

**The Catholic Churches of  
Saint John the Baptist, Trowbridge  
Saint Bernadette, Westbury  
& Saint Thomas More, Bradford-on-Avon**



**St John the Baptist**  
2 Wingfield Rd  
Trowbridge  
BA14 9EA



**St Bernadette**  
100 West End  
Westbury  
BA13 3JQ



**St Thomas More**  
Market Street  
Bradford-on-Avon  
BA15 1LH

**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**Parish Priest:** Father Richard Elson [richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com) 01225 752152

**Parish websites:** [www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk)  
[www.together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bradfordonavon/churches/stthomasmore/](http://www.together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bradfordonavon/churches/stthomasmore/)

**This Week's Mass Times**

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	4pm	St Thomas More's	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	6pm	St John's		<i>People of the Parish</i>
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9am	St Bernadette's		
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Kevin Moore (RIP) (Ann)</i>
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	<b>No Mass</b>		Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	6pm	St John's	Feast of the Transfiguration	<i>Iris Stidtsen (RIP)</i>
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9am	St Thomas More's	Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10am	St Bernadette's	Memorial of Saint Dominic	
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9am	St John's	Feast of Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	<i>Hughes Family</i>
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	4pm	St Thomas More's	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>Bridget Mongan (RIP)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Michael &amp; Jim Magee (RIP)</i>

**Confessions**

Sat	3.30-3.50pm	St Thomas More's
Sat	5.30-5.50pm	St John's
Thurs	9.30-9.50am	St Bernadette's

**Today's Readings**



**Adoration**

Thurs 9.30-10.30am St John's

**THE WORD THIS WEEK**

The first sentence of the Gospel can only be understood with reference to John 6:16-23, which recounts the story of Jesus walking on the water. The people knew that the disciples had crossed the lake but that Jesus had not got into the boat with them. When they find him at Capernaum they are naturally puzzled as to how he got there. Jesus issues a reproach to them, implying that they want, not to see him, but to be given more food. He continues by talking for the first time about a new kind of food, which endures unlike the bread they ate yesterday, and which the Son of Man, on whom God the Father has set his seal, is offering. The people reply with a question that Jesus has not asked, about doing the works that God wants. And by degrees he puts himself in the place of the one God has sent, in whom they must believe if they are to get this bread, not like the manna in the desert, but which is the bread of God which comes down from heaven. (The story of the manna is told in the First Reading and Psalm). Naturally the people want this bread and ask for it, and they get the great revelation that 'I am the bread of life.' This sounds commonplace to us but to those who first heard it, it would have been utterly amazing. Even more amazing than the manna in the desert, about which they said 'What is that?'

## ST THOMAS MORE'S

Coffee, tea and cake after Mass this Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August. All are welcome.

## CHILDRENS LITURGY – ST JOHN'S

There will be Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10.30am Mass at St John's this Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August.

## CONFIRMATION

Bishop Bosco will be coming to Saint John's to celebrate this year's Confirmation Mass on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Application forms are now available, and a programme of preparation will begin in September. Copies of the form are available in all of the churches. Anyone who will be in Year 9 (current Year 8) or above can apply for the programme. Please return completed application forms to the presbytery, or email to [richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com)

## PARISH MEETINGS

I would like to hold a series of parish meetings, after the summer holidays, in order to help discern the pastoral needs of our parishes. The first of these meetings will be held at St Thomas More's in September. Further details to follow. Fr Richard.

## SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is a Holyday of Obligation. I would like to standardise the Mass times for Holydays of Obligation and would like to propose the following Mass times for 15<sup>th</sup> August:

10am St Bernadette's, Westbury  
12noon St Thomas More's, Bradford-on-Avon  
6pm St John's, Trowbridge

Fr Richard

## HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION

The following are the dates of Holydays of Obligation for 2024 and 2025, which do not fall on, or are transferred to, a Sunday:

Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2024	The Assumption of Mary
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2024	All Saints
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	The Ascension of the Lord
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2025	The Assumption of Mary

## BAPTISM

Congratulations to Mallory Neeamuthkhan who will be baptised at Saint John's on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as we welcome her into the family of the Church.

## MARCH FOR LIFE – SAT 7<sup>th</sup> SEP

The annual March for Life takes place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The March will begin at 1.30pm at The Emmanuel Centre and will finish at Parliament Square. Morning events will be at The Emmauel Centre and there will be a Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. For more details see the church noticeboard or online at [www.marchforlife.co.uk/](http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/)

## NEWSLETTER

Please could all items for the newsletter be sent to me by 9am on Friday morning, so that the newsletter can be prepared and printed in time for the weekend. All items can be emailed to me at [richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com) Fr Richard

## DAY FOR READERS – SAT 12<sup>th</sup> OCT

There will be a day for all readers from St John's, St Bernadette's and St Thomas More's, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October at St John's Parish Centre. This will be an opportunity to discover more about the New Lectionary, as well as having a reminder about good practice when reading in church. It is important that readers attend this day in order to start preparing for the introduction of the New Lectionary in December. More details to follow.

## DONA UPGRADE

The two card machines at St John's have been upgraded to the latest version. These should be more reliable and they should be quicker to use. We have also changed the payment processing company that we use. This will result in lower transaction fees, meaning that more of your donation goes to the parish (both with the card machines and with online donations). However, it also means that if you Gift Aid your donation, you will need to re-enter your details the first time you use the new machines (but not subsequently). Many thanks for your continued generosity in supporting our parishes. Fr Richard

## DIACONAL FORMATION

For the coming academic year, the Diaconal Formation programme is going to be based in St John's Parish Centre. They will be using the centre on a number of Friday evenings and Saturdays. The tutors and students will be fairly self-sufficient while they are with us, but part of their programme will involve celebrating Morning Prayer at 9am and Mass at 9.30am in the church on the Saturdays. Parishioners are very welcome to join the students for these celebrations. I know that other parishes who have hosted the programme in the past have enjoyed having the students with them. I'm sure that we will make them welcome here too. Fr Richard

## CATHOLIC MOTHERS BATH & WEST WILTSHIRE

A new group for mothers to meet once a month for Mass at St John's the Evangelist, Bath and then afterwards in the hall to share tea, cake, faith and fellowship. Children are most welcome. It was wonderful to meet so many mothers at our first meeting, and we look forward to coming together again on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August after the 9.30 Mass. Contact Amy on 07872382979 to find out more.

## CAR PARKING 10.30 MASS

Please note, overflow car-park at St. Augustine's is available every Sunday morning.

## PARISH GIVING

There are many ways you can give a donation to Parish Funds: with a monthly standing order (Ask Father Richard for a form), by using the Dona Card Reader in the Church Porch at St. John's, by a cash donation during the collections, or by using this QR Code. Thank you for your generosity.

