

**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

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord – 5th January 2025

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 4 th Jan	4pm	St Thomas More's	Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord	<i>Mary Nagappa</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Agnes & Joe Schambri (RIP)</i>
Sun 5 th Jan	9am	St Bernadette's	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Catherine Fox</i>
Mon 6 th Jan	No Mass		Monday after Epiphany	
Tues 7 th Jan	6pm	St John's	Tuesday after Epiphany	<i>Intentions of Donors</i>
Wed 8 th Jan	9am	St Thomas More's	Wednesday after Epiphany	<i>Fr David McDonald (RIP)</i>
Thurs 9 th Jan	10am	St Bernadette's	Thursday after Epiphany	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Fri 10 th Jan	9am	St John's	Friday after Epiphany	<i>Pope Benedict XVI (RIP)</i>
Sat 11 th Jan	9.30am	St John's	Saturday after Epiphany	
	4pm	St Thomas More's	The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	<i>Holy Souls</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
Sat 11 th	9am	St John's

Morning Prayer

THE WORD THIS WEEK

In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the Time of Manifestation, or Showing. Today is the 'Feast of the Manifestation', or the Showing of the Saviour to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all nations being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the child in the manger. Remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God's plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

I am pleased to announce that Eve Hunneyball has been appointed as our Parish Administrator and will be starting work this week. I am sure you will want to welcome her into this new role for our parishes. More information about contacting Eve will be provided soon. Fr Richard

CHILDREN'S LITURGY – ST JOHN'S

There will be children's liturgy of the word during the 10.30 Mass this Sunday, 5th January.

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

Application forms are now available for the First Holy Communion Programme for 2025. Sessions will take place at St John's Parish Centre on Thursday evenings beginning with the first meeting on 16th January at 6pm. Parents are asked to attend the first meeting with the children. Full details of the programme will be provided at this meeting. The programme is open to anyone in Year 3 or above. Please return completed application forms to Fr Richard by 6th January.

SAFE FAMILIES UK – 11th/12th JAN

John Grant will speak very briefly on the national interdenominational Christian charity, Safe Families UK, after Mass on 11th and 12th January. 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 18th-25th 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?"

NEW LECTIONARY AND SCRIPTURE FORMATION RESOURCES

There is a *New Lectionary-Scripture Formation Resource* to help members of our parishes and schools to deepen their love of Mass, the Bible and living the Gospel in daily life. This resource is intended for Liturgical Ministers, formators, leaders, catechists and teachers. There is an attachment and a link which can be found here: www.godwhospeaks.uk/lectionary-scripture-formation-resource/

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF HOMES

It is traditional for parish priests to bless chalk on the Feast of the Epiphany for parish families, so that they may mark the names of the three Magi over their doors, in blessing the home as a witness of their faith and protection against evil. With chalk, you write an inscription on the inside lintel above the front door. The series of numbers, letters, and crosses changes only slightly from year to year. For example, at the start of the year 2025, the line read as follows: 20+C+M+B+25. The four digits designating the New Year appear at the beginning and end of the line. Because Epiphany comes so near the beginning of the New Year, the numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing. The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing. The crosses represent Christ, whom we invoke, and the saintliness of the Magi. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing. The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and patron of the beginning and end of things. This blessing adds a Christian dimension to the traditional observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal Word in this holy season. If you want to bless your home this Epiphany, there are copies of a prayer of blessing available, along with blessed chalk, in all churches.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND OUR CALLING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES – 29th JAN

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

MASS INTENTIONS

The diary for Mass Intentions in 2025 is now open. If you would like a Mass said on a particular date (e.g. a birthday or anniversary), please book this as early as possible. When completing the envelopes for Mass Intentions, please indicate which church, Mass time, and/or date that you would prefer. If these details are not specified, the Mass may be celebrated at another time or in one of the other churches. If a particular date is especially required, please check availability with me. Many thanks. Fr Richard

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2025 – ST JOHN'S & ST BERNADETTE'S

These are now available in the church porch for collection. Any parishioner not on the current envelope list, but would like a box of envelopes to donate on a regular basis, please ask Mike Heather 01225 762966 or email mike284305@btinternet.com - your local Gift Aid Secretary!

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.

