

**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

First Sunday of Advent – 1st December 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 30 th Nov	4pm	St Thomas More's	First Sunday of Advent	<i>Carlos, Pilar & Estela Ines Alvarez & Perpetua Aguirre (RIP)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>For the sick</i>
Sun 1 st Dec	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Anna Pike (RIP)</i>
Mon 2 nd Dec	No Mass		Weekday of Advent	
Tues 3 rd Dec	No Mass		Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier	
Wed 4 th Dec	9am	St Thomas More's	Memorial of Saint Osmund	<i>Douglas & Rosaleen Auburn (RIP)</i>
Thurs 5 th Dec	10am	St Bernadette's	Weekday of Advent	<i>Stefania Micencova</i>
Fri 6 th Dec	No Mass		Weekday of Advent	
Sat 7 th Dec	9.30am	St John's	Memorial of Saint Ambrose	
	4pm	St Thomas More's	Second Sunday of Advent	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Anthony & Carmela Mercieca (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
Sat 7 th	10.00-10.30am	St John's

Today's Readings



Adoration

Thurs	9.30-10.30am	St John's
Morning Prayer		
Sat 7 th	9am	St John's

THE WORD THIS WEEK

As usual, the great Season of Advent begins, not by talking about Christmas, but about the Second Coming. We have had this theme already for the past two weeks, but there is a slight change of emphasis in the Scripture readings offered for this Sunday: here the tone is positive: it is the "promise" of what is to come that we contemplate. Even in the Gospel, though it talks of the dreadful signs that mark the end times, we hear of a promise - "liberation". For this we should stand erect and hold our heads high. The central theme is that we welcome the coming of a person - Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and this is what links this Sunday to the coming feast of his birth: we are now preparing to celebrate how he once came: may these preparations also help us to prepare for him when he comes again.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – ST JOHN'S

There will be children's liturgy of the word during the 10.30 Mass this Sunday, 1st December.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON CHURCHES TOGETHER ADVENT CAROL SERVICE – 1st DEC

The Advent Carol Service for Bradford-on-Avon Churches Together takes place at 6pm on Sunday 1st December at Holy Trinity Church. Everyone is welcome to join us.

ST BERNADETTE'S DROP IN – 4th DEC

St Bernadette's Drop In will be on Wednesday 4th December from 2.00 to 4.00, an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and enjoy tea and cakes. All are welcome.

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE – 7th DEC

On Saturday 7th December, The Vigil of The Immaculate Conception, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. "And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least... God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it." (Jonah 3:5,10) Please Invite others to join the day on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1461899157815100/>

SECOND COLLECTION – POOR MISSIONS OF THE DIOCESE – 7th/8th DEC

This fund enables the Bishop to offer small grants to some of the financially less fortunate parishes in our Diocese. This is one collection that reminds us of the support and encouragement we give to each other as a Diocesan family, and our responsibility to care for our wider family in the diocese. There will be a second collection for this fund at all Masses next weekend. Donations can also be made online and using the card machines at St John's.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred this year to Monday 9th December. Although this is not a Holyday of Obligation in England and Wales, it is a major solemnity for the Principal Patron of our Diocese. Therefore, there will be an additional Mass at St John's next week, on Monday 9th December at 9am.

ST JOHN'S TEA AND CHAT – 10th DEC

Tea and Chat on Tuesday 10th December at 2.30pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. There will be Christmas presents from Sinceris and Christmas cards and gifts from the Piety cupboard on display. (Please bring cash if you think you may like to buy something)

NEW LECTIONARY

The New Lectionary will be used from this weekend – the First Sunday of Advent. The Liturgy sheets and Universalis (the link from the newsletter) will automatically start using the new ESV translation. The Sunday Missals that were ordered through the repository are now ready for collection. The church Lectionaries will be blessed before they are used for the first time at the beginning of the relevant Masses this weekend.

CAROL SERVICE REHEARSALS – ST JOHN'S

We welcome singers to join us for choir rehearsals, we are planning on performing a couple new pieces of music which will be part of the forthcoming Carol Service in December. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday 1st & 8th December at 6pm in St John's Trowbridge. We look forward to seeing you.

MISSIO RED BOXES – ST JOHN'S

Please bring the Missio Red Boxes to church for emptying.

TRAINING FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Dominican Sisters of Saint Joseph are offering a training session to equip leaders and helpers of the Children's Liturgy of the Word in their parish. They will look at essential principles, offer models, and recommend resources. The session takes place on 14th December, 9am to 12noon. To sign up for the series, please click on the Zoom link [here](#).

BLESSING OF BAMBINELLI – 15th DEC

This is a beautiful Advent Tradition - Bambinelli Sunday, Blessing the Christ Child - which has been celebrated in Rome for over thirty years and helps children and young people to prepare for Jesus. Each family will bring the Christ Child from its own crib or Nativity scene and the Pope blesses it during the noon Angelus that day. It is a wonderful way to bring family and parish together. Following that tradition, I encourage families to bring the baby Jesus from their own cribs to church on the Third Sunday of Advent and, at the end of Mass, I will bless the Bambinelli which have been brought to church. Everyone is welcome to take part – young and old alike. Fr Richard

CAROL SERVICE – 15th DEC

The joint Carol Service for our three churches will take place at St John's on Sunday 15th December at 6pm. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre afterwards. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Masses this year will be at the following times:

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6pm St John's

9pm St Thomas More's

11pm St John's

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

9am St Bernadette's

10.30am St John's

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES AND LITURGICAL DIARIES

The Diocesan Directories (£6) and Liturgical Diaries (£6.50) for 2025 are now available from all of the churches.

JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKLET

Pope Francis has called for the year 2025 to be a jubilee year, known as The Year of Hope. The jubilee will officially begin on 24th December 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door and will last throughout the year 2025. The Jubilee Companion Booklet 2025 is published in a collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The Companion Booklet will help pilgrims ponder and pray, focusing on the great themes of the Holy Year: hope and forgiveness, the Apostles Peter and Paul and their Basilicas in Rome, and the key places of prayer and repentance. And a whole lot more - numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. Booklets on sale in all churches - £1.50.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS – ADVENT

The Walk With Me booklets for Advent are now available in all of the churches - £1

CAR PARKING 10.30 MASS

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

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.

