

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we begin the New Liturgy of the Church, moving to Year A in the calendar. It is the New Year Celebration of the Church. We are called to prepare for the Incarnation of Christ into the world and spiritually celebrate the Second Coming of Christ, repeatedly accepting him as Our Lord and Saviour!

We have just three and a half weeks to prepare our hearts and minds. Last Sunday we were each offered a small "Walk with Me" booklet to guide us through this time. These weeks will pass swiftly and so we need to take note. It is a time to re-commit ourselves to Jesus and to the life of the Church, giving thanks to God by witnessing to his presence in the world.

It is also an important time to go to confession, when we genuinely open our hearts and minds to God in the deepest sincerity.

Please note this Thursday December 4th at 12.30 p.m., it is the Requiem of Marian Mountford. Please prayer for her and her family. Also remember Marion Thompson who passed away suddenly this week! Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord!

Sorry to not have been with you for the Winter Fayre, but bugs have got the better of me this weekend. Thank you, Father Kevin, for covering Ashley and Father Austin s.c.j. for covering Clayton. Hopefully I'll be back in harness next weekend. Lots of people I know have come down with something.

A reminder also for year five parents and children to fill in and return the pre-application form regarding the Application for the Certificate of Catholic Practice, required by all Senior Catholic Schools.

God bless and dodge the bugs!

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***

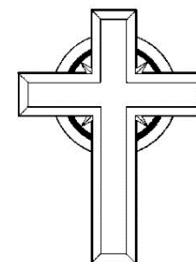
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 67640



Sunday 30th November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday Readings Year A

Weekday Readings Year 1

We are Pilgrims of Hope

Hope is a virtue, given through the presence and action of the Holy Spirit, creating within us an ardent desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life.

Hope creates a thirst within for eternal life and the happiness of heaven.

Hope teaches us to trust in the promises of Christ and rely not on our own strength but on the help and grace of the Holy Spirit.

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 29th November Vigil Mass 1st Sunday of Advent	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 30th November 1st Sunday of Advent		8.15 am 10.00 am	Ellen & Philip Bode Jacob
Thursday 4th December		9.15 am 12.30 pm	Holy Souls Requiem Mass for Marion Mountford
Friday 5th December Feast of St Birinus		10.00am	Thomas RIP
Saturday 6th December Vigil Mass Second Sunday of Advent	6.00 pm	10.00 am	Jose James Manimala RIP Mass followed by Adoration People of the Parishes
Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent		8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Arthur and Betty Bloor

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

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.

Our Lady and St John's Ashley Angel Festival: The Angel Festival is the 6th December 10-4pm at Our Lady and St John's Ashley. Our Lady and St Werburgh's school, Hugo Meynell school and St Mary's School Mucklestone are all making Angels along with quite a few other groups. We hope to have about 600 Angels on display. There will also be refreshments, decorating gingerbread Angels and craft stalls.

Help is urgently needed for the Angel Festival. We need people to serve the refreshments; be greeters in church; marshal in the carpark; help to put up and take down the display and to make cakes. If you can help with any of these roles please either email Hazel at angelfestival.olstj@gmail.com or sign up on the poster in the porch at Ashley. Thank you.

Carol Service Hosted by St John Fisher Catholic College: On Monday 1st December at 6.00pm at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Children from local primary schools will be singing including some from Our Lady & St Werburgh's Primary School.

Christmas Carol Concert: In Ashley Catholic Church Hall (Oddfellows Hall) on December 14th 7pm. Proceeds from donations on entry will go to Ashley Catholic Church funds.

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a life-changing gift this Christmas. This year, share the joy of Christmas with a CAFOD World Gift - from safe water to school supplies! A meaningful way to bless loved ones and help families overseas. See worldgifts.cafod.org.uk and the cards and brochures available in the porch.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	29.11.25 R. McKenna	06.12.25 J. Allbutt	13.12.25 S. McKenna
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	30.11.25 M. Mason	07.12.25 R. Hartley	14.12.25 D. Mason
Readers	Sunday 10 am	30.11.25 A. Capper/J. Capper	07.12.25 A. Goodall/M. O'Brien	14.12.25 S. Sony/ M. Tierney
Counting	Clayton	30.11.25 Whitehurst/ Machin	07.12.25 Grannell	14.12.25 Hagan
Cleaning	Clayton	30.11.25 Group 1	07.12.25 Group 2	14.12.25 Group 3
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	December A & J. Capper		
Offertory Collections – thank you		Retiring collection 29 th /30 th November is for flowers for the altar	Retiring collection 6 th /7 th December is for Poor Parishes	The retiring collection on 13 th December is for Ashley is for the Building Fund
Gift Aid	Clayton	£108.00	Ashley	£70.00
Cash	Clayton	£316.92	Ashley	£13.10
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£ 92.00
Total	Clayton	£854.92	Ashley	£175.10
Catholic Youth Service	Clayton	£181.78	Ashley	£19.00

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.

Counting Team Clayton: A couple of people urgently needed to join one of our counting teams. Please contact the parish office for further information.

Missio Red Boxes: Please return boxes over the next few weeks. Envelopes in the porch.

Carol Singers for ROYAL STOKE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL: Taking place on Tuesday 9th December 2025. Time: 18:00pm (start) – 19:30pm

Meeting Point: SPARC, Chapel, LG2 @ 17:30

Everyone is kindly asked not to attend if they have some Covid19 or Flu-like symptoms. Please inform the parish office if you would like to attend by Sunday 30th November.

Clayton Reading Rota: The updated rota is available for readers to collect from the porch.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2026: From Saturday 29th – Monday 31st August (Bank Holiday Weekend) please see poster on noticeboard with further details or contact Mary Shirley to book a place on 07910 605984 or maryroseshirley@gmail.com.