

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent – 22nd March 2026

Parish Priest:	Fr Richard Elson VF	richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com	01225 752152
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 21 st Mar	4pm	St Thomas More's	Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Brian Routledge (RIP)</i>
Sun 22 nd Mar	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>Roger Bawden (RIP) & Peter Howitt (RIP)</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Catherine Boyle (RIP)</i>
	12.30pm	St John's		<i>People of the Parish</i>
Mon 23 rd Mar	No Mass		Weekday of Lent	
Tues 24 th Mar	6pm	Parish Centre Hall	Weekday of Lent	<i>Fr Connie Campbell (RIP)</i>
Wed 25 th Mar	9am	St Thomas More's	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Thurs 26 th Mar	10am	St Bernadette's	Weekday of Lent	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Fri 27 th Mar	9am	Parish Centre Hall	Weekday of Lent	<i>Brenda Skinner (RIP)</i>
Sat 28 th Mar	4pm	St Thomas More's	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Fr Danny (Intentions)</i>

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



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

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds – what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH DECORATIONS- REDUCED SEATING AT 10.30AM MASS THIS SUNDAY

The decorations at St John's started last week and continue through this week: 23rd -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 this Sunday 22nd March. Please consider attending this additional Mass.

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 THIS WEEKEND

This 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 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 final session is this Friday 27th March. All welcome.

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND- NEXT WEEKEND

Please note Mass at St Bernadette's will begin 10 minutes earlier than usual at 8.50am.

At St John the Baptist, the 10.30am Mass will start with the blessing of the Palms in the Parish Centre followed by the procession to the Church. Please gather in the hall of the Parish Centre. The car park will be closed at 10.15am in order to keep the processional route clear. Please remember that additional parking is available at St Augustine's College.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION- NEXT WEEKEND

The next food bank collection at St John's is next weekend- 28/29th March. For a list of suitable items to donate please see the noticeboard or ask Eve. Please do consider donating to this worthwhile cause.

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

COACH FOR THE CHRISM MASS

St. Anthony's in Melksham have organised a coach for the Chrism Mass on April 1st at the Cathedral. Cars can be parked at St. Anthony's and the Coach is leaving King Street Car Park at 8.30am which is a 5 minute walk from St. Anthony's. The cost is £15. Those who would like a seat on this coach need to give names and contact numbers by 27th March to: melksham.stanthonyofpadua@cliftondiocese.com or calling 01225 401265

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 Church 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. Christmas and Easter offerings (along with offerings for Mass intentions, Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals) are a Parish Priest's main source of personal income.

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.

CONSIDERATE PARKING AT ST. JOHN'S

When attending Mass at St. John's can we ask all parishioners to be respectful and considerate when parking on and off the Church site. Please ensure you are parked legally and not across someone else's driveway and be mindful of others when parking your cars.

MINIATURE TILES FOR COLLECTION

For anyone who 'bought a tile' and ordered a miniature tile some of them are being delivered this week and will be distributed in the Parish Centre after Mass on Sunday.

SPONSORED WALK IN AID OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

There is going to be a sponsored walk on Sunday 10th May to raise funds for the works happening at St. John's. A number of volunteers and helpers will be needed for this so if you are free and able to help please contact either Mike Heather: mike284305@btinternet.com or Anne Howard: annehoward0@gmail.com

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>

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.

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.

