ALL SAINTS SUNDAY AND ALL SOULS MONDAY TO FOLLOW

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate All Saints, or another way of putting it, the fact that there are people in heaven, ordinary people like you and me. Perhaps we think only of Saints going to heaven, but then the word "saint" is a broad term. The Saints we know to be famous are those recognised by the church as living particularly special lives. But ordinary people become saints as well.

That is where heaven comes into play, a place where good souls go, and sometimes souls that have done their best, even if failing many times, find their way into the love of God, a God who is full of mercy and compassion especially for the weak and vulnerable. There are many of those - we meet them every day!

Think of the best days of your life, think of the best experiences, think of the people you have loved and seen depart this world when you have longed for them to remain. These are just a few of the hints of heaven. Above all God will fulfil us all, answering our needs, our hopes as only he can do.

All Souls falls on the Monday when there will be Masses both at Clayton 10 a.m. and at Ashley 7.15 p.m. I cannot let that day pass without honouring those of our loved ones who have gone before us. It is as much part of the tradition of All Saints as All Saints Day itself. For our departing this life is the entering into the kingdom of heaven. Do remember to register you loved one for prayers throughout November. Have a Mass said for the repose of their souls, show them that you still love them and look forward in faith to seeing them again.

A reminder to pray for Bishop Timothy Menezes who has been appointed to the diocese of Brentwood, the Essex and East London area. We wish him well and thank him for his service to this area of the archdiocese. Apparently, this year's Confirmations will be the last event before he sets off to his new appointment. Please keep him in your prayers.

I hope you have managed a bit of a change and a rest over the half-term and that you are a little refreshed for the tasks ahead.

Keep me in your prayers as I do you!

God bless,

Father Anton s.c.j.

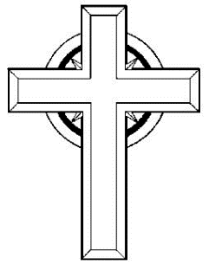
Our Lady & Saint John the Baptist, Ashley
and
Our Lady & Saint Werburgh, Clayton

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 1st November2026
Solemnity of All Saints
Sunday Readings Year A
Weekday Readings Year 2

Prayer before Mass

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 31st October Vigil Mass for Sunday Solemnity of All Saints	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 1st November Solemnity of All Saints		8.15 am 10.00am	Ann Conway RIP Derek and Brigid Hulse RIP
Monday 2nd November The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	**7.15 pm**	10. 00am	Ann McVeigh RIP Father Colin Fortune RIP
Tuesday 3rd November		7.15 pm	Father Terry Sheridan
Wednesday 4th November	**6.45 pm** **7.15 pm**	10.00 am	The sick and housebound Adoration For Peace
Thursday 5th November		9.15 am	For the children of the world
Friday 6th November		10.00am	Holy Souls
Saturday 7th November **Vigil Mass Thirty – Second Sunday of the Year**	**6. 00 pm**	10.00am	Jose Mathew RIP, Mass followed by Adoration People of the Parishes
Sunday 8th November Thirty – Second Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00am	Ethna Walsh RIP Charles, Mary & Patrick Henry RIP

Confessions on Saturdays: Ashley before 6pm Mass. Clayton 10.30 – 11.30 am

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.

Baptisms: Please keep Chidubem who was baptised last weekend and Charlie and Angelica who are to be baptised this weekend in your prayers, also their families.

November Mass Offering Envelopes: Are now available at the back of Church.

Ashley Parish Table top sale and refreshments in Oddfellows hall 11am-3pm on the 7th November. All welcome . Proceeds to the building fund. Crystals, craft items, Christmas gift ideas.

Volunteering Opportunities in our parishes: Altar Server Chaperone – must be 18+, DBS clearance required via the Parish, required before and after weekend masses on a rota basis.

New members of the **Cleaning and Counting teams** always welcome to join the rota. No DBS required, training given,

General Volunteer to record monthly meter and water temperature readings – no DBS required.

Readers Ashley	Saturday 6.00pm	31.10.26 R. McKenna	07.11.26 H. Brown	14.11.26 J. Allbutt
Readers Clayton	Sunday 8.15 am	01.11.26 C. Pover	08.11.26 M. Anderson	15.11.26 M. Mason
Readers	Sunday 10 am	01.11.26 M. Larkin/ M. Hughes	08.11.26 L. Machin/ H. Carter	15.11.26 A. & J. Capper
Counting	Clayton	01.11.26 Eggington/ Beardmore	08.11.26 Whitehurst/ Machin	15.11.26 Grannell
Cleaning	Clayton	01.11.26 Group 1	08.11.26 Group 2	15.11.26 Group 3
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	November A & J. Capper		
Flowers	**Ashley** 02.11.26 09.11.26 16.11.26	 Chris Sue M Sue M	**Clayton** 01.11.26 08.11.26 15.11.26	 Julia Sujen Helen
Offertory Collections – thank you	**Second Collections:** **30th Oct/1st Nov Johnson Association** **7th/8th Nov Father Hudson's**			
Gift Aid	**Clayton**	£ 69.21	**Ashley**	£30.00
Cash	**Clayton**	£231.81	**Ashley**	£11.50
Standing Orders	**Clayton**	£430.00	**Ashley**	£92.00
Total	**Clayton**	£731.02	**Ashley**	£133.50

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 concerns.

Winter Fayre: On Saturday 21st November 12 noon until 2.00 pm. We would be grateful for raffle prizes for the main raffle and items for the stalls. Homemade cakes please bring in on the morning of the fayre **(with a list of all ingredients)**

Ashley Harvest Supper: Thank you to all who helped to organise and attend the supper. £180 was raised for Christian Aid.

Mass for Deceased Clergy: On Tuesday 10th November at Holy Trinity, Newcastle 12 noon.

Missio Red Boxes: Please can you return the contents of your boxes to Church as soon as possible in the brown envelope available from the back of Church.