

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy Easter Octave to you all. From Easter Sunday to the Second Sunday of Easter we celebrate every Mass as a Solemnity, the highest grade of celebration of the Eucharist. Why because this time is the most special time in the life of Christians when the church looks to the Lord for renewal and strengthening. We have journeyed through penance and renewal to the time of Christ's death and resurrection. It is the time now of the resurrection of our coming back to life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

To celebrate this wonderful time you will have noticed how beautiful the church has been with its flowers, empty tomb of Christ's rising and of course the Paschal Candle, the sign of Christ lighting up the world with his rising from the dead. Thank you to all those who prepared the church, cleaning, arranging, altering the coverings on the statues, singing, serving, videoing, and many other roles so essential to the season.

Congratulations also to Ashley as during the week the parish was able to celebrate Mass and bless its Easter Candle, not quite the normal time, but still a significant moment in the life of the church and parish. Thank you to everyone who got things ready. Let us hope that the future allows us to continue and re-develop our life of worship in both our churches.

This week has been a time for renewal of our buildings, as we carry out our quinquennial inspection of both the Ashley and Clayton buildings. It is one of the many overseeing roles that the diocese gives us to keep everything as up to scratch as possible. As you are aware with your own homes and workplaces there is need of constant maintenance and renewal.

But back to spiritual matters and let us remember that the Easter season continues right through to Pentecost, the coming down of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, in another six weeks. The whole of Easter is fifty days with another forty-two to go; it is the longest celebration we have and rightly so.

As we serve God in worship, let us also serve one another in charity and alms giving. This Sunday at 2-3 p.m. we are having a collection for Foodbank. Thank you to the donors of one hundred pounds of food and fifty pounds to start the collection. That is money not weight of food. The parish has to date been very generous, let us continue to do so.

Keep in your prayers the souls of our faithful departed and in particular Joseph Peter Coupe. Also please keep family and friends in prayers.

God bless and stay safe as we enjoy the first stage of unlocking!

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

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

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**Sunday 11th April 2021
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