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

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 15th March 2026
Laetare Sunday

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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	
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This Week's Mass Times

Sat 14th Mar	4pm	St Thomas More's	Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)	*Holy Souls*
	6pm	St John's		*People of the Parish*
Sun 15th Mar	9am	St Bernadette's		*Lucrezia Therezinha Pacheco (RIP) (Ann)*
	10.30am	St John's		*Kazik Potem (RIP)*
Mon 16th Mar	***No Mass***		Weekday of Lent	
Tues 17th Mar	6pm	Parish Centre Hall	Feast of Saint Patrick	*Mary O'Brien (RIP)*
Wed 18th Mar	9am	St Thomas More's	Weekday of Lent	*Holy Souls*
Thurs 19th Mar	10am	St Bernadette's	Solemnity of Saint Joseph	*Holy Souls*
Fri 20th Mar	9am	Parish Centre Hall	Weekday of Lent	*Fr John Gaffney (RIP)*
Sat 21st Mar	4pm	St Thomas More's	Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)	*People of the Parish*
	6pm	St John's		*Brian Routledge (RIP)*

Confessions

Sat	10.00-10.30am	St John's
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

Evening Prayer, Novena & Benediction

Thurs 6pm St Thomas More's

Stations of the Cross

Tues	5.15pm	Parish Centre Hall
Thurs	10.30am	St Bernadette's
Fri	5pm	St Thomas More's

THE WORD THIS WEEK

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was "neophyte", which means "newly enlightened". There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - 'no evil would I fear' as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being 'anointed' with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Fr Royston and Fr Peter for leading our Parish Mission this past week.

PRAYERS

Peter Atkins died last week and Brian Routledge died this week. Please pray for them and their families.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH DECORATIONS

The decorations at St John's will be starting between this week: 16th - 27th March and then again from 7th April – 1st 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 22nd March. Please consider attending this additional Mass.

NO ADORATION THIS THURSDAY

There will be no adoration this Thursday 19th March at St John's

LECTIO DIVINA ST. BERNADETTE'S

Lectio Divina is on 18th March at St. Benadette's. 10.15-11am. All welcome.

AN INVITATION: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST NOVENA

On Thursday 19th March, 6pm, St. Thomas More's we will have day 6 of our Novena. A significant part of our spiritual and prayerful preparation to celebrate St. John's 150th anniversary in June this year, all are invited to Evening Prayer, St. John the Baptist Novena and Benediction. All welcome.

COFFEES AFTER MASS- 22ND MARCH

Whilst the decorations are happening at St. John's there will be reduced seating available in the Church and therefore there will be extra Masses put on for Sundays. To prevent any issues with car parking for incoming parishioners to the 12.30pm Mass, the teas and coffees after 10.30am Mass will need to be wrapped up by 12noon.

SECOND COLLECTION 21ST/ 22ND MARCH

Next weekend the second collection will be for the Priest's Retirement Fund. This fund provides retirement grants and housing, including care home accommodation, to the priests who have served our Diocese faithfully during their years of active priestly ministry. This money supports them in their retirement and offers them security in their later years. Our gift to them through this fund shows them something of our gratitude and our support. Leaflets and gift aid envelopes are available this weekend at all Masses.

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 at 10.15am. The fourth session is this Friday 20th March and there will then be one more sessions on the following Friday. All welcome. More information about the resource can be found on the diocesan website.

ST BERNADETTE'S PLANT SALE

We will be having another plant sale in May and ask gardeners, when sowing your veg and flower seeds, to sow a few extra for the sale and/or divide plants from your garden. Many thanks.

SERVICE TIMES FOR HOLY WEEK

The Chrism Mass will be at 11am at the Cathedral on Wed 1st 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.

LINE PAINTING ST. BERNADETTE'S

Advance notice of line painting happening at St. Bernadette's. The Car Park will be closed from Tue 31st March for three days and will be open again on Friday 3rd April. Please do not park your cars in the car park during this time.

PARISH CENTRE

Please spread the word about our wonderful Parish Centre- as a conference facility it is suitable for many uses and is bookable by phoning Becky in the office. We need to be taking in more bookings so please do let family, friends and colleagues know it is available.

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 17th March – St Joseph, Tewkesbury

Tuesday 24th 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.

DIOCESAN DAY: 'JOY OF LOVE'

On Sat 4th July, Bishop Bosco warmly invites you to join him for the diocesan day at Downside Abbey to celebrate the 'Joy of Love'. In addition to the adult programme there will be a children's and young people's programme. For your free ticket you need to book. Please see the following link: https://joyoflove.eventbrite.co.uk

PRAYER-LIVE IN

From Friday 15th May to Sunday 17th May The Bernardine Cistercians of Esquermes invite you to the Monastery of Our Lady and St. Bernard in Stroud to experience prayer in the Christian tradition. There will be talks, group prayer and independent prayer times. "We invite you to enter into the rhythm of prayer that shapes every day in the monastery, and to take time to listen in silence with the ear of your heart." For further info please email: bookings_brownshill@yahoo.co.uk

MARCH FOR LIFE UK PRESENTS COMISSIONED: 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 18th 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

MARCH 300 CLUB RESULTS

Prize	Number	Name
£200	125	Maura Charleton
£70	58	Anne Rockliffe
£50	16	Mary Turner
£10	279	Amy Ewolonu

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.