

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – 13th April 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
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Parish websites:	www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk www.together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bradfordonavon/churches/stthomasmore/		

This Week's Mass Times

Sat 12 th Apr	4pm	St Thomas More's	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	<i>People of Gaza</i>
Sun 13 th Apr	6pm 8.50am 10.30am	St John's St Bernadette's St John's		<i>Evelyne & Romina Testa (RIP)</i> <i>People of the Parish</i> <i>Maureen Harley (RIP)</i>
Mon 14 th Apr	No Mass		Monday of Holy Week	
Tues 15 th Apr	6pm	St John's	Tuesday of Holy Week	<i>John Aland and Glenn James</i>
Wed 16 th Apr	11am	Clifton Cathedral	Christm Mass	
Thurs 17 th Apr	7.30pm	St John's	Maundy Thursday	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Fri 18 th Apr	3pm	St John's	Good Friday	<i>Celebration of the Passion of the Lord</i>
Sat 19 th Apr	8.30pm	St John's	Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Sun 20 th Apr	9am 10am 10.30am	St Bernadette's St Thomas More's St John's	Easter Sunday	<i>Mary Alice Wynne (RIP)</i>

Confessions

Sat 12 th	10.00-10.30am	St John's
Sat 12 th	3.30-3.50pm	St Thomas More's
Sat 12 th	5.30-5.50pm	St John's

Today's Readings



Stations of the Cross

Tues	5.15pm	St John's
Fri	11am	St Bernadette's
Fri	7pm	St Thomas More's

Morning Prayer & Office of Readings

Thurs, Fri, Sat 19th 9am St John's

Night Prayer

Thurs 10pm St John's

THE WORD THIS WEEK

On Passion (Palm) Sunday the Gospel dominates the celebration, and, in a sense, its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings, which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as much more than a simple story. It is THE story of God achieving salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Thus the immense depth of the Isaiah reading - a personal testimony to suffering - should open our hearts to understand more of the depth of Jesus' sacrifice.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers Sr Monica who died on Tuesday 8th April and Noreen Leat who died on Sunday 6th April. The Funeral for Noreen will be held at St John's on Friday 2nd May at 11.30am. Please pray for them and their families.

CHOIR PRACTICE IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER

This Sunday 13th April, choir practice will run in St John's from 5.45pm until 7/ 7.30pm max. We will be running through music for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday 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.

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

The blessing of Easter food on Holy Saturday and the sharing of blessed eggs after Easter morning Mass rank among the most popular Paschal traditions both in Poland and Polonia. Families bring baskets to Mass for blessing and they contain a sampling of traditional Easter fare and usually include some or all of the following: hard-cooked eggs (coloured or plain), sausage and other meats, bread, cheese, Easter cakes, an Easter lamb (made of butter, sugar or non-edible material), salt & pepper, horseradish and possibly also a small cruet of vinegar. Blessing of Easter Baskets will take place on Holy Saturday at St John the Baptist at 11am.

EASTERTIDE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The special collection on Good Friday is for Holy Places and Christians in the Holy Land- This annual collection contributes towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Christian Shrines of the Holy Land. It also offers financial support to the Christian communities living in the Holy Land at times when they are experiencing opposition and suffering.

The collection at Easter Sunday Masses is for the Easter Offerings for the Parish Priest. Envelopes are available. The card machines and the Parish Website can also be used for both offerings.

BRADFORD ON AVON AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER- GOOD FRIDAY

There will be a 'Walk of Witness' on Good Friday 18th April, starting at Westbury Gardens at 11am. There is also a children's workshop with Easter themed activities, crafts and games from 10.30am – 12pm at Christ Church. You can stay with your children or drop them off whilst you attend the Walk of Witness. Please email zyeomans3@gmail.com for a booking form for the children's workshop.

TROWBRIDGE CHURCHES TOGETHER- GOOD FRIDAY

A Service at 10am at St James' Church followed by the march outside Sainsbury's at 11am

Children's activities at Vineyard Church at Emmanuel's Yard at 10am

WESTBURY CHURCHES TOGETHER- GOOD FRIDAY

There will be an open-air Good Friday Service at 10.30am at the Rotunda in the High Street.

SUNDAY TEA AND COFFEE ROTA VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for some additional volunteers for the rota to provide tea and coffee after Mass at St. John's on a Sunday. Gathering in the Parish Centre after Sunday Mass offers a valuable opportunity for all to meet up and chat with other parishioners. If you have any availability, please speak to Becky in the Parish Centre.

MASS AND PASTORAL GATHERING: ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ST. BERNADETTE, ST. THOMAS MORE

On Tuesday, 13th May, we shall have the opportunity to meet together to reflect on and discuss the pastoral needs of our parishes, considering what we already have in place to support those needs and sharing our thoughts and ideas about what we might like to consider introducing going forward. As the 6pm Mass that day will be a Mass for a Pastoral Gathering, asking for the help of the Holy Spirit as we discern the pastoral needs of our parishes, you are encouraged to attend this if possible. The Pastoral Gathering will start at 6:45pm in the Parish Centre.

THE JUBILEE ICON IN CLIFTON DIOCESE

To celebrate and commemorate the Jubilee Year 2025, Pilgrims of Hope, an icon was commissioned from iconographer Mulugeta Araya in Ethiopia, for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The icon interprets Jesus' teaching of healing and liberation in the Synagogue in Luke 4:16-21, which refers to Isaiah 61:1-2: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." You are warmly invited to visit, meditate on and pray at the following Churches: 28th- 30th April: St John the Evangelist, Bath; 1st- 2nd May: St Nicholas of Tolentino, Bristol 3rd May: Encounter 2025 event; 4th - 6th May: Holy Rood, Swindon 7th - 9th May: The Shrine of Our Lady of Glastonbury

The Jubilee Icon webinar: to explore the meaning and symbolism of the Icon, you are warmly invited to the webinar. Please register here: [The Jubilee Icon in Clifton Diocese Tickets, Wed 23 Apr 2025 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

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.

DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS SINGING PROGRAMME & JUNIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR JOB VACANCY

Clifton Diocese is seeking to recruit a Diocesan Director of the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP) for our diocese, which will also combine the role of Junior Choir Director at Clifton Cathedral. It is a part time role of 21 hours per week, term time only. For more information email: music@cliftondiocese.com.

RETRouvaille MARRIAGE SUPPORT

Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 20th - 22nd June. For more information please see: www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10

CAR PARKING ST JOHN'S HOLY WEEK SERVICES

There are likely to be a great number of people attending the Holy Week Services- please remember there is additional parking at St. Augustine's.

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.

