

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord,

We enter the month of May, the time of special remembrance of Mary the mother of God, the mother of Jesus. There is a brightness about May, sunshine as April blows itself out. The real shining star though is Mary herself. The church has always honoured her but never worshiped her for it is only God that we worship. Our devotion to Mary is re-directed to her Son Jesus. In fact, if you study the decades of the Rosary you will see how they ultimately focus on Jesus and his importance in the story.

Many of us have rosaries and now is the time to dust them down and practise that very important and simple meditation of the mysteries of the life of Christ. Our piety stall has many examples of rosaries, and they only cost a few pounds. Why not have one in your pocket and when it is quiet, sat on a train, your husband or wife driving, then quietly say your rosary and think about the mystery of the life of Christ it represents.

Congratulations to St John the Baptist for their celebration meal, following all the hard work and fund raising to renew the outside of the church. There was a great deal of work to be done, and it has born fruit. Thank you everyone and glad you enjoyed your evening meal and party games. Thank you also to those who have worked to update the kitchen facilities. Now we have two new ovens we can have hot meals as we did last Saturday.

At our parish financial meeting last week I was asked to put forward a few reminders. Firstly, if you have taken a gift aid form with the intention of helping us to claim some tax back from the government, could you please bring them back in. Secondly, if you pay your standing order might you be able to revise it a little, considering inflation. Thirdly, there are forms at the back of church for registering with the parish, gift aid and standing order forms. As the supermarket says, "Every little helps."

God bless and keep you 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*

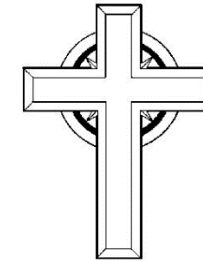
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023

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 3rd May 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday Readings Year A
Weekday Readings Year 2**

THE ANGELUS

C The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.
C Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R Be it done unto me according to thy word.
C And the Word was made flesh.
R And dwelt among us.

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 2nd May Vigil Mass Fifth Sunday of Easter	6.00 pm		Intention of the Hall family
Sunday 3rd May Fifth Sunday of Easter		8.15 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes Pam Rooker RIP
Tuesday 5th May		7.15 pm	Successful Operation
Wednesday 6th May	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Holy Mass Adoration Holy Mass
Thursday 7th May		9.15 am	Holy Mass with the school
Friday 8th May		10.00am	Andrew Bancewicz RIP
Saturday 9th May Vigil Mass Sixth Sunday of Easter	6.00 pm	10.00am	The grace of detachment People of the Parishes
Sunday 10th May Sixth Sunday of Easter		8.15 am 10.00am	Mary Richards RIP Jose Mathew RIP (First Holy Communion Preparation Mass)

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.

Gift Aid Envelopes: The Gift Aid envelopes for the new tax year are available to collect in the Church porch.

Summer Fayre Raffle Tickets: Now available in the porch. Please take some to sell to family and friends.

Piety Stall: There are a selection of First Holy Communion gifts and cards to purchase.

North Staffs Area Pastoral Council:

May Devotions: – Walsingham Association. Sunday 3rd May at St Patrick's Packmoor 3.30 pm.

Day pilgrimage to Walsingham – Saturday 9th May. Forms at the back of Church.

Talk on St Francis of Assisi – Friday 29th May at Holy Trinity Community Centre, Newcastle 7pm. Talk given by Father Michael Miners. **(please note change of date from original APC programme)**

Diary Dates

Clayton Parish Committee Thursday 14th May 8.15 pm

Clayton AGM Sunday 7th June after 10am Mass

Summer Fayre Saturday 4th July 12 noon – 2 pm

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	02.05.26 L. Mifflin	09.05.26 H. Brown	16.05.26 R. McKenna
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	03.05.26 C. Dibie	10.05.26 M. Corrigan	17.05.26 C. Pover
Readers	Sunday 10 am	03.05.26 M. Larkin/ J. Parkes	10.05.26 L. Machin/ H. Carter	17.05.26 A. Capper/ J. Capper
Counting	Clayton	03.05.26 Lycett/ Bullock/ Corrigan	10.05.26 Whitehurst/ Machin	17.05.26 Walker
Cleaning	Clayton	03.05.26 Group 5	10.05.26 Group 6	17.05.26 Group 1
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	May P. & C. Quinlan		
Flowers	Ashley 04.05.26 11.05.26	Hazel Chris	Clayton 03.05.26 10.05.26	Julia Rosalind
Offertory Collections – thank you				The retiring collection 9 th /10 th May is for Poor Parishes fund
Gift Aid	Clayton	£273.12	Ashley	£55.00
Cash	Clayton	£649.62	Ashley	£53.70
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£1,352.74	Ashley	£200.70
Clergy Training	Clayton	£246.16	Ashley	£83.70
			Ashley Building Fund	£5.00
WaterAid/ Mary's Meals	Clayton	£500.35		

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.