

**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

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**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 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	4pm	St Thomas More's	The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	<i>Agnes McCauley (Birthday)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>People of the Parish</i>
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>Lisa and Michael</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Sean Fox</i>
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>No Mass</b>		Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9.15am	St John's	Votive Mass of the Most Holy Name of Jesus	<i>James Christopher</i>
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9am	St Thomas More's	Weekday in Ordinary Time	<i>Sara Buscombe</i>
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10am	St Bernadette's	Weekday in Ordinary Time	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	9am	St John's	Memorial of Saint Anthony	<i>Joseph Carlin (RIP)</i>
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	4pm	St Thomas More's	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>Mary Laase (RIP)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>People of the Parish</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**

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all God's promises: "This is my Son, the Beloved". On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospels in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to: the only Son of God, the Beloved.

## PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Eve Hunneyball has now started work as our Parish Administrator and can be contacted at the parish email addresses [trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com) and [bradford-on-avon.stthomasmore@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:bradford-on-avon.stthomasmore@cliftondiocese.com)

Next week we will hopefully have a new phone number that Eve can be contacted on during office hours. Please contact Eve about any issues regarding the administration of our parishes. Enquiries about the use of the Parish Centre should still be directed to Becky Nesbitt [enquiries@sjpc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sjpc.org.uk) 01225 767215. If you would like to enquire about booking Mass Intentions, arranging Baptisms or Weddings, or require any other sort of pastoral assistance, please continue to contact me directly [richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com) 01225 752152 Fr Richard

## CRIB OFFERINGS

Crib Offerings this year will be for the Friends of the Holy Land. Though Christmas celebrations may be cancelled in Bethlehem, our brothers and sisters there share our hope in Christ, which is very much alive. With your help, we can ensure that hope shines brightly through the remarkable Christians who continue to serve so bravely. Right now, our brothers and sisters are suffering, and they are scared. But we are not powerless, despite the enormity of the devastation we see in our TV news. By supporting this Christmas appeal, you can help our local team to respond quickly and effectively to the unfolding catastrophe.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025

The first meeting of the First Holy Communion programme takes place on 16<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm at St John's Parish Centre. Parents are asked to attend the first meeting with the children. Full details of the programme will be provided at this meeting.

## SAFE FAMILIES UK – 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> JAN

John Grant will speak very briefly on the national interdenominational Christian charity, Safe Families UK, after each of the Masses this weekend. We volunteers, (7000 of us women and men across the UK in 1200 churches) help sad and lonely families (single parents, domestic abuse, children with mental health challenges, poverty), and assist them with hope, belonging, love and support. Please speak to John at the door for contact information as we need more volunteers in Wiltshire.

## OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> JAN

These eight days of prayer for Christian Unity are traditionally kept in the days leading up to the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. Resources are available at <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/> with readings, reflections and prayers for each day of the octave. For 2025, materials were prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy. As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief. We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND OUR CALLING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES – 29<sup>th</sup> JAN

An introduction to Catholic Social Teaching by Jenny Sinclair founder and director of Together For The Common Good. Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm at St John the Evangelist Church, South Parade, Bath. All are welcome.

## WESTBURY TOWN PRAYERS

During February, Westbury Town Prayers are at Saint Bernadette's at 2.30pm every Tuesday.

## LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP GRANTS SCHEME

The Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme allows Parishes to claim back VAT (currently at 20%) on all maintenance works that are carried out to a Church that is Listed. The scheme is up for review in March this year. It is important that MPs receive as much correspondence as possible in support of the continuation of this scheme. With that in mind, there is a form at the bottom of the page that this link from the Catholic Bishops' Conference will take you to which will automatically generate an email to your MP: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/listed-places-of-worship-grant-scheme/>. Not all of our churches are listed, but this scheme is a great help to those that are. Please consider sending an email in support of these churches.

## THE CATENIANS

We are an International Association of Catholic men who meet monthly in groups, known as Circles, for prayers and a meal. We also arrange regular social events with families and friends. Bath Circle gather on the third Monday of the month at the Limpley Stoke Hotel, Bath and we are keen to recruit new members. The contact in this parish is Phil Jose – email: [philjose@hotmail.com](mailto:philjose@hotmail.com) Further information about the Association can be found at <https://thecatenians.uk/>

## 300 CLUB

300 Club membership for those wishing to continue paying annually (around 50 of the 165 members !!) is due this month. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, the following details apply. Account number 68657226 - Sort Code 521003. New members are more than welcome and a form is available on The Parish Website or from Mike Heather, [mike284305@btinternet.com](mailto:mike284305@btinternet.com) Thank You and Good Luck!

## JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

For many of us, making a pilgrimage to Rome during the Jubilee year isn't possible, therefore bishops throughout the world have identified places of pilgrimage for us to obtain the graces associated with the Jubilee. In our diocese Bishop Bosco has designated the Cathedral and the church of Our Lady at Glastonbury as sites of pilgrimage. A "Pilgrims' Way" on the theme of hope has been created around the cathedral with waypoints for prayer and reflection. There is an accompanying guide and handbook, including information about the Jubilee Indulgence. The Cathedral will be open every day during the hours of daylight so please come in and experience the Pilgrims' Way. Everyone is welcome.

## A YEAR OF HOPE: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE JUBILEE YEAR WITH CAFOD

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishops' Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 10:30am-12noon, online. All welcome. <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year>

## 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.

