

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

CESSATION OF CHURCH SERVICES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we are experiencing something that most of us would never have dreamed off i.e. that there would not be a public Mass available for Catholics to fulfil their duty of Sunday obligation. The Archbishops of England and Wales have decreed that there are no longer to be Public Church services and gatherings for the foreseeable future. At the same time your priest is required to say Mass in private for the good of us all, but not with the public present. Please be assured that this follows Canon Law of the Church and allows for mitigation of the obligation in extraordinary times and circumstances.

Whilst there will be no services the churches will be open for certain hours of the day so that people can come and pray and find consolation in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. And how that comfort will be so needed! The church at Clayton will be open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for prayer from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. (Sunday until 2 p.m.) At Ashley the church will be open on the Saturday from 12 noon until 6 p.m.

I will try and keep you all posted as more directives and details emerge from the Archbishops. In the meantime, let us pray for one another and be ready to help wherever we can so that Christ's love shines through our hearts into the lives of those who surround us.

If you wish to read in full the directive of the Archbishops then go to a catholic website for the latest news.

God bless you and keep you all safe in his care!

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

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

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

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**Sunday 15th March 2020
Third Sunday of Lent
Sunday Readings Year A, Weekday Readings Cycle Two**

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