

***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 2nd December 2018
First Sunday of Advent
Sunday Readings Year C Weekday Readings
Cycle 1**

	Ashley	Clayton	Intentions
Saturday 1st December Vigil Mass for Sunday First Sunday of Advent	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 2nd December First Sunday of Advent		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am	Steve, Cath and Kevin Dunn The Rosary – for peace in the world Jacob
Wednesday 5th December Feast of St Birinus	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	9.30 am	Intention of Norman and Angela, Mass followed by Adoration until 10.30 am Adoration Margaret Bromfield
Thursday 6th December		9.15 am 6.30 pm	Joseph and Gladys Mason Divine Office
Friday 7th December		10.00 am	Repose of the soul of Justine Killeen
Saturday 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		10.00 am 12 Noon	Holy Souls (No Adoration) Nuptial Mass for Spencer Robert Christmas and Lucinda Anne Myatt
Vigil Mass for Sunday Second Sunday of Advent	6.00 pm		William and Dorothy Sutton
Sunday 9th December Second Sunday of Advent		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes The Rosary – for peace in the world Philip, Bidy and Susan Corrigan

Confessions at Clayton Saturday's 10.30 – 11.30 am. At Ashley Saturday's 5.25 pm – 5.45 pm.
Please Note: No Confessions at Clayton on Saturday 8th December.

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! Including: Geoff Totten, Margaret Boden, Mary Gregory, Michael Somers and Kathleen Rouffet.

Please keep Sophie Rose Clews in your prayers; she is to be baptised on Sunday.

Safeguarding: If you would like to speak to someone about Safeguarding and the church's work, please call 0121 230 6240. If you would prefer to speak to someone independent of the church, contact NSPCC 0800 800 5000. Please pray with us for all victims of abuse.

Carol Singing at the Royal Stoke University Hospital: On Monday 17th December 2018. Meet 5.30 pm to leave at 6.00 pm at the The Prayer Centre, LG2. If you would like to attend please leave your contact details with Sharon Bunting in the parish office.

Old Used Postage Stamps: Please save your old used postage stamps for Macmillan Cancer Support. Box available in the porch.

First Holy Communion Preparation: Please can parents of any children due to make their First Holy Communion in June who are not attending a Catholic Primary school, and attend Our Lady and St Werburgh/Our Lady & St John the Baptist parishes contact the parish office to fill in the relevant form. Preparation classes will start in January.

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.

Readers Sat:	01.12.18: H. Brown/J. Allbutt	08.12.18: I. Thompson/C. Byrne
Reading at Clayton:	02.12.18: P. Hothersall	M. Tierney/A. Hagan
Reading at Clayton:	09.12.18: R. Hartley	H. Carter/M. O'Brien
Counting at Clayton:	02.12.18: Grannell	
Counting at Clayton:	09.12.18: Hagan	Second Collection: Hagan/Pover
Counting at Ashley	01.12.18: Paul	08.12.18: Stuart
Church Cleaning at Clayton:	W/c 02.12.18: Group 5	W/c 09.12.18: Group 6 & 6b
Church Cleaning at Ashley:	W/c 03.12.18: V. Door/C. Quinlan	W/c 10.12.18: D. Dutton/P. Hartley
Altar Flowers:	No Flowers During Advent	
Children's Liturgy	02.12.18: Debbie	02.12.18: Francois

Diary Dates

Tue 4 th Dec	Journey in Faith 8pm
Wed 5 th Dec	Baby and Toddler Group 9.30am – 11am
Thur 6 th Dec	Over 55's Friendship Club 1pm – 3pm
Sun 6 th Jan	Senior Citizens' Christmas Party 3.00 pm -5.30 pm
Wed 23 rd Jan	Parish Committee Meeting 8pm

Volunteers are needed at Clayton for the following:

To join the counting teams.

To join the tea and coffee rota on Sunday after 10 am Mass.

To join the flower rota for 2019.

To join the rota to run the older children's liturgy group (**DBS check must be undertaken first**)

Please leave your details at the parish office if you can help in any way.

Health & Safety Notice: Please could we remind parents/carers that the supervision of children after the 10 am Sunday mass is their responsibility. We welcome everyone to join together in the Parish Hall for tea/coffee after mass each week but please be aware that there are lots of tempting things for children to play with/on in the vicinity that might cause them or others harm.

A Day for Practising Catholics Aspiring for Leadership Positions in Catholic Schools across the Archdiocese of Birmingham: On Saturday 19th January 2019 (no cost for this course) Don Bosco House, Coventry Road, Coleshill B46 3EA Please use the link to book a place on this course:
<http://w.pfrms.co/2ltp>

Senior Citizens' Party: On Sunday 6th January 2019 from 3.00 pm – 5.30 pm.

Invitations: Available in the porch please take one and return to church with your details. If you would like transport that will be provided.

List to provide food: Please sign the list in the porch if you can provide some food for the party.

List to help with lifts: Please leave your details at the parish office.

Carol Singing by the Guild Hall Newcastle: On Saturday 15th December at 2.00 pm. If you would like to take part just turn up on the day.

Lay Chaplain Vacancy: At St John Fisher Catholic College. For further details contact www.saintjohnfishercc.co.uk or email hr@ctkcc.co.uk Closing date for applications 12th December.

Newcastle Staffs Food Bank: The total donated from 1 Dec 2017 made up to the end of November 2018 is 420.7 kgs. This equates to about 1000 meals. Many thanks for your continued support.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Church Year! In the readings at Mass over the last couple of weeks the general theme has been that of the “End of Time.” This weekend we begin again the story of Salvation. In three weeks and a couple of days we celebrate the great day of the Incarnation, the birth of Christ, Son of God and Saviour of the World.

During Advent, which means “The Arriving” we are encouraged to prepare the way of the Lord into our hearts and minds. In other words we are asked to go through a little conversion, turning that little to be closer to the Lord than we already are. Advent is seen as a mini Lent, a time of fast and abstinence, a time of prayer to get us ready for the greatest of all gifts. The Diocese has given us our little booklets to follow along with the Advent Calendar for the children. Our children are preparing by going to Confession at school. Let us remind ourselves that as Practising Catholics we have duties to our souls and confession is one of those duties. Note the Penitential Service at St Werburgh on Tuesday 18th December at 7-15 p.m. There will be four priests available on the evening.

Again thank you to all who helped last week with the Winter Fayre – it was such a lovely occasion. The final figure has not yet come in but it is somewhere over the £2,000 mark. I will let you know as soon as I know. Thank you PTA and Parish Committee, all helpers and donators!

Please keep in your prayers little Sophie who is to be baptised this weekend at Clayton. Also remember her family and friends that the gift of faith may flourish in their lives. We have concluded our November Prayers for the Faithful Departed. However we continue to remember in our daily prayers, especially those close to us, along with forgotten Holy Souls.

Please note that we have two free pamphlets from the Archdiocese. One is a report, the other is a new magazine called the Sower. Please help yourself as you leave church today.

Keep warm and well!

God bless,

Father Anton s.c.j.