

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 after the Nativity – 4th January 2026

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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 website:	www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk		

This Week's Mass Times

Sat 3 rd Jan	4pm	St Thomas More's	Second Sunday after the Nativity	Douglas & Rosaleen Auburn (RIP)
	6pm	St John's		People of the Parish
Sun 4 th Jan	9am	St Bernadette's		Frank Garbutt (RIP)
	10.30am	St John's		Katie Curran (RIP)
Mon 5 th Jan	12.30pm	St Thomas More's	Funeral Mass	Jackie Brown (RIP)
	6pm	St John's	Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord	Michael Finnegan (RIP)
Tues 6 th Jan	10am	St Bernadette's	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord	People of the Parish
	12noon	St Thomas More's		Holy Souls
	1.30pm	St John's		Intentions of Donors
Wed 7 th Jan	No Mass		Weekday of Christmas Time	
Thurs 8 th Jan	No Mass		Weekday of Christmas Time	
Fri 9 th Jan	No Mass		Weekday of Christmas Time	
Sat 10 th Jan	4pm	St Thomas More's	The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	Bill & Jean Stripp (RIP)
	6pm	St John's		

Confessions

Today's Readings

Adoration

Sat 3 rd	10.00-10.30am	St John's		Thurs	9.30-10.30am	St John's
Sat	3.30-3.50pm	St Thomas More's				
Sat	5.30-5.50pm	St John's				



THE WORD THIS WEEK

At this time of year a few days make all the difference. Christmas, for everyone except the most dedicated, is long over, which makes it difficult to feel excited about the 'Christmas' part of today. Yet there is something attractive in this stopgap Mass. It is a chance for everyone to hear the prologue from Saint John, indeed the only chance for those who don't go to the Mass of Christmas morning. But this passage is quite rich fare if you are not used to it. This could be one reason why both the First and Second Readings emphasise the role of Wisdom; this is usually taken, especially in the Old Testament, as a personification of God, but in Paul refers to a human quality. The second half of the Second Reading is a prayer for all of us: may we have a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed. This could be described as a new year's resolution. It is appropriate that the annual passing of the New Year milestone should be accompanied by the most basic affirmation of all: *In the beginning was the word; and the word was God; and the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.*

HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

This Tuesday 6th January is a Holyday of Obligation- The Epiphany of the Lord- please see the front page for details of Masses including the Vigil on Monday 5th January

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

FUNERALS

The funeral for Jacqueline Brown will be on Monday 5th January at 12.30pm at St Thomas More.

The funeral for Iwan Dätweiler will be on 15th January at 1pm at West Wiltshire Crematorium.

The funeral for Cynthia Booth will be on 16th January at 11am at St Thomas More.

The funeral for Agnes Barry will be on 21st January at 2.30pm at St Thomas More. Please pray for them and their families.

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 2026, the line read as follows: 20+C+M+B+26. 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.

OUTSIDE CRIB ST. JOHN'S

Due to the roofing works starting in early January the outside crib will be taken down this weekend. The indoor crib will stay in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (2nd Feb)

LIMITED PARKING OUTSIDE CHURCH FROM JANUARY

The roofing works are due to start in early January and due to scaffolding, storage of materials and parking spaces needed for the roofers, the parking spaces directly outside the Church will be limited. Please take note this includes the disabled parking bays.

ST. BERNADETTE'S DROP IN

This is cancelled for January. The next get-together will be on Wednesday 4th February.

CCTV ST. JOHN'S

There is now an updated CCTV system live at St. John's to include the whole site- Church, Parish Centre and Car Parks. The only people who have access to this are Fr Richard, Eve and Becky.

WORKS AT ST. JOHN'S- UPDATE

The roofing replacement shall be starting in early January, along with the gutter repairs. The stonemasons are almost finished and have a little bit of work left to do. We will then be re-painting the interior of the Church and re-carpeting so do please keep an eye on the newsletter for any notices regarding temporary Mass changes as these works progress.

RACE NIGHT

In aid of the 150th anniversary fund we are hosting a race night on 23rd January in the Parish Centre. More details to follow

300 CLUB ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

A gentle reminder for those paying annual subscriptions into the 300 Club in January. If you prefer to pay via bank transfer the account number is 68657226 & the sort code is 521003- ref 300 club. Many thanks

WHAT IS PRAYER- CLIFTON DIOCESE ONLINE TALK

This is an online session where we will discover what prayer is, how to pray, and why it is important to pray. Friday 9th January 2026, 7pm-8pm. To sign up for the session, please click on the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/mE5MtsQFO6OWCvcwLImaHg#/registration>

ENCOUNTER REVIVE DAY

Begin 2026 in the fire of the Holy Spirit by joining us for a Day of Encounter with guest speaker Ros Powell. Let us start the New Year "awake and alert" 1 Thess 5:6. This is a day to renew heart, hope and mission. At Clifton Cathedral, 17th January 2026 from 9.30am – 4pm. For more information about the day, email Encounter@cliftondiocese.com or contact Ann on 07815 751556. All welcome.

CELEBRATION MASS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Bishop Bosco is to celebrate Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 14th February (12 noon) and is inviting all families to join him to acknowledge the joys & challenges of family life. In addition, we will celebrate those couples with significant anniversaries in 2026. You are all very welcome to join our diocesan family for this Mass. If you are, or know of a couple, celebrating a significant anniversary during 2026 please let Eve know.

RETRouveille HELPS MARRIAGES

Retrouvaille can bring hope and healing to relationships. Christmas can be a time of stress for some relationships. The next Retrouvaille date is 12th Feb 2026. For more info please see www.retrouveille.org.uk Tel: 07887296983

GIVE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS WITH MARY'S MEALS

If you can, please help us bring food, school and hope to some of the world's most vulnerable children with a gift to Mary's Meals this festive season. Your gift will help Mary's Meals keep their promise into 2026 and beyond to children in countries such as Ethiopia, Haiti and South Sudan, where conflict and the devastating impacts of climate change mean our nutritious meals are needed more than ever. To donate: <https://donate.marysmeals.org/gb>

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.

