

A warm welcome to all who gather today
around the Altar of the Lord in our parishes of

Saint John the Baptist, Saint Bernadette & Saint Thomas More

Working in Communion for Mission
Parish Priest: Canon Thomas Finnegan



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9EA

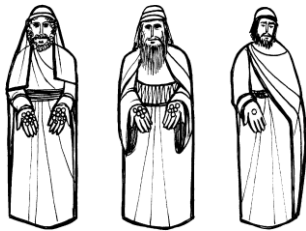
St Bernadette, 100 West End,
Westbury BA13 3JQ

St Thomas More,
Market Street,
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Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19th November 2023



Sunday Scripture Thoughts: Is marriage an outdated institution? The debate rages on as numbers of marriages, on the whole, decrease year on year. Surely, though, it all depends on how you understand marriage. Is it just a legal contract or a convenient framework to nurture children? Viewed as a call from God, marriage is something beautiful, enriching, generative and a path to holiness for those involved. "The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they come from the hand of the Creator", says the Catechism. Marriage reflects the covenant relationship between God and his people, grounded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Let's encourage our younger members to reflect on the awesome nature of this vocation. Vocation not institution!

ALL PUBLIC MASSES AVAILABLE ON LIVE-STREAM AND YOUTUBE AT ST. JOHN'S				Mass Intention:
Saturday 18 th November	St. Thomas More's	4pm	Vigil Mass	Peter Owen
	St John's	6pm		Michael Beer (Ann)
Sunday 19 th November	St Bernadette's	9am	Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Joan Lyle (RIP)
	St John's	10.30am		Rita Burke (Ann)
Monday 20 th November	St John's	9am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	No Mass Today
Tuesday 21 st November	St John's	6pm	Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	No Mass Today
Wednesday 22 nd November	St. Thomas More's	9am	Saint Cecilia	No Mass Today
Thursday 23 rd November	St Bernadette's	10am	Weekday in Ordinary Time	No Mass Today
Friday 24 th November	St John's	9am	Sts Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions	No Mass Today
Saturday 25 th November	St. Thomas More's	4pm	Vigil Mass	People of the Parishes
	St John's	6pm		John Allinson (RD)
Sunday 26 th November	St Bernadette's	9am	Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	People of the Parishes
	St John's	10.30am		Richard Morgan (RD)

KEY: RD=Recently Deceased ANN=Anniversary BD Birthday. D'ed=Deceased.

Confessions: Saturdays 3.30pm BOA, 5.15-5.45pm St. John's, on request before Mass St. Bernadette's.

In our Prayers this Week...

Sick: Please pray for those who are sick: John Streeter, Cecily Geldart, Maureen Watson, Noreen Leat, Anne Whitehead, Wally Gooding, Mary Berridge, Maurice Cockell, David Bath. Gloria Stenhouse, Jim Conway, Richard Barrow, Angela Parr, Paul Cronin. Please let Canon Tom know if you wish a name to be added to the list.

Recently Deceased: Tina Finnegan, David Marshall, Frank Moore, Richard Morgan, Katalin Wirth. May they rest in peace.

A message from Canon Tom: When I returned to St. John's on Friday evening, I was overwhelmed by the mountain of sympathy cards dropped through the letter box of the Presbytery. Can I express the gratitude of my family and myself for the number of cards, emails and texts that I have received over these last few days and weeks. As many of you are aware, I will be conducting the Requiem Mass for my mother Tina on Friday 1st of December at 12noon in Our Lady of Victories Church in Cinderford, where I was also ordained in 1995. We are expecting a good gathering of family, friends, parishioners from the Forest parishes and a few of my brother clergy. Parishioners of St. John's, St. Bernadette's and St. Thomas More are also welcome to attend, but I am aware it is distance away. We will not be able at present to livestream as internet coverage in the Forest can be poor. But I do intend to record the celebration and post on our parish YOUTUBE channel later. However, if you do wish to come (the Forest is particularly beautiful at this time of year) the full address of the Church is **Our Lady of Victories, Flaxley Street, Cinderford, Glos GL14 2DJ**.

Once again, my huge thank to you all for all the kind prayers, thoughts, best wishes, sympathy and understanding. I hope to return to normal parish and diocesan duties the week beginning 4th December. God Bless. Canon Tom

First Holy Communion 2024: Application forms for First Holy Communion 2023 are now available to collect from Canon Tom after Mass. If your child is in Yr 3 or above then please collect, complete a form, and return to Canon Tom. The closing date for application is 7th January 2024. The first session of preparation will take place on the 18th January 2024 at 7pm in St. John's Church. Children and parents will be given full details of the course at this meeting.

November Holy Souls: November Holy Souls: November is a month of Remembrance. We remember those who have died in this last year or further back. We think of those who have died in war and conflict. We also remember loved ones and friends who have died. Holy Souls Envelopes are available for you to place the names of those who you wish to be remembered at Mass during November. Please return to Church and place them in the box provided. You may also place an offering in the envelope if you wish.

Tea & Chat: Tea and Chat Tuesday 21 November at 2.30 pm. All welcome. (there will be a Christmas raffle too!)

A Time of Prayer: A time of prayer at St. Bernadette's takes place 10:15-11:15am on the last Wednesday of each month (29/11): The Mysteries of the Holy Rosary are prayed together followed by a time for private prayer during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. All welcome to attend any part or all of this time of prayer.

Lectio Divina: Lectio Divina at St. Bernadette's takes place 10:15-11:00am on the second Wednesday of each month. An opportunity to listen to the Gospel and then, in the silence that follows, to reflect personally on what we have heard and on how we can put this into action in our own lives. If you have a Sunday Missal, please bring this with you. All welcome.

A Time of Prayer: On Wednesday mornings at St. John's Church from 9am we will be praying the Healing Rosary for Families for all families, but especially those in our parishes and schools. You are invited to place the surnames of your families (or any families you would like us to pray for) in our intentions box to be prayed for each week and in return please take a Unity Prayer cards, the box, prayer cards and intention slips will be by Our Lady's altar in each of the churches.

Quiet time for Prayer: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament St. John's every Thursday 9.30-10.30am. A time for quiet prayer and reflection.

St. Thomas More: All welcome to celebrate the Evening Prayer of the Church (Vespers) which will be partly sung at St. Thomas More Church Bradford-on-Avon. Every Sunday at 5pm.

Safeguarding Sunday: Sunday 19th November is national Safeguarding Sunday. Safeguarding is an essential part in the life and ministry of the Church. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure our parishes and institutions are safe places, especially for those who are vulnerable. Abuse and harm have no place in our diocese. There is zero tolerance to abuse, harm and any behaviour that falls short of appropriate safeguarding practices as expressed in National Policies. Jesus welcomed children and blessed them. We are told that Jesus was indignant when anyone tried to keep the children away "let the little children come to me and do not stop them. It is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs." (Mark 10: 14). Jesus makes clear his view about those who seek to harm the vulnerable, "anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. Anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith in me would be better drowned in the depths of the sea." (Matthew 18: 5-6) Jesus's stark words point to the horror and seriousness of abuse. Abuse is evil. It is destructive. Everyone in our diocese is called to ensure that all diocesan institutions, parishes, clergy, employees and volunteers take appropriate steps to maintain a safe environment and put into practice Christ's ministry towards children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Our diocese is committed to accompany and support all victims/survivors of abuse. We seek to learn from them and their representatives about best safeguarding practice.

Trowbridge Food Bank: As always, a massive thankyou to all who have contributed to the Trowbridge Foodbank Collection each month. Many people rely on your generosity. The next collection will take place on the weekend of 25th / 26th November 2023. Please leave you donated goods in the Church Porch at St. John's and St. Bernadette's.

300 Club: If you wish to join the 300 Club, please ask Canon Tom or Mike Heather for an application form. They are also available on the parish website. Thank you. £200 27 Kathryn Sinclair £70 205 Maria Dela Ysla £50 159 Mary McDonald £10 251 Caroline Gumbley.

This newsletter is also available on the parish website: www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk