

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin Lent and turn our minds to what we can do to better improve our spiritual lives, I am happy to be able to announce that next weekend we will be opening our church in Clayton for Sunday Masses. Next weekend the Masses will be Saturday 6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Please note the change in time of the one Mass. Please book places by phone from Tuesday onwards. The best times are between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. We can then look at further activities once we have restarted.

Last weekend we had our Foodbank collection, and 130 kilos of food were collected. Thank you for this generous support and also for yet another recent donation towards future announced needs of foodbank; it will help supplement the areas that may be wanting in the food nutritional balance.

This Sunday the diocese asks us to pray for catechumens. This refers to people who are studying the faith and have a desire to enter into the life of the church. Despite difficulties there are those who are making great efforts to learn about the church, its teachings and become involved with a community and a true spiritual life as led and taught by the church. Please keep them in your prayers.

As half term draws to a close, we pray for all families and their children. Home schooling is not the easiest of tasks and having children forever in need of direction and things to do, can in itself be very tiring and demanding. I believe many of us now realise the importance of our schools and the care given through them. We've all probably learnt that teaching is indeed a particular, special profession and vocation. Thank you teachers! Well done parents! May schools soon be able to re-open fully and safely!

Let us also pray for all families and individuals who are struggling to make a living, those who somehow fall outside the financial helps that the government provide. There are many difficult situations out there – may the Lord bring them some help and succour!

Finally, please keep in your prayers those who have gone to the Lord because of the pandemic and in particular a recent parishioner whose funeral service takes place the week after next that is Michael Devaney. May he and all our recently deceased find eternal rest.

God bless you and keep one another 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 21st February 2021 First Sunday of Lent Year B

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary. . .

And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary. . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts,
that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen