

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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 2nd March 2025

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

This Week's Mass Times

Sat 1 st Mar	4pm	St Thomas More's	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>Adam Tegetmeier (RIP)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>People of the Parish</i>
Sun 2 nd Mar	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>Kerry King</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Thanksgiving - Family & Friends of Brian and Margaret Moore</i>
Mon 3 rd Mar	No Mass		Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Tues 4 th Mar	6pm	St John's	Weekday in Ordinary Time	<i>Eamon Brady (RIP)</i>
Wed 5 th Mar	10am	St Bernadette's	Ash Wednesday	<i>Paddy Byrne</i>
	12noon	St Thomas More's		<i>Pope Francis</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>John Aland (RIP)</i>
Thurs 6 th Mar	10am	St Bernadette's	Thursday after Ash Wednesday	<i>Special Intention</i>
Fri 7 th Mar	9.15am	St John's	Commemoration of St John of God	<i>Staff and Pupils St John's School</i>
Sat 8 th Mar	4pm	St Thomas More's	First Sunday of Lent	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Intentions of Donors</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

Stations of the Cross

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

THE WORD THIS WEEK

We have many sayings about results being more important than promises, such as “the proof of the pudding is in the eating”. Today’s scripture readings are all about this – the ways in which our words and actions will reveal who we truly are. There is a wonderful mosaic of poetic wisdom in the readings this Sunday – images and parables and similes that can sit in our heads and hearts, and make us think about the sort of people we are, and the words we use and the fruits we produce by them. And we should pray that we will always produce good, sound fruit, so that we may keep on working at the Lord’s work always, and so share in Christ’s victory over death itself.

ASH WEDNESDAY – 5th MARCH

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and is a day of fasting and abstinence. Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. This means taking no more than one full meal, and one or two light collations (snacks) in order to prevent oneself from being made seriously ill, particularly if working. Abstinence means abstaining from the eating of flesh meat. The rules of fasting and abstinence apply to those over 14 years for abstinence, and those between the ages of 18 and 60 for fasting. Ashes will be distributed at all Masses on Ash Wednesday: 10am St Bernadette's, 12noon St Thomas More's, 6pm St John's. Ashes will also be distributed to the pupils at St John's School and St Augustine's College during the day.

PRAYING THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Starting on Ash Wednesday, and for the remainder of this Jubilee Year, you are invited to pray the Jubilee Prayer of Pope Francis every evening. This is a simple, yet meaningful, way to pray together as a community outside of the times when we gather together in our Churches. Copies are available this weekend. Please do take one.

PARISH ACCOUNTS 2024

Copies of the accounts for 2024 for both parishes are available in each of the relevant churches. Many thanks to our parish treasurers and finance committee for helping to ensure the smooth administration of our parish finances. Thanks also to those who so generously contribute to our parishes and enable us to fulfil our mission.

NEW 'PRAYER AND PLAY' GROUP

We are starting 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 'Prayer 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. First session Monday 3rd March. All very welcome- snacks and drinks provided.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

During Lent 'Stations of the Cross' will happen at the following times:
St. Bernadette; 10.30am every Thursday (starts 6th March)
St. Thomas More; 5pm every Friday (starts 7th March)
St. John the Baptist; 5.15pm every Tuesday (starts 11th March)

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers Bill Girdiefski whose funeral will take place at St. Thomas More's at 10.30am on Wed 12th March.

BAPTISM

We welcome Arwen Aitken into the family of the church as she is being Baptised this weekend. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

ST. BERNADETTE'S PLANT SALE MAY 2025

When sowing your vegetable and flower seeds this Spring would you please sow a few extra in readiness for this year's plant sale. Thank you. St Bernadette's Social Committee.

ST. BERNADETTE'S DROP IN

St Bernadette's Drop in will be on Wednesday 12th March, not on 5th as that is Ash Wednesday. Everyone is welcome to join us for tea and cake.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Please join us at St. Bernadette's on Fri 7th March at 2.30pm for the 2025 World Day of Prayer. All Welcome.
Also, Christ Church in Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1SJ is having an event for The World Day of Prayer at 10am on Fri 7th March followed by refreshments. All Welcome.

CHILDREN'S CALENDARS FOR LENT

There are children's calendars of activities for Lent available at every Mass from this weekend. Please do take one.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

The New 'Walk with Me' booklets for Lent are now available at all Masses from this weekend. They cost £1 each

A LENTEN OPPORTUNITY

The '**We Dare to Hope**' booklet, which is available this weekend (£1 each), is a resource for small group faith-sharing and also individual meditation. It consists of five sessions each one of which focuses on a different aspect of Hope. This will take place at St. Bernadette's starting at 10:15am on Friday 14th March and continue on the four subsequent Fridays. We are also looking to run this at St. John the Baptist on the same Fridays at 4pm and if you are interested in this and have any thoughts on the timing please let Fr. Richard know. Also, if you would like to be part of a group at St. Thomas More, please let Fr. Richard know.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION- NEXT SESSION

The next session is on 13th March from 6-7pm in St. John's Parish Centre. Parents are also to attend this one please.

CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS VACANCY

The Governors at St John's are seeking to appoint a Clerk to Governors to support our Governing Body to start as soon as possible. The role is for 2.5 hours a week, 52 weeks of the year. Meetings are held in the evenings and other than these this is a home working role. Closing date for applications is 9am on Friday 28th March. The application form and job profile can be found on the school website: www.st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk or for further information or to arrange a visit to the school please contact either Pam Poulter, the School Business Manager, on 01225 752006 or email the Chair of Governors: chair@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk

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. In addition to three keynote speakers, prayer, and reflections we will be offering an exciting and joyful programme for our children & young people. Arrivals/refreshments from 10am. In addition, a free hot lunch will be provided (a lunch box is provided for children under 11). Our Jubilee Celebration of Mass will take place in the Abbey Church at 3pm. There will be a maximum of 300 tickets. If you would like to join us for the day, booking through Eventbrite is essential. 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 7 July.

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH CELEBRATION

A night of traditional Irish music and songs. Bring your dancing shoes! on Saturday 22nd March from 7.30pm – 10.45pm at St. John's Parish Centre. Tickets available from Mike Heather after Sunday Mass or via email: mike284305@btinternet.com

CATHOLIC HOMESCHOOL INFORMATION MEETING

Have you heard about homeschooling and wondered how it works? Come and hear from experienced Catholic mums who will share their insights and answer your questions. Catholic Homeschool Information Meeting at St John the Evangelist Church, Bath this Saturday, 29th March 2025, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. For further information please Contact: Helen Harrold (07425 154592) or Hannah Grimes (07801 566626)

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.

