

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the past week we celebrated the Feast of St David, the Patron of Wales. Friday was also the World Women's Day of Prayer. So let us remember that unity between nations and the position of women in the world are very important elements to the building up of the human race. Working together for the good of all and the care of the vulnerable are part and parcel of the well-being of all. Let us pray for nations to be at peace with one another. Let us pray for women, especially mothers as their day of celebration approaches. Life not death! Generosity not greed. Love not hate! Forgiveness not revenge! Respect not denigration! May the gifts of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

Saturday was also the Feast of St Chad and a celebration of the Patron of our Diocese along with Our Lady herself. Being a member of the Archdiocese is a first step reminder that we are a universal church, not just local, but part of the Body of Christ throughout the whole world. As someone said to me the other day, "Is it not wonderful to think that a Mass is being celebrated all the time somewhere in the world."

Next Sunday is the half-way mark in Lent. How are we doing in regard to our commitments, journeying in faith in order to be closer to God, especially through the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord? If we have faltered, let us pray for Jesus for the strength to pick up our cross once more. Sometimes our journey can be joyous, other time onerous. Blessings upon you as you commit and recommit to your prayer, penance and care of the poor.

Congratulations to Ashley Parish on the celebration of the Women's World Day of Prayer. It was a thought provoking and prayerful service, appreciated by all, and followed by refreshments on the theme of the Holy Land.

This coming Friday the Archbishop Bernard asks that we "focus on prayer for the Holy Land." Can all parish members make a note in your diaries and pray for the said intention!

Please keep our sick, both at home and in hospital, in your prayers. Keep those especially near to eternal life in your prayers that their journey to the Lord will be completed in peace and comfort.

God bless and take good care of yourselves.

**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*

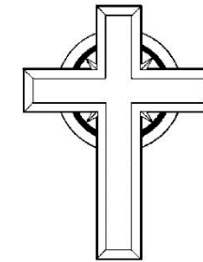
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023**

**Email: [olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024  
Third Sunday of Lent Year B  
Sunday Readings Year B  
Weekday Readings Year 2**

**CAFOD Children's Prayer**

**Loving God, your Son, Jesus,  
calmed the storm that frightened the disciples.  
You keep us safe too,  
even when we are afraid.**

**Show us how to follow you, and help us  
to be there for one another.  
Teach us to share fairly so that we,  
and our whole global family,  
may look to the future with hope.**

**Amen.**

	Ashley	Clayton	
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	6 00 pm		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am 3.00 pm	Mary Richards Pauline Cregg Stations of the Cross
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>		7.15 pm	Marcella Dawson RIP
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Margaret Gillen Adoration No Intention
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>		9.15 am	Holy Souls (School Mass)
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>		10.00 am	Monica Gillard
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>		10.00am	No Intention
<b>Vigil Mass 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	3. 00 pm	8.15 am 10.00 am	Rosemary Holmes RIP No Intention Stations of the Cross

**Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 -11.30 am. 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.

**Ashley Lenten Lunches:** Start at 12.30pm and all proceeds to Christian Aid. All welcome.  
6<sup>th</sup> March Anglican Church  
20<sup>th</sup> March Catholic Church

**Lenten Appeal:** We are donating to WaterAid and Mary's Meals for our Lenten appeal. Please bring any donations in at the end of Lent.

**CAFOD:** Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Lent. Your generous donations, given in love, will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families for good. You can still give online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

**North Staffs Deanery Vocations Mass:** On Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at St Teresa of the Child Jesus at 6pm. Celebrant Father Simon Hall.

**Teen discussion group:** All Year 8 and above teenagers are very welcome to join us for our next discussion group on **Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> (5.00-6.30pm)**. Our theme to discuss will be "what is my purpose on earth?". We meet in the small chapel in OLSW church. (Please arrive via the side presbytery door). Any queries contact Anne O'Brien or Sr. Geraldine via the parish office.

**Newcastle Staffs Foodbank:** Thank you from the Foodbank for all your generous donations. Any donations can be left in the porch.

**Cleaning Rota at Clayton:** More volunteers needed please. One team is in need of a few more volunteers. Please contact the office on 01782 613023 if you can help.

Readers	Saturday 6pm	02.03.24: S. McKenna	09.03.24: C. Bland	16.03.24: C. Byrne
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	03.03.24: S. Sammons	10.03.24: C. Pover	17.03.24: M. Anderson
Readers	Sunday 10am	03.03.24: B. Walker/M. Hughes	10.03.24: B. Tierney/J. Somers	17.03.24: L. Machin/H. Carter
Counting	Clayton	03.03.24: Egginton	10.03.24: Whitehurst/ Machin	17.03.24: Grannell
Cleaning	Clayton	03.03.24: Group 5 & 5b	10.03.24: Group 1	17.03.24: Group 2
Cleaning	Ashley	March	M. Heath	C. Byrne
Children Liturgy	03.03.24	Natalie Claire H	10.03.24: Claire O Anne	<b>17.03.24:</b> Catherine Debbie
		<b>Offertory Collections – Thank You</b>		<b>Retiring Collection 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> March Cathedral Maintenance</b>
Gift Aid	Clayton	£117.30	Ashley	£52.00
Cash	Clayton	£294.17	Ashley	£ 7.00
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£841.47	Ashley	£151.00
CAFOD	Clayton	£436.63	Ashley	£28.15

**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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

#### **Holy Week for Children:**

As well as the Liturgies of the Easter Triduum, we will be holding two special times of prayer for children. At 5:30pm on Maundy Thursday there will be a short service in the Upper Room, and at midday on Good Friday, 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!

#### **Children's Liturgy:**

During 10am Mass in term time, children younger than First Communion age (Year 3) are welcome to join us for their own liturgy of the Word. We leave together after the Opening Prayer, and process back into Church at the Offertory. There are always at least two leaders present so children who are comfortable in the group are welcome to attend without a parent present.