

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 11th August 2024

Parish Priest: Father Richard Elson richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com 01225 752152

Parish websites: www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk
www.together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bradfordonavon/churches/stthomasmore/

This Week's Mass Times

Sat 10 th Aug	4pm	St Thomas More's	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>Bridget Mongan (RIP)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Michael & Jim Magee (RIP)</i>
Sun 11 th Aug	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Frances Lynch (RIP)</i>
Mon 12 th Aug	No Mass		Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Tues 13 th Aug	6pm	St John's	Weekday in Ordinary Time	<i>Special Intention</i>
Wed 14 th Aug	9am	St Thomas More's	Memorial of Saint Maximilian Kolbe	
Thurs 15 th Aug	10am	St Bernadette's	Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	12 noon	St Thomas More's		
	6pm	St John's		<i>John & Tony Gallagher (RIP)</i>
Fri 16 th Aug	9am	St John's	Weekday in Ordinary Time	<i>The Lavelle Family</i>
Sat 17 th Aug	4pm	St Thomas More's	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>Roy Tarren (RIP) (Ann)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Robert Els (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 words of the Gospel are 'The Jews'. If you substitute 'the people' nothing is lost. And 'complaining' is the important word here. It recalls previous episodes of complaint among God's people, as at the start of the First Reading last week, which could be recalled. Elijah in today's First Reading laments rather than complains, but the effect is the same: he is given food by God, as he has an important task to fulfil. Jesus reproaches the people for complaining, but his answer does nothing to address their discontent; rather, it makes it more difficult for them to agree to him. From his initial claim last week to be the bread of life which comes down from heaven, he now claims intimacy with God the Father, who sent him. To know the Father we have to be drawn by Jesus. The quotation that is 'written in the prophets' is not found exactly in those words in the Old Testament, but Jesus is at pains to connect present with the past: 'Your fathers ate the manna... and they are dead.' He ends by repeating his words, this time more explicitly 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven'. The faith of the people is being tested, and so is ours. More complaints and objections can be expected, but Jesus is very clear. We repeat these words easily but we need to be fed by faith.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Dave and Margaret Hughes who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary this weekend. They will be renewing their commitment to their wedding vows and will receive a special blessing during the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 11th August.

SPUC PETITION EVENT

Please do support the petition this weekend to remove the government's punitive 2-child benefit cap. Petition cards will be available in church or you can sign online using the QR code or going to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/end-benefit-cap>

MICHALINA SZCZESNIAK RIP

The Funeral Mass of Michalina Szczesniak, who died recently, will take place at St John's Church on Tuesday 20th August at 11am. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

LECTIO DIVINA AT ST. BERNADETTE'S

This continues to take place on the second Wednesday of each month, 10:15-11am. The next date for this is 14th August. All welcome.

TEA AND CHAT

Tea and Chat in St John's Parish Centre, Tuesday 20th August at 2.30pm. Everyone very welcome.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Bosco will be coming to Saint John's to celebrate this year's Confirmation Mass on Tuesday 19th 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

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 15th August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses will be as follows:

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

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

CAR PARKING 10.30 MASS

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

MARCH FOR LIFE – SAT 7th SEP

The annual March for Life takes place on Saturday 7th September. The March will begin at 1.30pm at The Emmanuel Centre and will finish at Parliament Square. Morning events will be at The Emmanuel 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/

HOLIDAYS

I will be away on holiday from 19th Aug until 3rd Sep. Next weekend's newsletter will therefore cover the next three weeks (17th Aug-7th Sep). If you have any items for the newsletter for this period, please could you send them to me by 9am on Fri 16th Aug. All items can be emailed to me at richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com Fr Richard

DAY FOR READERS – SAT 12th OCT

There will be a day for all readers from St John's, St Bernadette's and St Thomas More's, on Saturday 12th 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.

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 12th August after the 9.30 Mass. Contact Amy on 07872382979 to find out more.

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.

