

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May I begin by wishing you all a Very Happy and Blessed New Year. Also, I hope that Christmas has gone well and that you continue to enjoy the season which officially ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. If you enjoy your Christmas decorations then you can celebrate up to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January is the important Feast of the Epiphany, the visitation of the Magi, the three Wise Men. We are transferring the School Mass to that day for 9.15 a.m. There will also be an evening Mass at Ashley at 7.15 p.m.**

I wish to renew my thanks for all the help, support and co-operation of the past year. Thank you also for your cards and generous Christmas gifts and Christmas offerings. May my health and well-being allow me to continue in the privilege of being your priest for a few more years. Your working together as a blessed community will ensure the wellbeing of our parishes of Ashley and Clayton.

The Lord calls us all to renew and strengthen our Faith and Worship as a sign of a New Year. As we seek consolation from our Sunday Eucharist, we are also called by Christ to witness to our faith and his mission to the world by our continued commitment to our Sunday worship. Faith is a gift and is not given to everyone so let us look after the Christmas gift of Christ in our lives.

Please continue to pray for the repose of the souls of Pauline Capper and Marian Thompson whose funerals will be taking place over the next few weeks. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord!

Let us also pray every day for peace in the world, that justice and kindness will reign and the grace of Christ will be with us all.

Once again, many thanks for all you love, care and support.

Happy New Year and 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*

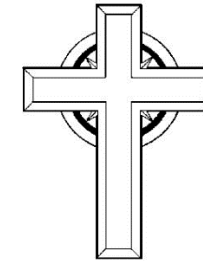
**Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ**

**Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023**

**Email: [olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk](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 67640**



**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
Second Sunday After The Nativity  
Sunday Readings Year A  
Weekday Readings Year 1**

***The Prayer of the Servant Church***

***Loving Father, fill us all with your  
Presence, in Jesus your Son.***

***May we THINK with the mind of Christ  
SEE with the eyes of Christ  
SPEAK with the words of Christ  
SERVE with the hands of Christ  
LOVE with the heart of Christ  
and LIVE with the life of Christ  
who is Our Lord for ever and ever  
Amen***

	Ashley	Clayton	
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January Vigil Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Nativity</b>	6. 00 pm		The Bester and Skelton families
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Nativity</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes John Goodwin RIP
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b>	7.15 pm	9.15 am	Phil Regan & John Thorley <b>(Mass with the School)</b> Holy Souls
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>		10.00am	Repose of the Soul of T. E. James
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>		<b>10.00am</b>	Holy Souls
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>		10.00am	Edward Gillen RIP
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January Vigil Mass Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	6.00 pm	10.00am	Holy Souls, Mass followed by Adoration  People of the Parishes
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>		8.15 am 10.00 am	Holy Souls Hilda and Tom Parkes and Arnold Achtmanis

**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.

**Prayer Life Workshop:** Starting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 10.15 am – 12.15 pm in the upper room at Clayton. All welcome. Next weekend we welcome Jo Kirkham who will speak to us about the workshop.

**Ashley Parish Council Meeting:** On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm.

**Clayton Parish Council Meeting:** On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 7pm in the upper room.

#### Funeral Details.

**Requiem Mass for Pauline Capper:** On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 12 Noon at Our Lady & St John the Baptist R. C. Church, Ashley.

**Funeral Service for Marian Thompson:** On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 1pm at Our Lady & St Werburgh's Clayton.

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	<b>03.01.26</b> S. McKenna	<b>10.01.26</b> To be arranged	
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	04.01.26 M. O' Hagan	11.01.26 A. Dible	18.01.26 M. Hill
Readers	Sunday 10 am	04.01.26 B. Tierney/R. Gallimore	11.01.26 M. Larkin/J. Parkes	18.01.26 L. Machin/H. Carter
Counting	Clayton	04.01.26 Thompson/ Carter	11.01.26 Eggington/A N Other	18.01.26 Whitehurst/Machin
<b>Cleaning</b>	Clayton	04.01.26 Group 6	11.01.26 Group 1	18.01.26 Group 2
<b>Cleaning Ashley</b>	Ashley	January: A. & J. Capper		
Offertory Collections – thank you			<b>Retiring collection 10<sup>th</sup> January at Ashley is for the Building Fund</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> January retiring collection Pax Christi</b>
Gift Aid	Clayton	£109.80	Ashley	£15.00
Cash	Clayton	£238.36	Ashley	£28.60
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£92.00
Total	Clayton	£776.16	Ashley	£135.60

**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 concerns.

**Walsingham Pilgrimage 2026:** From Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:maryroseshirley@gmail.com)

**Newcastle Staffs Foodbank:** Thank you for your generous donations throughout 2025. Please check the noticeboard for the list of current shortages.

**Altar Servers:** We always welcome new altar servers who wish to offer their services in this Important role, however, we now must have parental permission before they can start to train. Forms are available from Kate on [sg.olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk)

#### Rotas:

**Clayton:** Cleaning, Counting and Reading Rotas 2026 are available in the porch.

**Ashley:** Cleaning Rota 2026 is now available.

