

# 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

## First Sunday of Lent – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

|  |  |  |              |
|--|--|--|--------------|
| <b>Parish Priest:</b>                      | Fr Richard Elson VF  | <a href="mailto:richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com">richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com</a>   | 01225 752152 |
| <b>Parish Administrator:</b>               | Eve Hunneyball   | <a href="mailto:trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com">trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com</a><br><a href="mailto:bradford-on-avon.stthomasmore@cliftondiocese.com">bradford-on-avon.stthomasmore@cliftondiocese.com</a> | 01225 698791 |
|  | Working hours:   | Tue 1-3pm<br>Wed, Thurs, Fri 9am-3pm   |              |
| <b>Parish Centre Administrator:</b>        | Rebecca Nesbitt  | <a href="mailto:enquiries@sjpc.org.uk">enquiries@sjpc.org.uk</a>   | 01225 767215 |
| <b>Parish Safeguarding Representative:</b> | Martin Micenec   | <a href="mailto:PSR1.trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com">PSR1.trowbridge.stjohnthebaptist@cliftondiocese.com</a>   |              |
| <b>Parish website:</b>                     | <a href="http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk">www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk</a> |  |              |

### This Week's Mass Times

|                            |                |                  |                           |                                       |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb   | 4pm            | St Thomas More's | First Sunday of Lent (A)  | <i>Holy Souls</i>                     |
|                            | 6pm            | St John's        |                           | <i>People of the Parish</i>           |
| Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb   | 9am            | St Bernadette's  |                           | <i>Barbara Richmond (RIP)</i>         |
|                            | 10.30am        | St John's        |                           | <i>Christiana Obiodu (RIP)</i>        |
| Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb   | <b>No Mass</b> |                  | Weekday of Lent           |                                       |
| Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb  | 12noon         | St John's        | Funeral Mass              | <i>Christina (Tina) Birkett (RIP)</i> |
|                            | 6pm            | St John's        | Weekday of Lent           | <i>Holy Souls</i>                     |
| Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb   | 9am            | St Thomas More's | Weekday of Lent           | <i>Fr John Foster (RIP)</i>           |
| Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb | 10am           | St Bernadette's  | Weekday of Lent           | <i>Michael Shrubsole (RIP)</i>        |
| Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb   | 9am            | St John's        | Weekday of Lent           | <i>Holy Souls</i>                     |
| Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb   | 9.30am         | St John's        | Weekday of Lent           |                                       |
|                            | 4pm            | St Thomas More's | Second Sunday of Lent (A) | <i>People of the Parish</i>           |
|                            | 6pm            | St John's        |                           | <i>Noreen Murphy (RIP)</i>            |

| Confessions          |               |                  | Today's Readings  | Stations of the Cross |         |                  |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---|-----------------------|---------|------------------|
| Sat                  | 3.30-3.50pm   | St Thomas More's |  | Tues                  | 5.15pm  | St John's        |
| Sat                  | 5.30-5.50pm   | St John's        |   | Thurs                 | 10.30am | St Bernadette's  |
| Thurs                | 9.30-9.50am   | St Bernadette's  |   | Fri                   | 5pm     | St Thomas More's |
| Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00-10.30am | St John's        |   |                       |         |                  |
|                      |               |                  | <b>Adoration</b>  |                       |         |                  |
|                      |               |                  | Thurs 9.30-10.30am  | St John's             |         |                  |

### THE WORD THIS WEEK

In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of Year A in Lent – these Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA): those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.

## **BAPTISM**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb we welcome into the family of the Church: Etroryram Adoku, Lemdeasi Adoku, Asiwome Adoku as they are Baptised at St. John's. Please pray for them and their family.

## **PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP BOSCO**

There will be a pastoral letter from Bishop Bosco read out at all Masses this weekend.

## **FOOD BANK- ST JOHNS**

The next food bank collection at St John's is on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. For a list of suitable items to donate please see the noticeboard or ask Eve. Please do consider donating to this worthwhile cause.

## **LECTIO DIVINA ST THOMAS MORE**

This is next on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb from 10.15am for approximately 45 minutes. All welcome.

## **A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION IN LENT**

This Lent there will be an opportunity to meet together to focus and reflect on our Baptismal Vocation. Using the resource 'We Dare To Ask', each session will include scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. This will take place at St. Bernadette's starting at 10:15am on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February and continue on the four subsequent Fridays. All welcome. More information about the resource can be found on the diocesan website.

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT**

Tuesdays 5.15pm St John's

Thursdays 10.30am St Bernadette's

Fridays 5pm St Thomas More's

## **PARISH MISSION LEAFLETS**

The Parish Mission Leaflets are available at all churches. Please note the times of Masses and the main Mission Service, which will be at 7pm each day (9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March)

## **ST. BERNADETTE'S DROP IN**

This will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2pm-4pm. Everyone welcome.

## **LENTEN SOUP LUNCH- ST. BERNADETTE'S**

St Bernadette's will be hosting a Lenten Soup Lunch after Mass on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets £5 and are available after Sunday Mass. Proceeds for Cafod.

## **TIME OF PRAYER ST. BERNADETTE'S**

The Rosary is prayed together followed by a time for private prayer during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This continues to take place on the last Wednesday of each month, 10.15-11.00am. The next date is 25<sup>th</sup> February. All welcome.

## **SERVICE TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK**

The Chrism Mass will be at 11am at the Cathedral on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH DECORATIONS**

The decorations at St John's will be between 16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March and then again from 7<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May. During this time weekday Masses will be held in the Parish Centre. The church will still be used for Sunday Masses, but there will be a greatly reduced seating capacity. An additional Mass at 12.30pm will be held on Sundays to make up for the reduced seating at the 10.30am Mass, starting on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Please consider attending this additional Mass.

## **WALK WITH ME LENT CALENDARS**

There are still some of the children's calendars available for this season of Lent- please do take one.

## **BUY A TILE FUNDRAISER**

There is a stand set up at the entrance to St. John's where you can buy a roof tile in aid of the roof fund. Costs are £10 for an adult, £5 for a child or £20 for a family. A small tile will be manufactured especially for each buyer which will have your name printed on the back to keep as a memento. They will be delivered to Church before Easter. Orders can be emailed to Mike Heather: [mike284305@btinternet.com](mailto:mike284305@btinternet.com)

## **TOWN PRAYERS WESTBURY**

Throughout February the Westbury Town Prayers will be at St. Bernadette's every Tuesday at 2.30pm. All welcome.

## **LENT 2026- LITURGIES OF RECONCILIATION**

Bishop Bosco invites you to join him during this season of Lent to celebrate the abundant mercy of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Join him at one of the five venues across our diocese as part of your Lenten Pilgrimage. Each Liturgy will start at 7pm.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – St Mary, Glastonbury

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Sacred Heart, Tisbury

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Immaculate Conception, Devizes

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – St Joseph, Tewkesbury

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Christ the King, Thornbury

Building upon the beautiful gatherings during Lent he is inviting our diocesan community to gather with him in celebration of God's merciful love as part of our Lenten journey. There will be priests available at each venue to celebrate sacramental reconciliation. You will be most welcome at any of the venues.

## **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY**

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at [www.cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://www.cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

The Fast Day is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb and there will be a retiring collection next weekend (28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Feb) For this. Envelopes are available at all churches this weekend.

## **UK PRAYS PUBLIC ROSARY**

This usually takes place the last Sunday of the month, however the next one will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March in Trowbridge Park by the War Memorial at 4.30pm

## **MARCH FOR LIFE UK PRESENTS COMMISSIONED: PRO-LIFE MEN'S CONFERENCE**

Calling men of all ages and states of life: book your place at 'Commissioned', the National Men's Pro-life Conference, on April 18<sup>th</sup> at Birmingham Christian College. Through compelling talks on fatherhood, marriage, post-abortion healing, spiritual warfare and sexual responsibility learn to live out your vocation with humility, courage and integrity. For more info including speakers or to book your place go to <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/commissioned-pro-life-mens-conference/> or contact [info@marchforlife.co.uk](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk)

## **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

