00 pm. You will only be required to attend one session.

A St Thomas Aquinas Study Weekend: At St Dominic's Convent, Station Road, Stone. April 13 – 15 2018. Please see poster for further details.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend sees the celebration of the Feast of Saint Patrick, a time to pray for continued peace in Ireland and a celebration of the Faith of a special saint and country. Passing through Birmingham there was a great reflection of the Irish Community with the St Patrick's Day parades. Congratulations to all people of Irish decent.

This week has also been a week of prayer for people suffering from Dementia. As we tend to live longer it is clear that new forms of disability arrive to challenge us and set new care needs within the nation. Let us also keep our care program of Linkline in our prayers that its care and conversation may help to keep its clients alert and well.

As ever time is flying by and next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week which culminates in the Triduum, consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. It is the most important time in the Church's year and we need as many servers as possible to make themselves available so that we can celebrate this great time. Please also make sure that Albs are washed and made presentable to the time.

How has Lent gone? Above all have we been able to make some progress in bringing our lives closer to the Lord Jesus? Has prayer increased, generosity to the poor grown and do we feel better within ourselves for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Easter is traditionally the time when we re-commit to the life of the church, witnessing to the presence of Christ within the world.

May we be closer to God this Lent and Easter time!

Father Anton s.c.j.