

SEVENTH SUNDAY YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

No sooner is it the end of the Christmas Season then we are facing Lent. This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday when we take ashes and commit ourselves to repentance, making that extra effort to get close to God. Our re-commitment includes prayer, fast and abstinence. It begins on Ash Wednesday itself as we abstain from meat and eat less as a form of penance for our sins. During Lent we are encouraged to pray more, abstain more and by our abstention become more generous to the poor and needy.

The church also states that as practising Catholics we need to go to confession at or around Easter time in order that we commit ourselves again to our faith and naturally receive the Lord in Holy Communion, purified and made more honest in our relationship with him. In times past it was referred to as our Easter Duties, something we owe the church and almighty God himself. Please note that as a way of additional prayer we will be having the Stations of the Cross on Sunday afternoons beginning the first Sunday 4 p.m. at Clayton and alternating with Ashley each other weekend.

Please also note the various courses that have been put on locally in our deanery parishes. There is no charge for these and it could be a good and simple way to renew ones faith and grow in the knowledge of God.

As we now approach St Werburgh Church building the scaffolding has gone and the roof is looking rather good. The contract will finish off with some work on the presbytery. The gutters and down pipes are in need of being replaced. The old cast iron gutters have begun to rot and are in a very poor state. Thank you for all the generous support; we have managed to halve the bill which is a great help. Any additional contributions will be most welcome!

I hope that half term has been a change and something of a rest for people. I know for some of you it will have been work as normal. Perhaps a break and a change for you as well in the near future.

We remember in our prayers all the sick, housebound and those in hospital at this moment in time. Also our prayers go out for all suffering the effect of the Coronavirus and those still battling with the fires of Australia.

God bless and keep you 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

Website: www.ourladyandstwerburgh.org.uk Email: catholics.clayton@btinternet.com



**Sunday 23rd February 2020
Seventh Sunday of the Year
Sunday Readings Year A, Weekday Readings Cycle Two**

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

And the Word was made flesh.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

R. And dwelt among us.

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

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

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary. . .

	Ashley	Clayton	Intentions
Saturday 22nd February Vigil Mass for Sunday 7th Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm		Michael Riley
Sunday 23rd February 7th Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes The Rosary – for peace in the world Tom Ryan
Tuesday 25th February		7.15 pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 26th February Ash Wednesday	2.15 pm	9.15 am 7.15 pm	Margaret Brown (Mass with the School) Thomos Jones Joseph Edward Joyce
Thursday 27th February		10.00 am 6.30pm	Maureen and John Mulrooney Divine Office
Friday 28th February		10.00 am	In Honour of our Lady
Saturday 29th February		10.00 am	Peggy Bhattacharia ,Mass followed by Adoration until 11am
Vigil Mass for Sunday First Sunday of Lent	6. 00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 1st March First Sunday of Lent		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am 4.00 pm	Steve, Cath and Kevin Dunn The Rosary – for peace in the world Matthew Whitehurst Stations of the Cross

Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 – 11.30 am. At Ashley Saturday's 5.25 pm – 5.45 pm.

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! Including: Margaret Boden, Mary Gregory, Michael Somers, Kathleen Rouffet, Louise and Dee Dutton.

Our Lady & St Werburgh Roof Fund: The total cost will be £36,180. If you are able to make a donation please hand it to Father Anton. If you are a taxpayer and would like to GiftAid your donation there are envelopes available in the porch, or ask at the parish office. **Total raised so far £11,900 and we have pledges for £5,600 yet to come in – thank you!**

Lent Appeal – WaterAid Jars of Change: This year we will be supporting the charity WaterAid. Please collect your loose change throughout Lent and fill an empty jar. Labels for jars will be available this weekend.

Clayton Cleaning Rota: ONE person to offer to join Group 2 rota to vacuum the church carpet only! This would be on a Thursday or Friday morning every 6 weeks. Please contact Sharon in the parish office. Thank you to the 2 volunteers who have offered to clean the upper room.

BISHOP DAVID McGOUGH – GOLDEN JUBILEE: On Saturday 14th March, our area bishop, Bishop David will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. There will be a special Mass at 2pm at Sacred Heart, Tunstall on that day. All priests of the deanery are very welcome to concelebrate and there is a wider invitation to all parishioners to attend and to join with Bishop David on this special occasion.

Diary Dates

Tue 25 th Feb	Journey in Faith 8pm
Wed 26 th Feb	Baby and Toddler Group 9.30am – 11am
Thur 27 th Feb	Over 55's Friendship Club 12.45pm – 2.50 pm
Thur 5 th March	First Forgiveness 7pm in Church
Fri 6 th March	CAFOD Lent Fast Day
Wed 11 th March	Parish Committee Meeting 8.15 pm Upper Room
Sun 26 th April	Parish AGM after 10am Mass

Through Lent With St Matthew - The Year of the Word: An Opportunity to enter deeply in the Gospel of St Matthew with Father Julian Green, Father Michael Glover, and Deacon Sean Gough. On 28th February, 6th March, 13th March, and 20th March from 7.00 pm – 9.00pm. Sessions to take place at St Catherine's Room (Parish Room) Our Lady and St Peter in Chains, 106 Hartshill Road, ST4 7LL. (Please collect a leaflet from the back of Church)

Lent 2020 Reflections with Laudato Si: Sessions to take place at Coolock, Newcastle from 7.15 -8.45 pm on Tuesday 3rd March, Wednesday 11th March, Wednesday 18th March, Wednesday 25th March and Tuesday 31st March.

At the Heart - Three evenings of prayer, reflection and music living out our faith and raising a family in a modern world: The evenings will be led by Catherine McLoughlin an international speaker. On 16th March 7.00 pm – Marriage, 17th March 7.00pm – Pregnancy, 18th March 7.00pm - Family. To take place at St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Stone Road, Trent Vale ST4 6SP. (Leaflets available in the porch)

St Dominic's Reunion: Calling all old girls from St Dominic's High School, Stoke. There is a reunion being held from 7.30pm on Sat 28th March at Porthill Park Cricket Club. Please feel free to bring photos, memorabilia etc.

Safeguarding: If you would like to speak to someone about safeguarding, please contact either The Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator: 0121 230 6240 or the Parishes Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Kate Hagan 07930 658080. Protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm is our priority.