

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week has seen the mourning of the death of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The Duke has been both a servant to his wife the queen, the country and the remaining commonwealth. One of the most telling things said about him is that when the queen came to the throne he was willing to give up his career in the Navy and give his unstinting support to his wife the queen and the country. It is a reminder to us all that our Christian faith is similar in that Christ gave us all for the love and service of humanity. Prince Philip's faith meant a great deal to him and was and is an example to us all. Let us remember him in our prayers and all the royal family who, like all human beings, feel the loss of one so loved. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord!

Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute to the Foodbank collection. Over 156 kilos of food was collected, the best collection made by the parish to date. A big thank you to you all.

I wish also to thank all our ushers who are doing a very good and reliable job and keeping us safe in church. As always we are ever in need of keeping up numbers of volunteers. If you feel able to help with church ushering please contact the parish office. Leave a message if no one is in at the time.

As we celebrate this Easter season let us remember its importance. Fifty days is the length of the Easter period, such is its importance. The rising of Jesus is the fulfilment of the hope and promise of life eternal. Let us strengthen our faith in prayer and worship. May we commit our hearts again and again to our Eucharist. Not only is our Eucharist our strength and nourishment but also our means of witnessing to the presence of Christ in the world, a world so needy of the love of Jesus within the hearts and minds of human beings.

Please note that there is no Mass this week at Ashley but will begin again the following week. It is with great pleasure that we have been able open our churches once more, the help and support are all part of our desire to see the life of Christ continue in our lives and our communities. Thank you again to all who have helped to keep things going, learning again how to conduct the care of the churches and the people who have the love and privilege of using them.

Finally, we remember our deceased, in particular Prince Philip and Peter Coupe. Let us also remember the patron of our country, St George whose Feast day it is this week. Let us pray for the well-being of our country that we will be an example to the world or goodness, justice and generosity.

God bless you all 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

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

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**Sunday 18th April 2021
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