

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 2nd.

Tuesday 6th 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

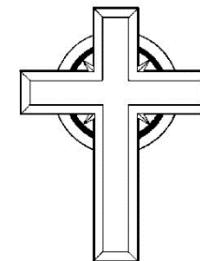
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023

Email: olstwerburgh.clayton@rcaob.org.uk

[Parishes Office Hours: Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat 10.00 am – 1 pm]

Chaplain's Office for inpatients at the Royal Stoke: 01782 67640



**Sunday 4th 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	
Saturday 3rd January Vigil Mass 2nd Sunday after the Nativity			The Bester and Skelton families
Sunday 4th January 2nd Sunday after the Nativity	6. 00 pm	8.15 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes John Goodwin RIP
Tuesday 6th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	7.15 pm	9.15 am	Phil Regan & John Thorley (Mass with the School) Holy Souls
Wednesday 7th January		10.00am	Repose of the Soul of T. E. James
Thursday 8th January		10.00am	Holy Souls
Friday 9th January		10.00am	Edward Gillen RIP
Saturday 10th January Vigil Mass Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	6.00 pm	10.00am	Holy Souls, Mass followed by Adoration People of the Parishes
Sunday 11th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord		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 15th 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 14th January at 6pm.

Clayton Parish Council Meeting: On Thursday 29th January 7pm in the upper room.

Funeral Details.

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

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

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	03.01.26 S. McKenna	10.01.26 To be arranged	
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	04.01.26 M. O'Hagan	11.01.26 A. Dibie	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
Cleaning	Clayton	04.01.26 Group 6	11.01.26 Group 1	18.01.26 Group 2
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	January: A. & J. Capper		
Offertory Collections – thank you			Retiring collection 10th January at Ashley is for the Building Fund	17th/18th January retiring collection Pax Christi
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 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.

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

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

Rotas:

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

Ashley: Cleaning Rota 2026 is now available.

