



A warm welcome to all who gather today  
around the Altar of the Lord in our parishes of  
**Saint John the Baptist**  
&  
**Saint Bernadette**  
Working in Communion for Mission  
Parish Priest: Father Tom Finnegan



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College  
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## Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020



In the film *Chocolat*, a small, French, Catholic community follow the rules of the Church to the letter of the law. But it makes them miserable and the villagers are often cruel, unkind, judgmental, and critical of each other, including the priest! When a young woman arrives in the town and opens a chocolate shop, her way of life is frowned upon. However, her desire to bring joy and happiness to the people of the town, brings change in how people relate to one another. Next week marks the start of Advent. We are still living with the pandemic and many people are tired, unsure of what Christmas will bring. But this we do know, Jesus entered our world to live amongst the most vulnerable in society, reaching out in compassion and love and mercy. Today's gospel encourages us to do the same.

ALL MASSES AVAILABLE ON LIVE-STREAM AT 7.30AM AND ON YOUTUBE

	Church opening times for private prayers:			Mass Intention:
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	St John's	11.15am-12.30pm	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Carmena Mercieca
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	St Bernadette's	8.15-9.45am	Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	Theresa Geraghty
	St John's	9.45am-12.30pm		
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	St John's	8.15-9.30am	Ordinary Time	Gary Kane (Ann)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	St John's	5.15-6.30pm	Saints Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	St John's	8.15-9.30am	Ordinary Time	Margaret Matthew (RD)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	St John's & St Bernadette's	9.30-10.30am	Ordinary Time	Hilary Kermod (RD)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	St John's	8.15-9.30am	Ordinary Time	
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	St John's	11.15am-12.30pm	Ordinary Time	
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	St Bernadette's	8.15-9.45am	First Sunday of Advent	People of the Parishes
	St John's	9.45am-12.30pm		

KEY: SI = Special Intention RD=Recently Deceased ANN=Anniversary BD Birthday. D'ed=Deceased Confessions Saturdays 4.30-5pm

### In our Prayers this Week...

**Prayers:** Please for those who are sick: John Streeter, Stephen Marsh. Helena Drawnel, Cecily Geldart, Maureen Watson, Antony Higgins, John Durkin, Josephine Gething, Noreen Leat. If you are sick and wish your name to be added to the prayer list, then please let Fr. Tom know. If you know of anyone who wishes to be added, then again, please let Fr. Tom know.

**Recently Deceased:** Marion Tomkins, Celia Manuel. May they rest in Peace.

**Anniversaries:** We keep in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** All Chaplaincies to HM Forces in the diocese.



**A few words from Fr. Tom:** Many of you may remember the music group SLADE and their very catchy, if annoying song 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday'. Well, the Bishops of England and Wales have announced that this year because of COVID, it will be Christmas Day for 8 days starting with the first Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve. We know that many more people want to come to Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but with this 'Octave' (8 days) of Christmas, we can celebrate Jesus' Nativity at each Mass from the 24<sup>th</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> December. This encourages us not to all come to Mass at the same time. If you can come on St. Stephen's Day or the 27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> December. *Take care and God Bless. Fr. Tom*

## Some Notices!

**Christmas Masses:** If permitted, we hope to have the following Masses over Christmas. If allowed, we hope to have the following Masses at Christmas:

Christmas Eve 3pm, 6pm and Midnight, Christmas Day 9am (St. Bernadette's) 10.30am and 12 noon. But please remember you can celebrate Christmas at each Mass until the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**Sing a Carol at Christmas:** We do of course hope to have public Masses at Christmas. It is unlikely though that we will be allowed to sing our usual Christmas Carols as a congregation. However, soloists can sing as long as they are socially distanced from the Congregation. Fr. Tom would therefore like to invite any parishioners to sing a Carol solo during out Christmas Masses. If you feel you would be brave enough then please email or ring Fr. Tom letting him know which Mass you will be attending and what carol you would like to sing! Many thanks.

**First Holy Communion 2021:** All parents of children in Yr 3 or above are now welcome to apply for First Holy Communion in 2021. Application forms are available to collect from Fr. Tom. Full details of how preparation will take place will be given soon. Obviously, preparation will take place differently as we now have to ensure all are kept safe from the virus. The closing date for applications this year is 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**Trowbridge Foodbank:** Hopefully many of you are still giving generously to Trowbridge foodbank when you are able to at the supermarkets. Trowbridge Foodbank have asked at this time for Christmas type treats for children. As you do your weekly shop, purchase items for the Foodbank and place in the containers provided.

**Salvation Army Christmas Appeal:** The Salvation Army are asking for new and unused Christmas toys and gifts to be distributed to children from deprived backgrounds. Please take your contribution to The Shires Management Office Monday-Sundays 10am-4pm from the 9<sup>th</sup> November to the 10<sup>th</sup> December or to the Salvation Army Office, Castle Street, 4<sup>th</sup> December 5pm-8pm or 4<sup>th</sup> December 10am-2pm. Many thanks.

**Mary's Meals:** So much can be asked of us at this time of year. It may be hard to always say yes. Mary said yes to being the Mother of Jesus and as a young, unmarried girl this must have been a terrifying moment for her. Yet her 'yes' brought Jesus into the world and changed lives forever. Throughout this year of many challenges, thanks to our generous supporters, Mary's Meals has continued to say yes to feeding desperately hungry children with a daily meal in a place of education. Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide 43,000 hungry children in Bong County, Liberia, with a life-changing meal at school. From 2nd November until 31st January 2021, donations made to our Double The Love campaign will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million. Please consider setting a place at our Big Family Christmas dinner table or buying a Christmas gift card on our website. More information on how to support us can be found at [www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove). Thank you

**New Tap and Go Contactless Giving Reader:** Ever come to Church without cash and want to give? Do not like using cash? A visitor? Contribute to the second collection but have not brought enough cash? Contribute to a specific project through the building fund. Then please use the new card reader in the Church Porch (Digital Collection Plate). It is very easy and accessible. You can give up to £45 contactless, or give a larger amount with your pin number on your credit/debit card. You can even register your donation to be giftaided, register once and all following donations will be giftaided as long as you are a UK tax payer.

**The Giving Machine:** Just a reminder that St John the Baptist, Trowbridge is still a part of 'TheGivingMachine.' Simply shop online via The Giving Machine at 2000's of shops such as Argos and John Lewis, and raise a cash donation for St John the Baptist, Trowbridge, at no cost to you. Go via TheGivingMachine website or mobile app every time you shop online. Once registered, mark St. John the Baptist, Trowbridge as the cause you wish to support. Quick Sign up code is 266718 It's completely free and easy to join! [www.thegivingmachine.co.uk](http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk) St. John's Quick Sign up code is 266718

**300 Club:** Last month's winners as follows: £200 12 Aiden Wynne, £70 144 Maureen Flynn £50 162 Nigel Hunt, £ 10 174 Rose Cox. 300 Club Application forms are available from Frank Geraghty, [f.geraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:f.geraghty303@btinternet.com), 01380871083. Remember you have to be in it to win it!

✉ This newsletter is on the parish website : [www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk)