

***The Catholic Parishes of  
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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**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
The Epiphany of The Lord  
Sunday Readings Year B  
Weekday Readings Cycle 2**

**Responsorial Psalm**

All nations shall fall prostrate before you,  
O Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

“We saw his star as it rose  
and have come to do the Lord homage”

**Alleluia!**

	Ashley	Clayton	Intentions
Saturday 7th January Vigil Mass for Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord	6.00 pm		People of the Parishes
Sunday 8th January Solemnity of the Epiphany of The Lord		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00am	Frank Brown Prayer of preparation – The Rosary Patrick McGillan
Monday 9th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord		10.00am	Communion Service
Tuesday 10th January		5.00 pm 7.00 pm	Reception for Brenda Howe Enrolment Mass for Confirmation – Holy Souls
Wednesday 11th January	6.45 pm 7.15 pm	11.00 am	Requiem Mass for Brenda Howe  Adoration Betty Howard
Thursday 12th January		9.15 am	Robert Gath and family
Friday 13th January		10.00 am	Norah Chalk
Saturday 14th January  Vigil Mass for Sunday 2nd Sunday of the Year	6.00 pm	10.00 am	Bridget Miles, Mass followed by Adoration until 11.30 am  People of the Parishes
Sunday 15th January 2nd Sunday of the Year		8.15 am 9.40 am 10.00am	Vincent Weston Prayer of preparation – The Rosary Bishop Kevin Dunn, Steve Dunn, and Father Brennan

**Confessions at St Werburgh's Saturdays 10.30 – 11.30am. At St John's 5.25pm – 5.45 pm**

Please pray for the sick and elderly of our parishes, including: Ted Hothersall, Stephen Collins, Eileen Allen, Louise Esmond, Eileen Elks, Karen Blaszczyk, Robert Gath, John, Linda O'Rourke John Stevenson, Eric & Olive Beardmore, Maura Hennessey, Beatty Pepper, Kay O'Brien, Cecilia Akers, Nell Potter, Norman Gallagher, Julie & Frank Bostock, Michael Somers, Margaret Pankhurst, Heloise Ramsay, Tim Gibson, Eunice Bridgett, Sheila Shenton, Agnes Miles, Barbara Byrne, Beatrice Jayasuriya, Holly Taylor, Sr Rosarii, Fiona Ford, Mary Gregory, Julie Pointon, Jessie Rowley, Evelyn Barlow, Sister Kevin and all those who have asked for prayers. May the healing touch of the Lord be with them

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brenda Howe, and especially remember Wyn in your prayers. The reception for Brenda will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 5.00 pm, and Requiem Mass will be at 11.00 am on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January at Our Lady and St Werburgh's. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Julie Copner, and remember all their family and friends in your prayers.

Please pray for Chizaram Okolo who is to be baptised at Ashley on Saturday.

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation Preparation Letters:** are now available in the porch for parents of any children who are preparing for these sacraments and are **Not** at Our Lady & St Werburgh's school. Please leave your contact details at the church office.

**Youth Group:** Youth group starts again this week on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 6.15 – 7.45 pm for years 5 & 6 in the parish hall, and the older group will meet at the same time in the upper room.  
**Youth Leaders:** There is a shortage of leaders this term so if there are any parents, or parishioners who could give a couple of hours to help out every fortnight please speak to Ray Lewis or James Taylor.

**Revised Clayton 8.15 am readers rota now available in the porch.**

**Taize Worship:** At St Teresa's Trent Vale on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7.30 pm. All very welcome to attend, refreshments will be served afterwards.

Readers Sat: 07.01.12	D. Durkin/N. Hulme	14.01.12: R. McKenna/B. Bromfield
Readers Sun: 08.01.12	P. Hothersall	J. Tams/A. Bourne
Readers Sun: 15.01.12	J. Masters	S. Rowe/B. Walker
Counting: 08.01.12	Hapuarachi	
Counting: 15.01.12	Myatt	Second Collection: Myatt
Church Cleaning:	Week Com: 08.01.12 Group 5	15.01.12: Group 6a & 6b & 7
Altar Flowers: 14.01.12	Ashley: C. Quinlan	Clayton: J. Goodall
Children's Liturgy:	08.01.12: Catherine & helper	15.01.12: Veronica & helper

Diary Dates	
Sun 8th Jan	Tea and Coffee at the Gatehouse pub after 10am Mass
Sun 8th Jan	Senior Citizens' Party at St Werburgh's 3.00 – 5.30 pm
Tue 10th Jan	Confirmation meeting 6.30 pm (parish hall) Enrolment Mass 7 pm
Wed 11th Jan	Parish Committee meeting 8pm in upper room
Wed 11th Jan	Parents' and Toddlers' Restarts 10-11.30 am St Werburgh's parish hall
Thur 12th Jan	Over 55's 1- 3 pm in parish hall
Thur 12th Jan	Youth group years 5 & 6 meet at 6.15 – 7.45 pm in parish hall
Thur 12th Jan	Youth group for older group meet 6.15 – 7.45 pm in upper room
Thur 12th Jan	First Parents' meeting for First Holy Communion programme 8pm in parish hall
Sun 15th Jan	Servers' Cinema Outing (tentative)
Sun 22nd Jan	First Holy Communion commitment Mass at St Werburgh's 10am
Sun 22nd Jan	Christian Unity Service at St James, Clayton at 4pm
Tue 24th Jan	Journey in Faith restarts at 8pm in upper room
Sun 5th Feb	Confirmation preparation Mass at St. Werburgh's

**Christian Unity Week: January 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**Christian Unity Service :** At St James, Church in Clayton at 4pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January . All welcome to attend.

**Update Of Parish Records:** Please take a form available in both parishes to enable us to update our parish records. This information will be kept as a paper record only and not stored on computer.

**Archdiocese of Birmingham Directory 2012:** Now available priced £2.35 from the piety stall.

**North Staffs Walsingham Association:** Mass and AGM at the English Martyrs, Biddulph on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

**.St John Fisher Catholic College – Post of Student Support Assistant.**

The governors wish to appoint someone for the above post. The post is for 37 hours a week term time. Please see poster on noticeboard for more details or contact the school on 01782 615636, or email: [headteacher@sifcc.net](mailto:headteacher@sifcc.net). Closing date for applications Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**Lost property Box and Umbrella Stand:** Please check to see if there are any items belonging to you in either of these, as they will be emptied at the end of the month.

**Ladies Lilac coat:** Please check the lost property box to see if this belongs to you, it has been hanging in the sacristy for a few months and has not been claimed.

**Catholic Diaries:** Now available from the piety stall priced £1.50 each

## EPIPHANY SUNDAY YEAR B

Dear Parishioners,

“Happy New Year” and dare I say it “Happy Christmas” as well, that is at least until Monday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the official last day of Christmas within the Church.

I hope that you have all had a blessed Christmas and that the New Year will bring many spiritual blessings as well. The New Year resolution that I suggest is to pray constantly for each other and for the needs of the world. May the love and goodness of Christ be our marker for the times ahead.

Today’s Feast of the Epiphany marks the visit of the Magi, otherwise known as the three wise men from the East or even the three kings. They symbolise what was the distant relatively unknown world of the time. They came from afar from lands with different customs and probably very different beliefs. What is sure by their visit is that the gift of God’s goodness is for the whole world and not just for any particular part of the world. Therefore it is a reminder, a call, for all nations and people to work together.

So for the New Year, let us pray constantly for peace and justice throughout the world. Let us do our best to count our blessings especially when we see afar to East and West how little some have in this world. May we, through our lives, join in the Nativity of Jesus, and bring a gentle loving touch to life and the world around rather than confrontation and predation.

Let us pray for gentleness of spirit in order to oppose violence and greed. May we work together for a better loving community, a better loving world, a place of peace and happiness!

We welcome back to school all pupils and staff. This week we begin the preparation for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please make sure that all those involved have the preparation dates to hand in order to bring the best of God’s grace to our children. Remember these years are very important years if we wish to live in a world of faith, hope and love.

As we are called to serve the world, so people often quietly go about different duties, giving their time for free locally and sometimes worldwide. So say a little prayer for Bernard Rudd, who is going to South Africa for three months to help the “Lighthouse Project” which strives to bring about better living and educational help to poorer areas.

Please remember in your prayer Brenda Howe, whose Requiem is on Wednesday at 11 a.m. Reception into church will be the day before at 5 p.m. Please also remember her family and friends who mourns her loss.

Finally thank you to all those who made Christmas so special and a big thank you to all our volunteers who give their time so tirelessly for the good of the parish and the spreading of God’ word.

God bless and keep you,

*Father Anton s.c.j.*