

**PALM SUNDAY YEAR B
THE BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The idea of Holidays and Holydays are historically very closely linked. When slaves joined the church in Roman times, their holydays swiftly became a type of holiday for them, a break from the cruel routine of the world in which they lived. The word "rest" has a double meaning in the bible. Firstly, it is the literal sense of a rest from work and commitments much as we would see it today. Secondly, the seventh day of creation is also a day of rest for God and humanity, a rest from creation and all its challenges. It also means to be in the presence of the Lord. That is why the final day of rest is heaven itself. So, as we start holy week let it be for us a holiday and a holyday (or special week of prayer and adoration).

Maundy Thursday takes place on the day at 7.30 p. m. It is a celebration of the Last Supper with the washing of feet and for those who want to stay on after there is a time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. At midnight the Blessed Sacrament is taken from the body of the church because it is the start of Good Friday when Jesus dies on the cross. The church will feel empty due to so many things being removed from the church to make it feel a little tomb like.

Good Friday sees a 10 a.m. Ecumenical Service at Ashley starting in the catholic church, followed by a walk of witness to our Anglican brethren where the service will continue and conclude. At Clayton the 3 p.m. Service of Sorrow takes place. It is the main service with the Passion of Jesus's death, the Veneration of the Cross and the chance to receive Holy Communion. There are no Masses, Baptisms, Weddings etc. allowed on that day as we acknowledge the death of Jesus. There is also a walk of witness at Clayton at 5 p.m. It starts at St James church then we walk with the cross to St Lukes. It's a lovely event and you are all welcome to join myself and the other clergy for the event.

Holy Saturday and Sunday! The Easter Vigil, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus starts at 8 p.m. when it is dark. We can then savour the Easter Fire, lit outside, from which we will light the new Easter (Paschal) candle. As we all take a light from this same candle we start to process into church where we celebrate the new life of Christ, Risen from the Death. Sunday morning there are two Masses, 9 a.m. at Ashley and 11 a.m. at Clayton. God bless and a Happy Easter!

Please note the special services for the children – details in the newsletter! Also let us remind ourselves of our Easter Duties. The church reminds us that to keep on faith with the church it is our duty to go to confession at or around Easter time. Our Penitential Service is at 7.15 p.m. this Tuesday – there will be four priests available. Mass that day will be at 6 p.m.

Happy Holy Week and Happy Easter!

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
2342 16*

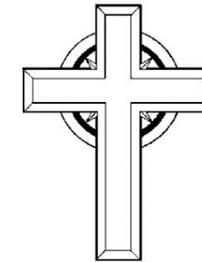
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 24th March 2024
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Sunday Readings Year B
Weekday Readings Year 2**

Blessed Miriams Prayer

**Holy Spirit, inspire me
Love of God, Consume me.
In the right path lead me.
Mary, my Mother,
watch over me.
With Jesus bless me.
From all evil, all illusion, all danger,
Preserve me.**

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 23rd March Palm Sunday	6 00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	3. 00 pm	8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Daniel Taylor RIP Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 26th March Solemnity of St Joseph		6.00pm 7.15 pm	Mass – Paul Day Penitential Service
Wednesday 27th March	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Private Intention Adoration No Intention
Thursday 28th March		7.30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper – Margaret O'Rourke RIP
Friday 29th March Good Friday	10.00am	3.00pm 5.00 pm	Ashley Walk of Witness from the Catholic Church to Anglican Church Solemn Liturgy Clayton Walk of Witness St James to St Lukes
Saturday 30th March Holy Saturday		8.00 pm	Easter Vigil – People of the Parishes
Sunday 31st March Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord	9. 00am	11. 00 am	Michael Riley Anne Bourne

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.

Please keep Harlow who is to be baptised this weekend and family in your prayers.

Deanery Penance Services for Lent: 25th March, 7pm Holy Trinity; 25th March St Augustine's, Meir 7pm; 26th March 7pm, St Giles, Cheadle; 26th March 7.15pm St Werburgh's Clayton

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Lists for watching and washing of feet are available to sign in the porch.

Holy Week for Children: Maundy Thursday: At 5:30pm on Maundy Thursday there will be a short service in the Upper Room. **Good Friday at midday:** We will hold a special Stations of the Cross prayer service for children in Church. If possible, please arrive a few minutes early so we can practice and prepare our songs and readings in the Side Chapel. All are welcome.

Lenten Lunches at Ashley: Thank you to all who organised and supported the lunches. £150 was raised at our parish to make the grand total £511. 20 which will go to Christian Aid.

Gift Aid Envelopes at Clayton: Envelopes are available today. Please take a flyer with further details regarding Gift Aid.

Readers	Saturday 6pm	23.03.24: L. Mifflin/J. Dunlevy	31.03.24: Easter Sunday Mass 9am M. Hartley	06.04.24: I. Thompson
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	24.03.24: R. Hartley	31.03.24 Easter Sunday Mass 11am only	07.04.24: M. O'Hagan
Readers	Sunday 10am	24.03.24: M. Larkin/R. Gallimore	31.03.24: Easter Sunday Mass 11am	07.04.24: A. Goodall/ M. O'Brien
Counting	Clayton	24.03.24: Hagan	29.03.24: Holy Places: Hughes	31.03.24: Walker
Cleaning	Clayton	24.03.24: Group 3 For Easter	31.03.24: Group 4	07.04.24: Group 5 & 5b
Cleaning	Ashley	March April	M. Heath H. Brown	C. Byrne J. Dunlevy
		Offertory Collections – Thank You	The retiring collection on Good Friday is for Holy Places	The collections at all Easter Masses are for your Parish Priest (envelopes in the porch)
Gift Aid	Clayton	£142.19	Ashley	£40.00
Cash	Clayton	£375.90	Ashley	£10.25
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£948.09	Ashley	£142.25

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 concern.

Easter Monday Mass: At Sacred Heart Church, Hanley at 10.00 am. Chief Celebrant Canon Paul McNally. All welcome. Light refreshments available.

Vacancy - Archdiocese of Birmingham – Deputy Diocesan Solicitor: The Birmingham Diocesan Trust (BDT) is looking to appoint an experienced Deputy Diocesan Solicitor. Permanent/Part-time (21 hours per week) Salary range: £45,000 to £55,000 fte p.a. plus benefits, hybrid remote working. Applications including a CV and supporting statement to be submitted to the HR department to julia.hale@rcaob.org.uk by 8 April 2024. Shortlisting: 8 April 2024

Interviews: TBC w/c 15 April 2024