

Second Sunday Of Advent Year A

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sorry that I could not be with you for the beginning of Advent, the Church New Year. I am grateful to say that I am very much better and with you this weekend. Thank you to my fellow priests Father Austin s.c.j. and Father Kevin for covering the weekend Masses at short notice.

We are already only two and a half weeks away from Christmas and this can make it difficult to fit in our spiritual preparation along with all the demands and plans that are thrown up at this seasonal time. None the less it is John the Baptist who calls us to prepare that spiritual way of the Lord. "Prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight." It is the path into our hearts that John is talking about.

We have our "Walk with me" booklets, we have additional Reconciliation Services and the reminder of the Advent Wreath along with many other things to help us prepare for the Celebration of the Birth of Christ and the Promise that one day he will come again.

Where possible let us open our hearts towards the poor! If you have ever felt downtrodden, without roots, desperate with nowhere to go, then you will know what it can be like for many who are poor, with nowhere to go.

Please keep in your prayers Jose Mathew, Marian Mountford, Marion Thompson and Pauline Capper, all people who have served the catholic community well and have now gone to the Lord. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine on them!

Congratulations to our Parish Committee and Parish School PTA along with all our helpers for making the Winter Fayre a success. Around £2500 was raised which will go towards extras for the Parish and Parish School. Many thanks and thank you for sending in a burger while I was hors de combat! It tasted as good as ever.

This weekend at Ashley we have the Festival of Angels. I believe there will be a huge number and the church will be very Christmassy indeed. Joy to the world, let us feel the spirit of the season and not worry too much about the worldly details. Christ is near at hand, let him into your hearts!

Season's blessing upon you all!

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*

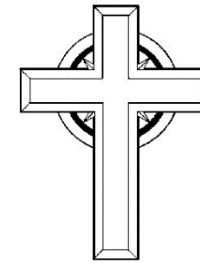
Parish Priest: Father Anton Madej, SCJ

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 7th December 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday Readings Year A
Weekday Readings Year 1**

We are Pilgrims of Hope

Hope is a virtue, given through the presence and action of the Holy Spirit, creating within us an ardent desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life.

Hope creates a thirst within for eternal life and the happiness of heaven.

Hope teaches us to trust in the promises of Christ and rely not on our own strength but on the help and grace of the Holy Spirit.

	Ashley	Clayton	
Saturday 6th December Vigil Mass 2nd Sunday of Advent	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent		8.15 am 10.00 am	Mary Richards Arthur and Betty Bloor
Tuesday 9th December		7.15 pm	Repose of the soul of T. E. James
Wednesday 10th December	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	10.00 am	Deceased of the Cunningham family Adoration Holy Souls
Thursday 11th December		9.15 am	Marion Mountford
Friday 12th December		10.00am	Deceased of the Cooper family
Saturday 13th December Vigil Mass Third Sunday of Advent	6.00 pm	10.00 am	Mary Kutty Manimala Mass followed by Adoration People of the Parishes
Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent		8.15 am 10.00 am	Anna Jones Frank McClellan

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.

Please keep in your prayers Samson who is to be baptised this weekend, and also family and friends.

Christmas Carol Concert: In Ashley Catholic Church Hall (Oddfellows Hall) on December 14th 7pm. Proceeds from donations on entry will go to Ashley Catholic Church funds.

Advent Penitential Service at St. Werburgh's: On Tuesday 16th December 7.15 pm.

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a life-changing gift this Christmas. This year, share the joy of Christmas with a CAFOD World Gift - from safe water to school supplies! A meaningful way to bless loved ones and help families overseas. See worldgifts.cafod.org.uk and the cards and brochures available in the porch.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Could you be a Healthcare Volunteer in Lourdes? Are you a doctor, nurse or carer? Would you consider donating your time and expertise on next year's Lourdes Pilgrimage? Every year sick pilgrims are able to make the journey to Lourdes thanks to the support of a dedicated Healthcare Team. Without their expertise many pilgrims would not be able to go. If you are a healthcare professional and would like to try something new please consider joining us. You will make a real difference. For more information, and to access the Volunteer Pilgrimage Pack and an application form, please visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

Readers Saturday	6.00pm	06.12.25 J. Allbutt	13.12.25 S. McKenna	20.12.25 J. Bester
Readers	Sunday 8.15 am	07.12.25 R. Hartley	14.12.25 D. Mason	21.12.25 K. Lycett
Readers	Sunday 10 am	07.12.25 A. Goodall/M. O'Brien	14.12.25 S. Sony/ M. Tierney	21.12.25 A. Hagan/ M. Hughes
Counting	Clayton	07.12.25 Grannell	14.12.25 Hagan	21.12.25 Hughes
Cleaning	Clayton	07.12.25 Group 2	14.12.25 Group 3	21.12.25 Group 4
Cleaning Ashley	Ashley	December A & J. Capper		
Offertory Collections – thank you			Retiring collection 6 th /7 th December is for Poor Parishes	The retiring collection on 13 th December at Ashley is for the Building Fund
Gift Aid	Clayton	£116.00	Ashley	£58.00
Cash	Clayton	£317.65	Ashley	£
Standing Orders	Clayton	£430.00	Ashley	£ 92.00
Total	Clayton	£863.65	Ashley	£150.00
Altar Flowers	Clayton	£126.88	Ashley	£20.00

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.

Counting Team Clayton: A couple of people urgently needed to join one of our counting teams. Please contact the parish office for further information.

Missio Red Boxes: Please return boxes over the next few weeks. Envelopes in the porch.

Clayton Reading Rota: The updated rota is available for readers to collect from the porch.

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.

Our Lady and St Werburgh New Year's Eve Party – 31st December 7.30pm – 12.30 am: Celebrate New Year's Eve with us! Enjoy great music from DJ Archie. Children's activity area with games and painting. A perfect night for families and friends. Bring your own food and drink. £2 per person (adult and children) For tickets contact Simon Talbot 07515013953 or Peter Plumb 07522524060 by 21st December or contact school reception.

