

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Let us begin by wishing all mothers a Very Happy Mother's Day. As in the film, "Saving Private Ryan," the soldier said "We've all got a mother, I bet even the captain's got a mother too." The universality of motherhood is so important, not only for life itself, but also for the well-being and long-term protection of children. Today we give special thanks for them, and a flower at the end of Mass.

It is also "Laudate" Sunday, a day when we rejoice and give praise because we have passed the half-way mark of Lent. There is still time to make a resolution or to renew one that perhaps has not succeeded so far. Repentance, turning towards God, is always available in the life of the church and in life in general.

Perhaps the most important reminder for our faith is that God gives us the gift of prayer. Most of us pray and often it is spontaneous as we go through the day. Recognising the reality of God in our lives is a blessing and a gift. Let prayer make a difference to you, to how you live, how you see the world, and how the hope of life can inspire us. Let us always find time for prayer.

"Stations of the Cross" take place at Ashley this Sunday at 3 p.m. If you have never taken part in this devotional activity, I strongly recommend that you try it at least the once. It is deeply spiritual and is a true development to inner prayer and an appreciation of what it has meant for Christ to have offered himself on the cross.

Meanwhile please keep in your prayers, the recently deceased, especially Brian Egan, who died recently. Please also keep his family and friends in your prayers.

We remember all our faithful departed. May they rest in peace and may they have received the fulfilment promised of eternal life.

To finish, once again, a happy Mother's Day to all our mothers.

God bless and stay safe!

**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*

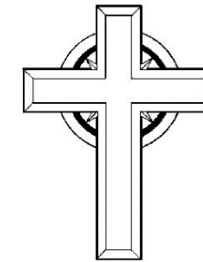
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**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 676400**



**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Lent Year B  
Sunday Readings Year B  
Weekday Readings Year 2**

**CAFOD Children's Prayer**

**Loving God, your Son, Jesus,  
calmed the storm that frightened the disciples.**

**You keep us safe too,  
even when we are afraid.**

**Show us how to follow you, and help us  
to be there for one another.**

**Teach us to share fairly so that we,  
and our whole global family,  
may look to the future with hope.**

**Amen.**

	Ashley	Clayton	
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	6 00 pm		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday</b>	3. 00 pm	8.15 am 10.00 am	Rosemary Holmes RIP For all Mothers Stations of the Cross
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>		7.15 pm	Deceased of the Sacred Heart Order
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Special Intention Adoration Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>		9.15 am	No Intention (School Mass)
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>		10.00 am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March Vigil Mass 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00 pm	10.00am	Mary Richards  No Intention
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am 3. 00 pm	People of the Parishes John Buckley RIP Stations of the Cross

**Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 -11.30 am. 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.

**Ashley Lenten Lunches:** We will be hosting the Lenten lunch at Our Lady & St John the Baptist Catholic Church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm. All proceeds to Christian Aid. All welcome.

**North Staffs Deanery Vocations Mass:** On Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at St Teresa of the Child Jesus at 6pm. Celebrant Father Simon Hall.

**North Staffs Area Pastoral Council -Year of Prayer Mass:** At S. S. George and Martin, Boulton Street, Birches Head ST1 2NQ on the Feast of St Joseph. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00 pm. Celebrant Father Adrian MacNamara.

**North Staffs Christian Aid Sponsored Walk at Tittesworth Water:** Three miles north of Leek just off the A53. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10am. Sponsorship forms and more information from Sister Marie on 01782 614459.

**Potteries Theological Society:** will take place via Zoom on **Monday 11th March at 7pm.** **Jane Baker, Project Lead at Newcastle Foodbank** will be introducing us to the work of the Foodbank. The link for the Zoom meeting is below. If anyone experiences difficulty getting in to the meeting, please give Chris a call on: 07798620818

Topic: Potteries Theological Society meeting, Monday 11th March

Time: Mar 11, 2024 06:30 PM London Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88290220654?pwd=ePCK46KN09G1JGTbBB1Er0ivS6U6y8.1>

**Meeting ID: 882 9022 0654**

Passcode: 857644

Readers	Saturday 6pm	09.03.24: C. Bland	16.03.24: C. Byrne	23.03.24: L. Miffin/J. Dunlevy
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	10.03.24: C. Pover	17.03.24: M. Anderson	24.03.24: R. Hartley
Readers	Sunday 10am	10.03.24: B. Tierney/J. Somers	17.03.24: L. Machin/H. Carter	24.03.24: M. Larkin/R. Gallimore
Counting	Clayton	10.03.24: Whitehurst/Machin	17.03.24: Grannell	24.03.24: Hagan
Cleaning	Clayton	10.03.24: Group 1	17.03.24: Group 2	24.03.24: Group 3
Cleaning	Ashley	March	M. Heath	C. Byrne
Children Liturgy	10.03.24	Claire O Anne	17.03.24: Catherine Debbie	
		<b>Offertory Collections – Thank You</b>		<b>The retiring collection 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> March is for Easter flowers for the altars.</b>
Gift Aid	Clayton	£127.16	Ashley	£25.00
Cash	Clayton	£207.50	Ashley	£ 9.40
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£764.66	Ashley	£126.40
Cathedral Maintenance	Clayton	£109.55	Ashley	£13.70
CAFOD			Ashley	£71.00

**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 concern.

#### **Holy Week for Children:**

As well as the Liturgies of the Easter Triduum, we will be holding two special times of prayer for children. At 5:30pm on Maundy Thursday there will be a short service in the Upper Room, and at midday on Good Friday, we will hold a special Stations of the Cross prayer service for children in Church. If possible, please arrive a few minutes early so we can practice and prepare our songs and readings in the Side Chapel. All are welcome!

#### **Children's Liturgy:**

During 10am Mass in term time, children younger than First Communion age (Year 3) are welcome to join us for their own liturgy of the Word. We leave together after the Opening Prayer, and process back into Church at the Offertory. There are always at least two leaders present so children who are comfortable in the group are welcome to attend without a parent present.