

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week we have an interlude for the Irish people amongst us because Sunday is the Feast Day of St Patrick, the Patron of Ireland. I dare say a few people might be taking a small break from their fast to celebrate their day. So, like all countries, we pray for their people and wish them well for the day. May the examples and devotion of St Patrick be an inspiration to all and especially to all who have him as their patron.

As Easter fast approaches our Archbishop has written a pastoral letter for this weekend. May his guidance help and inspire us. Let us pray for him and his work, as he takes responsibility for the well-being of a very large Archdiocese.

This is also the last week of term time and next Sunday is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Holy Week celebrates the Triduum which is Thursday, the Last Supper, Good Friday the Death of Christ and Easter Saturday and Sunday the celebration of the greatest feast of the year, The Resurrection of Jesus from the Dead. The three celebrations are a beautiful reminder of our faith and are done in a spirit of great joy. "Resurrexit sicut dixit!" "He has risen as he said he would!"

Finally, a big thank you to our secretaries and helpers who prepared the daffodils for Mother's Day. Once in water I hope they flowered and added a little joy to the day!

Please keep our sick and housebound in your prayers along with all those in hospital. We are asked this week to remember those suffering from dementia. Thank you to all the wonderful people who do their best to care for them!

God bless and keep safe and well!

**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*

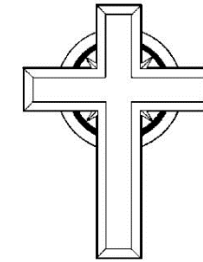
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

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

**Blessed Miriams Prayer**

**Holy Spirit, inspire me  
Love of God, Consume me.  
In the right path lead me.  
Mary, my Mother,  
watch over me.  
With Jesus bless me.  
From all evil, all illusion, all danger,  
Preserve me.**

	Ashley	Clayton	
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	6 00 pm		No Intention
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>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
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Solemnity of St Joseph</b>		7.15 pm	No Intention
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Special Intention Adoration No Intention
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>		9.15 am 7.00 pm	No Intention (School Mass) First Forgiveness
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>		10.00 am	Special Intention
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	6.00 pm	10.00am	Enid & Eddie Edwards  People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>	3. 00 pm	8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Daniel Taylor 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.

**Piety Stall:** We have a selection of Easter cards available to purchase.

**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.

**Ashley Lenten Lunch:** 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.

**Deanery Penance Services for Lent:** 18th March 7pm Sacred Heart, Hanley; 21st March 7pm Our Lady's Stoke;  
22nd March, 7pm St Teresa's, Trent Vale; 25th March, 7pm Holy Trinity;  
25th March St Augustine's, Meir 7pm; 26th March 7pm, St Giles, Cheadle; 26<sup>th</sup> March 7.15pm St Werburgh's Clayton

#### **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

Readers	Saturday 6pm	16.03.24: C. Byrne	23.03.24: L. Mifflin/J. Dunlevy	<b>31.03.24: Easter Sunday Mass 9am M. Hartley</b>
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	17.03.24: M. Anderson	24.03.24: R. Hartley	<b>31.03.24 Easter Sunday Mass 11am only</b>
Readers	Sunday 10am	17.03.24: L. Machin/H. Carter	24.03.24: M. Larkin/R. Gallimore	<b>31.03.24: Easter Sunday Mass 11am</b>
Counting	Clayton	17.03.24: Grannell	24.03.24: Hagan	<b>29.03.24: Holy Places: Hughes</b>
Cleaning	Clayton	17.03.24: Group 2	24.03.24: <b>For Easter</b> Group 3	31.03.24: Group 4
Cleaning	Ashley	March	M. Heath	C. Byrne
Children Liturgy	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	£131.82	Ashley	£26.00
Cash	Clayton	£309.71	Ashley	£19.50
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£871.53	Ashley	£137.50

**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](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.

**Mass of the Lord's Supper:** On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Our Lady & St Werburgh's 7.30 pm. Lists for watching and washing of feet are available to sign in the porch.

**Easter Monday Mass:** At Sacred Heart Church, Hanley at 10.00 am. Chief Celebrant Canon Paul McNally. All welcome. Light refreshments available.

