

SIXTH SUNDAY YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

No sooner has the Christmas Season ended with the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple than we arrive at Lent. This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and a time to think about preparing spiritually for Easter. Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence when those of us between the ages of sixteen and sixty are required to refrain from eating meat and reduce our food for the day.

For the forty days of Lent we are asked continue a commitment to some additional practice e.g. additional prayer, attending extra eucharists, saving and putting something aside for the poor. Sacrifice, self-discipline, prayer and care of the poor are all possibilities to choose from. If we give up some form of luxury or treat then the Church invites us to give the savings to the poor.

If you wish to take part in the parish collection for Lent rather than your own charity venture then the money will be shared between "Water Aid" and "Mary's Meals." These are two fundamental and worthwhile causes that I highly recommend.

Next week is also Half-Term and many of you may be away for a break. If you are here then the Ash Wednesday Masses and Receiving of Ashes, a mark of penance, take place 10.00 a.m. at Clayton, 2.15 p.m. at Ashley and 7.15 p.m. again at Clayton. The receiving of Ashes is a visible and helpful way for us to commit to Prayer, Fast, Abstinence and Care of the poor.

This Friday 1 p.m. is the Funeral Service of Michael John Grady. Please keep him along with his family and friends in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, may he rest in peace.

Please note that Journey in Faith is having a break for half-term and will resume the following Tuesday at 8 p.m. Also that Masses this week are at varied and different times because of Ash Wednesday and Half Term.

Meanwhile stay safe and take care!

God bless,

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*

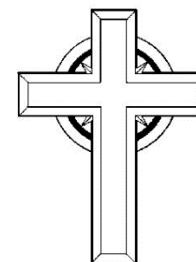
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023

Email: olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk

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

Chaplain's Office for inpatients at the Royal Stoke: 01782 676400



**Sunday 11th February 2024
6th Sunday of the Year B
Sunday Readings Year B
Weekday Readings Year 2**

The Prayer of the Servant Church

**Loving Father, fill us all with your
Presence, in Jesus your Son.**

May we Think with the mind of Christ

See with the eyes of Christ

Speak with the words of Christ

Serve with the hands of Christ

Love with the heart of Christ

and Live with the life of Christ

who is Our Lord for ever and ever

Amen

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 10th February 6th Sunday of the Year	6 00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 11th February 6th Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Jean Green
Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday	2.15 pm	10.00am 7.15 pm	Holy Souls Holy Souls Special Intention
Thursday 15th February		10.00 am	No Intention
Friday 16th February		10.00 am 1.00 pm	No Intention Funeral Service for Michael Grady
Saturday 17th February Vigil Mass 1st Sunday of Lent	6.00 pm	10.00am	Mary Richards Philomena Barrington
Sunday 18th February 1st Sunday of Lent		8.15 am 10.00 am 3.00 pm	Frank & Lilian Thomas People of the Parishes Stations of the Cross

Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 -11.30 am. Ashley: Before 6 pm Mass. No Confessions at Clayton on Saturday 13th January.

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.

Newcastle Staffs Foodbank: Thank you for all your recent donations. Please leave donations in the porch.

World Day of Prayer: The annual World Day of Prayer will this year be hosted by Our Lady and St John the Baptist Catholic Church at Ashley. Everyone is most welcome both to take part in planning the service at 2p.m. on the 23rd February, in church and/or to attend the service at 2p.m. on the 1st March. The theme this year is very special as it is the Christians in Palestine - the land where Jesus was born, ministered and died. Please come and join us in prayer and afterwards for refreshments in Oddfellows hall.

Volunteer Altar Servers Chaperones Required: Volunteers must be aged over 18 and willing to undergo clearance by the Safeguarding Team i.e. have a full DBS check and provide two references. Duties will involve supervising altar servers before and after Sunday masses. Please contact the office or email Kate using sgolstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk

Walk With Me Lenten Booklets and Calendar: Please take one today as you leave Church.

Stations of the Cross: On Sunday's during Lent at 3pm starting at Clayton on 1st Sunday of Lent then alternating with Ashley Parish.

Readers	Saturday 6pm	10.02.24: B. Bromfield	17.02.24: H. Brown	24.02.24: R. McKenna
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	11.02.24: R. Hartley	18.02.24:	
Readers	Sunday 10am	11.02.24: A. & J. Capper	18.02.24	
Counting	Clayton	11.02.24: Hughes	18.02.24: Walker	25.02.24: Thompson/ Carter
Cleaning	Clayton	11.02.24: Group 2	18.02.24: Group 3	25.02.24: Group 4
Cleaning	Ashley	February:	S. & L. Mifflin	
Flowers	Ashley	12.02.24: Sue M.	Clayton 11.02.24: Helen	
Children Liturgy	11.02.24	Su Sister Geraldine	18.02.24: Half Term	25.02.24: Martin Angela
		Offertory Collections – Thank You	The retiring collection this weekend is for Pro Life	
Gift Aid	Clayton	£139.20	Ashley	£52.00
Cash	Clayton	£399.78	Ashley	£12.50
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£968.98	Ashley	£156.50

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 or 01782 613023 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Parish Youth Leader Training

The Bethsaida course is your gateway to a rewarding voluntary role working with young people in your parish. This free course is taking place at Our Lady and St Werburgh's, Clayton on Saturday 24th Feb from 2-6pm, and Saturday 2nd March from 2-6pm, and with an online session at 7pm on Wednesday 28th February from home. All are welcome whether you are interested in working with young people in your parish in the future or this is something you are already part of. The certificated course is run by the Kenelm Youth Trust with sessions that are informative, relaxed, interactive and friendly. To register or find out more please email: anna.howard@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Prayer Workshop: On Saturday's 10.30am – 12. 30 pm in the upper room at St Werburgh's. All welcome.