

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

Second Sunday of Advent – 7th December 2025

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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
Parish Safeguarding Representative:	Martin Micenec	PSR1.trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com	
Parish website:	www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk		

This Week's Mass Times

Sat 6 th Dec	4pm	St Thomas More's	Second Sunday of Advent (A)	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Pia McGhee (Ints)</i>
Sun 7 th Dec	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>Joan Lyle (RIP)</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Anthony Dempsey (RIP)</i>
Mon 8 th Dec	9am	St John's	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	<i>Fr Rodell (RIP)</i>
Tues 9 th Dec	6pm	St John's	Weekday of Advent	<i>Fr Connie Campbell (RIP)</i>
Wed 10 th Dec	9am	St Thomas More's	Weekday of Advent	<i>Teilhard Scott</i>
Thurs 11 th Dec	11am	St Bernadette's	Funeral Mass	<i>Ian Hungerford (RIP)</i>
Fri 12 th Dec	11am	St John's	Funeral Mass	<i>Waclaw (Fred) Wozniak (RIP)</i>
Sat 13 th Dec	11.30am	St John's	Weekday of Advent	
	4pm	St Thomas More's	Third Sunday of Advent (A)	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Eileen Barrett (RIP)</i>

Confessions			Today's Readings	Adoration		
Sat 6 th	10.00-10.30am	St John's		Thurs	9.30-10.30am	St John's
Sat	3.30-3.50pm	St Thomas More's		Fri 12 th	8.00-9.00pm	St John's
Sat	5.30-5.50pm	St John's				
Thurs	9.30-9.50am	St Bernadette's				

THE WORD THIS WEEK

The Second and Third Sundays of Advent in all three cycles introduce John the Baptist. The simplest account is in Mark who begins his Gospel with John who announces the presence of Jesus the man. Matthew and Luke dwell longer on him and give examples of his preaching, with Matthew even putting into his mouth the words that Jesus will use of his own mission: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Unlike us, John is not preparing to celebrate the birth of a child; but to baptise the adult Jesus, but his call to repentance is addressed to us as well. With uncomplimentary language he introduces the Pharisees and Sadducees with whom Jesus will have similar arguments himself. He is said to have been prophesied by Isaiah but the passage of Isaiah in the First Reading is a different one and is applied to Jesus rather than John, with the little child and the weaned child causing us to think of the coming birth. But before that we hear of a man who will bring justice to the poor, and this is amplified by the psalm. The Second Reading connects the present with the past, saying that Christ's Coming was to fulfil the promises made to the Jewish patriarchs and to get the whole world (the Gentiles) to give glory to God. John the Baptist is a link with the past; he is the last of the prophets and hands over to the future.

SECOND COLLECTION- THIS WEEKEND

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Poor Missions of the Diocese. This fund enables the Bishop to support some of the financially less fortunate parishes in our Diocese. This is one collection that reminds us of the support and encouragement we give to each other as a Diocesan family, and our responsibility to care for our wider family in the diocese.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Masses this year will be at the following times:

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6pm St John's, 9pm St Thomas More's, 11pm St John's

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

9am St Bernadette's, 10.30am St John's

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION 2026

The following dates are Holydays of Obligation which occur on a weekday in 2026 (apart from Christmas Day):

The Epiphany of the Lord – Tues 6th Jan

The Ascension of the Lord – Thurs 14th May

In England and Wales, any Holydays of Obligation which occur on a Saturday or Monday are transferred to the Sunday (unlike some other English-speaking countries). Mass will be celebrated at the following times on these dates:

Vigil Mass: 6pm St Johns

Mass on the day: 10am St Bernadette's, 12 noon St Thomas More's, 1.30pm St John's

CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir practice for this year's Carol Service will next take place this Sunday- 7th Dec from 6-7pm at St. John's. We welcome members from all of our three churches to come together and rehearse for this year's Carol Service

PARISH CATHOLICISM COURSE

The Catholicism Course is next taking place this Sun 7th Dec from 5-6.45pm. The remaining session will be on the 21st Dec.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

There will be an additional Mass on Monday 8th Dec at 9am at St. John's for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

LECTIO DIVINA ST. BERNADETTE'S

This continues on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.15-11am. The next date is 10th December. If you have a Sunday Missal, please bring this with you. All welcome.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION- ST. JOHN'S

There is Adoration and Benediction at St. John's on Friday 12th December from 8-9pm. All welcome.

ADVENT RETREAT DAY: LIFE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

In preparation for the 150th anniversary we have our Advent Retreat Day on Saturday 13th Dec from 10am-3pm with tea and coffee from 9.30am (Please bring a packed lunch with you). There will be Mass at 11.30am. Full details can be found on the noticeboards. All welcome.

BLESSING OF BAMBINELLI – 14th DEC

I encourage families to bring the baby Jesus from their own cribs to church on the Third Sunday of Advent and, at the end of Mass, I will bless the Bambinelli which have been brought to church. Everyone is welcome to take part – young and old alike. Fr Richard

LECTIO DIVINA ST. THOMAS MORE

Lectio Divina at St. Thomas More is usually the 4th Monday of the month but is early for the month of December to account for the holiday period and therefore it will be on Monday 15th December. Start time is 10.15am and will last for approximately 45 minutes. All Welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for both these programmes has now closed for 2026.

THE CHURCHES OF ST JOHN'S, ST BERNADETTE'S AND ST THOMAS MORE CAROL SERVICE

We welcome parishioners from all of our three churches to come together and start the Christmas season off with a beautiful celebration of readings, carols and Christmas music. Sunday 14th December, 6pm at St. John's.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The first Fund Raiser got under way last Friday in The Parish Centre, where around 50 prospective Brains of Britain turned out for an Andy Barlow Quiz Night. In a dramatic twist the final question proved to be a tie breaker (What is the height of Nelson's Column)? The winning answer came from The 3 Horsemen (security prevents me from disclosing their names) and they enthusiastically received the donated prize of a bottle of bubbly each. Over £230.00 was raised on the night and most seemed to enjoy it. The next event is Race Night on 23rd January 2026. Do save the date! Mike Heather

WORKS AT ST. JOHN'S- UPDATE

You may have noticed signs that work is underway already at St. John's. We have had drainage works undertaken to protect the front of the Church from sitting in pools of water (and therefore prevent any further rising damp) and the highly skilled Phidias Ltd Stonemasons have been undertaking the repairs and replacements to damaged stonework. We are really pleased with these works so far and you only need to look at the window above the gallery to see the standard of care and attention taken to these works. The roof and damaged gutters are getting replaced in the new year before redecoration begins in time for the 150th Anniversary so please do continue supporting fundraising efforts, your support is greatly appreciated.

SOUP RUN

We are looking for volunteers to join the Soup Run Team. It takes up about one hour of your time every five weeks and involves handing out soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee to the homeless in Trowbridge. The food is provided by another team. For more information, please get in touch with Mary Turner 07707 628796

CHRISTMAS CARDS IN AID OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

Christmas cards in aid of the 150th anniversary will be on sale after all Masses. All profits will go to the funds for the building and roof works at St John's so please consider them for your Christmas Cards this year. Just a few packs left so let's get them all gone!

EPIPHANY RECEPTION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS ACROSS OUR THREE CHURCHES

On Monday 5th January, after our evening Epiphany Vigil Mass, Father Richard would like to invite all Church Volunteers to an evening reception of drinks and nibbles at St. John's Parish Centre to thank you for all that you do. It would be good to get an idea of numbers for catering purposes so if you intend to come could you please let Eve know. **We have only had a few responses so far and really need to organise catering so if you are thinking of coming, I'd be grateful if you would email me (Eve) in the office this week please.**

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CATHOLIC EDUCATION INSPECTION

St. John's has been graded as Outstanding (The highest grade possible) in all areas during their recent Catholic Education Section 48 inspection. Congratulations to all the staff and governors who have worked together to achieve this excellent result. To see the full report please follow the link: <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-johns-catholic-primary-school/UploadedDocument/7768db8f-08f7-4468-a6a9-f44bc8980c19/st-johns-catholic-primary-school-trowbridge-inspection-report.pdf>