

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 30th March 2025 Laetare Sunday

Parish Priest:	Father Richard Elson	richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com	01225 752152
Parish Administrator:	Eve Hunneyball	trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com	01225 698791
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	Working hours:	Tue 1-3pm Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am-3pm	
Parish Centre Administrator:	Rebecca Nesbitt	enquiries@sjpc.org.uk	01225 767215
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Parish websites:	www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk www.together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bradfordonavon/churches/stthomasmore/		

This Week's Mass Times

Sat 29 th Mar	4pm	St Thomas More's	Fourth Sunday of Lent	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Joyce Bye</i>
Sun 30 th Mar	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Alleluia Fernandez (RIP)</i>
Mon 31 st Mar	No Mass		Weekday of Lent	
Tues 1 st Apr	6pm	St John's	Weekday of Lent	<i>Intentions of Donors</i>
Wed 2 nd Apr	9am	St Thomas More's	Weekday of Lent	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Thurs 3 rd Apr	10am	St Bernadette's	Weekday of Lent	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Fri 4 th Apr	9am	St John's	Weekday of Lent	<i>John Fanning (RIP)</i>
Sat 5 th Apr	9.30am	St John's	Weekday of Lent	
	4pm	St Thomas More's	Fifth Sunday of Lent	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Mary Barlow (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 5 th	10.00-10.30am	St John's

Today's Readings



Stations of the Cross

Tues	5.15pm	St John's
Thurs	10.30am	St Bernadette's
Fri	5pm	St Thomas More's

Adoration

Thurs 9.30-10.30am St John's

THE WORD THIS WEEK

As today we hear the familiar parable of the Prodigal Son (or the Forgiving Father), the message is Reconciliation - the making new of relationships, the healing of past wrongs and the opening of ourselves to the "new creation". This is just as the Israelites opened themselves to the New Creation of the Promised Land, when under Joshua they ended their sojourn in the wilderness after forty years of hardship, and began to eat of the produce of the country. It is all God's work: it is God who calls us back, and God who welcomes us into the Promised Land of his mercy when we return. So today, let us think not so much of sin and offences, as the new creation God offers us, if we but turn back to him and embrace him as our Father.

SECOND COLLECTION- THIS WEEKEND

The second collection this weekend is for the Priests' Retirement Fund for our diocese. This annual collection helps support our sick and retired priests. It allows us to help retired priests living on their own with rental costs and utility bills; it goes towards care home fees where needed; and also enables us to help with medical costs. We currently pay out over £300,000 per year to support our sick and retired priests. Your generosity is much appreciated, and we do hope that you are able to make a generous donation.

HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES

The Chrism Mass will be at 11am at the Cathedral on Wed 16th Apr. The Triduum will be celebrated at St John's, with Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday, the Celebration of the Passion at 3pm on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil at 8.30pm on Holy Saturday. In addition to these services, The Office of Readings and Morning Prayer will be said at 9am at St John's on each of these three days. On Good Friday there will also be Stations of the Cross at St Bernadette's at 11am and the Via Desolata at 7pm at St Thomas More's. On Easter Sunday, Masses will be at 9am at St Bernadette's, 10am at St Thomas More's, and 10.30am at St John's.

A LENTEN OPPORTUNITY

The 'We Dare to Hope' sessions are on their 4th and final session this week. Friday 4th April. St Bernadette's at 10.15am and St John's at 4pm.

ST. BERNADETTE'S DROP IN

St. Bernadette's drop in will be on Wednesday 2nd April from 2-4pm. Everyone is most welcome.

NEW PRAY AND PLAY GROUP

A new group for parents and young children to come together on the first Monday of each month at St. John's Parish Centre from 10.30am-11.30am. The New 'Pray and Play' group will be very relaxed and quite possibly a bit noisy to accommodate children's natural play but we will loosely follow the 'Mother's Prayers' format while the children play around us. Open to mums (expectant or seasoned), dads, grandparents or carers. Next session Monday 7th April. All very welcome- snacks and drinks provided.

LECTIO DIVINA AT ST. BERNADETTE'S

Lectio Divina at St. Bernadette's continues on the second Wednesday of each month, 10:15-11am. The next date is the 9th April. An opportunity to listen to the Gospel and then, in the silence that follows, to reflect personally on what we have heard and on how we can put this into action in our own lives. If you have a Sunday Missal, please bring this with you. All welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION- NEXT SESSION

The next session is this Thursday 3rd April from 6-7pm in St. John's Parish Centre. Please remember your books and water bottles.

PRAYING VIGIL FOR WORLD PEACE

There will be a praying vigil for World peace with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday 6th April at St. John the Baptist Church from 1-4pm. Please do come along.

JUBILEE ICON ON TOUR

The Jubilee Icon is touring the country during this Jubilee Year. In our diocese, it will be at the following Churches: 28th- 30th April: St John the Evangelist, Bath. 1st - 3rd May: St Nicholas of Tolentino, Bristol. 4th - 6th May: Holy Rood, Swindon. 7th - 9th May: Our Lady St Mary of Glastonbury. If you are planning to go and see this, perhaps you might like to consider inviting another parishioner to travel with you. More information about the icon is available on the Clifton Diocese website.

CHRISM MASS-COACH

We have had 14 people sign up so far for the Chrism Mass so it would be a shame to not put a coach on but we do need more people to sign up to make it viable. With this in mind we are going to extend the deadline until this Friday coming- 4th April at 9am for any additional sign ups for the coach for the Chrism Mass.

CATHEDRAL MASS FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

You are invited to join the Bishop for Mass in the Cathedral as we celebrate the gift that is Marriage & Family Life on Saturday 12th May at 12 noon. All welcome. In addition, if you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, are newly married or getting married this year please contact Eve in the office.

EMBRACING THE MERCY- LENT RETREAT DAY

Embracing the Mercy- a Lent Retreat day to reflect upon & experience Reconciliation as the Sacrament of Hope - Saturday 5th April at St Bernadette's Catholic Secondary School, Bristol. Speakers are Fr. Brendan Callaghan SJ and Margaret & Barry Mizen. The day will provide conversation & reflection. We will finish with a Service of Reconciliation & the opportunity for individual confession with Bishop Bosco & priests from around the diocese. Refreshments from 9.30am, please bring a packed lunch, our day will end by 3.30pm. To register for the day, please click on the Eventbrite link:

<https://embracingthemeracyofgod.eventbrite.co.uk> All are welcome!

JUBILEE FOR ALL- FAMILY ACTIVITIES FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

The Celebrate trust have designed short creative activities that families can choose from to enable them to draw close to Jesus, our hope, and to enable them to share that love with others. To download further copies of the resource for free, go to: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/celebrate-prayer-resources> and click on 'Jubilee for All'.

CLIFTON DIOCESE JUBILEE WALK AND MASS

As part of Jubilee 2025 the Diocese of Clifton is organising a walk from Downside School to Glastonbury Abbey on 12th July. Meeting at the school at 8am and arriving at the abbey at 5pm. We will start with Mass and end with a shared meal before returning in a support vehicle to the school. Interested? Please email gerrycampbell@hotmail.com for more details.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF HOPE

Bishop Bosco warmly invites you to join him on Saturday 19th July for our Diocesan Jubilee Celebration of Hope at Downside School & Abbey. A free hot lunch will be provided (a lunch box is provided for children under 11). The day starts at 10am with Mass in the Abbey Church at 3pm. Please register via this link: <https://jubileedayofhope.eventbrite.co.uk> for your ticket. For the catering, a printed/mobile ticket from Eventbrite is required. If you have difficulty accessing Eventbrite, please contact us at adult.education@cliftondiocese.com and we will help you with this. The closing date for tickets is 7th July.

ENCOUNTER 2025

Don't forget the Holy Spirit Ministries presents Encounter 2025 from Eastertide to Pentecost- a diocesan wide programme to equip and empower people to share their faith and be renewed in heart and mind. The launch event is on Saturday 3rd May at the Cathedral, an event for all ages with children's streams, from 9.30am - 4pm. There will be follow up sessions on Wednesday evenings which will be live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. For booking: <https://buytickets.at/cliftondiocese/1617280> For watching the live stream: <https://cliftoncathedral.org/stream> or for more information please email: pentecost@cliftondiocese.com

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.

