

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Friday we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a time when Jesus is taken to the Temple and dedicated to his heavenly Father. There waiting for them were Simeon and Anna, people who had dedicated their lives to service of the Temple. Their joy was great when they held the Lord Jesus, the Saviour of the World, in their hands. Simeon's joy is reflected in the prayer he proclaims, ***"At last All Powerful Master, you give leave to your servant to go in peace, according to your promise. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people."***

Simeon feels that his life's dream has been fulfilled. Now, prayers answered, he can rest peacefully and he is happy for the Lord God to take him whenever he wishes. Simeon, after the angels, is the first human to prophesy the saviour of the world to the nations.

It was also the Feast of St Werburgh and we celebrated with a School Mass on Thursday and also on the Saturday as it was the official day of celebration. As usual the children sang beautifully in praise of the Lord.

May I remind the Ashley parish finance committee that we meet this Saturday evening after Mass. Hope you are all able to join us. Please note also that there is a meeting for the Women's World Day of Prayer. Details are in the newsletter.

This time of the year we are often called to remember in our prayers the work of the "Life" organization, those who work for the preservation of life in the womb. Has the nation become blase, has the world become blase? Is it a question of what is not seen is no longer considered? Let us pray for the work of "Life" and for the repose of all little souls lost.

Youth work! The Kenelm Trust, the Diocesan Youth Scheme, is offering a Parish Youth Leader Training Program. There are fliers at the back of church for those interested. It is to take place here at St Werburgh on Sat 24th Feb 2-6 p.m. and Sat 2nd of March at 2-6 p.m. There is also an online course available. It is free to attend and you can book on line in order to give the organisers an idea of numbers. It will take place either in the parish upper room or the parish hall.

Once more we keep in our prayers, John Buckley whose funeral took place this past week. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord!

Take care and stay safe! God bless,

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*

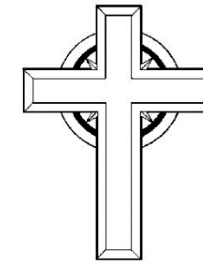
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 676400



**Sunday 4th February 2024
5th Sunday of the Year B
Sunday Readings Year B
Weekday Readings Year 2**

Song of Simeon

***At last All Powerful Master,
you give leave to your servant to go in peace, according to your promise.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel,
your people.***

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 3rd February 5th Sunday of the Year	6 00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 4th February 5th Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00 am	Phillippa Darby (nee Stokes) Arnold Achtmanis
Tuesday 6th February		7.15 pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 7th February	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00am	Special Intention Adoration Holy Souls
Thursday 8th February		9.15 am	Holy Souls (School Mass)
Friday 9th February		10.00 am	Jean Green
Saturday 10th February Vigil Mass 6th Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm	10.00am	Special Intention People of the Parishes
Sunday 11th February 6th Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Jean Green

Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 -11.30 am. Ashley: Before 6 pm Mass. No Confessions at Clayton on Saturday 13th January.

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.

Newcastle Staffs Foodbank: Items that the foodbank are short of this week are: custard, rice pudding, cereal, instant mash, squash, long life fruit juice, household cleaning items, shower gel, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes and washing up liquid.

World Day of Prayer: The annual World Day of Prayer will this year be hosted by Our Lady and St John the Baptist Catholic Church at Ashley. Everyone is most welcome both to take part in planning the service at 2p.m. on the 23rd February, in church and/or to attend the service at 2p.m. on the 1st March. The theme this year is very special as it is the Christians in Palestine - the land where Jesus was born, ministered and died. Please come and join us in prayer and afterwards for refreshments in Oddfellows hall.

Volunteer Altar Servers Chaperones Required: Volunteers must be aged over 18 and willing to undergo clearance by the Safeguarding Team i.e. have a full DBS check and provide two references. Duties will involve supervising altar servers before and after Sunday masses. Please contact the office or email Kate using sgolstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk

Readers	Saturday 6pm	03.02.24: I. Thompson	10.02.24: B. Bromfield	17.02.24: H. Brown
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	04.02.24: C. Pover	11.02.24: R. Hartley	
Readers	Sunday 10am	04.02.24: M. Larkin/R. Gallimore	11.02.24: A. & J. Capper	
Counting	Clayton	04.02.24: Hagan	11.02.24: Hughes	18.02.24: Walker
Cleaning	Clayton	04.02.24: Group 1	11.02.24: Group 2	18.02.24: Group 3
Cleaning	Ashley	February:	S. & L. Mifflin	
Flowers	Ashley	05.02.24: Chris 12.02.24: Sue M.	Clayton 04.02.24: Catherine	11.02.24: Helen
Children Liturgy	04.02.24	Debbie Catherine	11.02.24:	Su Sister Geraldine
		Offertory Collections – Thank You	The retiring collection next weekend is for Pro Life	
Gift Aid	Clayton	£236.19	Ashley	
Cash	Clayton	£326.53	Ashley	
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£992.72	Ashley	Not available
Racial Justice	Clayton	£91.50	Ashley	

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.

Parish Youth Leader Training

The Bethsaida course is your gateway to a rewarding voluntary role working with young people in your parish. This free course is taking place at Our Lady and St Werburgh's, Clayton on Saturday 24th Feb from 2-6pm, and Saturday 2nd March from 2-6pm, and with an online session at 7pm on Wednesday 28th February from home. All are welcome whether you are interested in working with young people in your parish in the future or this is something you are already part of. The certificated course is run by the Kenelm Youth Trust with sessions that are informative, relaxed, interactive and friendly. To register or find out more please email: anna.howard@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Prayer Workshop: On Saturday's 10.30am – 12. 30 pm in the upper room at St Werburgh's. All welcome.