

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This weekend we are praying for racial justice! Often we wonder about political correctness and perhaps sometimes think it might be overdone. Then we hear of incidents on the news where people, in particular where large crowds gather, that people are abused for their race and colour. And still we hear stories of young people in school who are treated badly because of race, colour and/or creed. We are all made in the image and likeness of God so scripture tells us in the creation stories of Genesis. It is where we all get our original dignity from! Let us pray for the removal of all inhuman prejudices so that we can appreciate the diversity and wonder of life for we are sisters and brothers in the love of Christ!

During the week it was the Feast of St Werburgh and for us a time to remember our patron, a saint in heaven, to whom we can all pray. It is something often forgotten that choosing a Saint's name for our own, that we can adopt that particular Saint as someone we pray to regularly so that they in their turn ask God the Father's intercession for us in our time of need. Many birth names are not Saints names these days, but when it comes to Confirmation, a child (or adult) is required to pick a Saint's name so that they have a patron in heaven. It is a moment of true Christian adulthood.

As you can see the church roof is nearing completion. I had hoped that it would be finished this last week, but it looks as though another set of scaffolding was first needed before the final stage could be completed. Thank you for you generosity to date, but keep the donations rolling in to mitigate the cost overall!

Meanwhile keep me in your prayers as I do you!

God bless 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**

**[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](http://www.ourladyandstwerburgh.org.uk) Email: [catholics.clayton@btinternet.com](mailto:catholics.clayton@btinternet.com)



**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
Fifth Sunday of the Year  
Sunday Readings Year A, Weekday Readings Cycle Two**

**The Angelus**

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

And the Word was made flesh.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

R. And dwelt among us.

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

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

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

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

Hail Mary. . .

	Ashley	Clayton	Intentions
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Vigil Mass for Sunday</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>	6.00 pm		Bill and Monica Griffiths
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes The Rosary – for peace in the world Ellen and Philip Bode
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>		7.15 pm	For Families
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	9.30 am	Kath Parr, Mass followed by Adoration until 10.30 am  Adoration Jack Parr
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>		9.15 am 6.30 pm	Repose of the soul of Isidor Abraham Divine Office
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Feast of St Cyril and St Methodius</b>		10.00 am	Repose of the soul of Mary Florence
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>		10.00 am	Joseph and Ellen Joyce, Mass followed by Adoration until 11am
<b>Vigil Mass for Sunday</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>	6.00 pm		Philomena Barrington
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00 am	People of the Parishes The Rosary – for peace in the world Derek Hulse

**Confessions: At Clayton Saturday's 10.30 – 11.30 am. At Ashley Saturday's 5.25 pm – 5.45 pm.**

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! Including: Margaret Boden, Mary Gregory, Michael Somers, Kathleen Rouffet, Louise and Dee Dutton.

**Please Note at Ashley: Mass on Wednesday is at 7.15 pm.**

**Our Lady & St Werburgh Roof Fund:**

**The total cost will be £36,180.**

If you are able to make a donation please hand it to Father Anton.

If you are a taxpayer and would like to GiftAid your donation there are envelopes available in the porch, or ask at the parish office.

**Total raised so far £6,600 and we have pledges for £5,000 yet to come in – thank you!**

**Christians against Poverty.** We are holding a special service at 10.30 am on 23rd Feb at Ashley Methodist church which is aimed at letting people know what CAP does and how it works in communities - debt, life skills, addictions, job support. If you or any of our friends at your churches have an interest in hearing about CAP you would be made most welcome.

**North Staffs Area Pastoral Council Programme for 2020 'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS' - The Year of the Word.** The sessions will run on 4 consecutive Friday evenings from Friday 28th February. 7pm until 9pm. At St. Peter's in Stoke, (St Catherine Room) (28th Feb, 6, 13 and 20th Mar)

**Diary Dates**

Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Journey in Faith 8pm
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Baby and Toddler Group 9.30 am – 11.00 am
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parish Committee Meeting 8pm
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Over 55's Friendship Club 12.45pm – 2.50pm
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Second Parents' Meeting for First Holy Communion Children 7pm in the school hall
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ash Wednesday
Thur 5 <sup>th</sup> March	First Forgiveness 7pm in Church
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Parish AGM after 10am Mass

**Safeguarding:** If you would like to speak to someone about safeguarding, please contact either The Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator: 0121 230 6240 or The Parishes Safeguarding Representative: Mrs Kate Hagan 07930 658080 Protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm is our priority.

**GDPR Letters for Volunteers on Rotas at Clayton Parish:** Please collect your GDPR letter/s from the porch if you have not already done so.

**Amended Ashley Cleaning Rota:** Thank you to the new team who have joined the rota. Please can all teams collect an amended rota from the back of Church.

**Clayton Cleaning Rota: TWO VOLUNTEERS** needed please. ONE to clean the Upper Room, at times to be arranged, and ONE person to offer to join Group 2 rota to vacuum the church carpet only! This would be on a Thursday or Friday morning every 6 weeks. Please contact Sharon in the office or Father Anton.

**BISHOP DAVID McGOUGH – GOLDEN JUBILEE:** On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March, our area bishop, Bishop David will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. There will be a special Mass at 2pm at Sacred Heart, Tunstall on that day. All priests of the deanery are very welcome to celebrate and there is a wider invitation to all parishioners to attend and to join with Bishop David on this special occasion.