

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week we celebrated the Feast of St Werburgh, the patron Saint of our Clayton Parish and Parish School. She is an ancient and local Saint having spent part of her life in Trentham. It is a good time to remember our inheritance, the values of life and the values of sainthood. For we are led by people of great inspiration and self-sacrifice, people who think of others and do so in the light of God's love and inspiration. Many people become saints and then some are chosen and marked out as special people who have given a good and holy example by their lives. Our chosen model is St Werburgh.

On Tuesday we also celebrated the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. It is also known as Candlemas Day. Our Holy Father also chose this as a day for Consecrated Religious to celebrate their special lifestyle. So I ask you to remember in your prayers this week all the sisters, brothers, monks, and priests in religious life.

As I said there are many saints in heaven, many good people who have lived simple, straightforward and holy lives. We can pray to them and they in turn can inspire us and pray on our behalf for the strength that we need in our daily lives. They become our heavenly patrons just like our chosen patron saints. Baptismal names these days are not always saint's names, but when we are confirmed we are asked to take up another name, a saint's name. It is a symbol of a change within us and that change is towards a greater commitment to God and the good he leads us towards. That saint is then our patron to whom we can pray and intercede.

This week we have received an appeal from a local charity called "Homestart" who help local people in need. If you have a spare bed, duvet, bedding, a double orthopaedic bed, desks with computer chairs or a spare washing machine then let the parish office know and we will furnish a contact name and number to arrange a pickup.

Once more we pray for the repose of the souls of our faithful departed. We are asked to remember Sheila Wade who went to the Lord this week. May she rest in peace! Please also remember her family and friends. We also pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have lost their lives to the pandemic. Also, we remember Father Giles Goward, the Rector of Oscott College for the training of priests, who died this week at a relatively young age.

Finally, Mrs Liz Cooney would like to acknowledge and thank all who sent in cards, Mass cards, and flowers and donations in respect of and in memory of her late husband John. May he rest in peace and may the Lord bring his consolation to family and friends.

God bless and stay safe!

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

Chaplain's Office for inpatients at the Royal Stoke: 01782 676400

Website: www.ourladyandstwerburgh.org.uk Email: catholics.clayton@btinternet.com



Sunday 7th February 2021 Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto
Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to
thy word.

Hail Mary. . .

And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary. . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.
Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace
into our hearts,
that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son
was made known by the message of an angel,
may by His Passion and Cross be brought
to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen