

# 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 Easter – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 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>	01225 698791
		<a href="mailto:bradford-on-avon.stthomasmore@cliftondiocese.com">bradford-on-avon.stthomasmore@cliftondiocese.com</a>	
	Working hours:	Tue 1-3pm 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 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	4pm	St Thomas More's	Fifth Sunday of Easter	<i>Finn and Martin Families (Ints)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>People of the Parish</i>
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>Len &amp; Joy Howe (RIP)</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Holy Souls</i>
	12.30pm	St John's		
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>No Mass</b>		Feast of the English Martyrs	
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>No Mass</b>		Weekday of Easter	
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>No Mass</b>		Weekday of Easter	
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	St Bernadette's	Weekday of Easter	<i>Private Intention</i>
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>6pm</b>	St John's	Mass for the Pope on the Anniversary of Election	<i>Pope Leo XIV</i>
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> May	4pm	St Thomas More's	Sixth Sunday of Easter	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Bishop Bosco MacDonald</i>

### Today's Readings



### 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

### THE WORD THIS WEEK

We continue to explore the meaning of baptism, of membership of the Church, of living a life which has been immersed in the life and death of Jesus Christ: in other words, we continue our 'Mystagogy' - our training in the mystery of Baptism and the other Sacraments. We hear more about 'who Jesus is', with another 'I am' statement: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life". We are baptised into his way, his truth and his life. We hear about the earliest community struggling with the life they are called to by baptism, and Peter again reminds us that baptism builds us into a 'spiritual house' with Jesus as our cornerstone. The mystery of the Church is clearly before us today: the Church is the community of those baptised in Christ, the pilgrim people walking with Christ (who has shown us the Father) to the place he has prepared for us. Today's reading can perhaps make us think a little about how we form part of this 'spiritual house', the Church, as we journey to the Father.

### **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Tony Ronan died on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please pray for him and his family.

### **DECORATION WORKS AT ST. JOHN'S**

The Church will be closed until the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> May with the exception of weekend Masses. Due to the reduced seating available there will be an additional 12.30pm Mass this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### **NEWLY PAINTED WALLS- ST. JOHN'S**

Please can parishioners be very careful when seated next to the newly painted walls. We have already had significant scratches and staining that need to be remedied.

### **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION COURSE**

For all those who have already been enrolled on the Confirmation preparation course a reminder that the course starts on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May from 7pm- 8.30pm in the Parish Centre.

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

The next drop in will be on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May from 2-4pm. Do come along for some delicious cake. All welcome.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

We are in need of volunteers for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary fun day on 27<sup>th</sup> June at St. Augustine's School. If you can spare some time please contact Eve in the office.

### **MARIAN PROCESSION AND MAY CROWNING OF OUR LADY**

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May there will be the Marian Procession starting at St. John's Primary School at 09.45am. Everyone is welcome to join the Children's Rosary as they process to the Church, via St. Augustine's. The 5<sup>th</sup> decade of the Rosary will be prayed in the Church before Mass and the crowning of Our Lady will take place at the start of Mass.

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR THE COFFEE ROTA**

We are in need of more volunteers for the Sunday morning Coffee Rota at St John's. The more people on the rota, the less onerous the commitment so please do consider joining if you can.

### **ST. BERNADETTE'S PLANT SALE**

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May after the 9am Mass St. Bernadette's will be hosting their annual plant sale. Cash only sales. Bring plants either before Mass or anytime on the Saturday and leave on the path by the side of the Church.

### **GOVERNOR VACANCY ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Governors of St. Johns Primary School are reaching out to parishioners who may be interested in becoming a future Foundation Governor. Governors play a strategic role in the school which includes monitoring performance, welfare and representing the Bishop. For more information on the role please contact the Chair, Mike Simmons: [chair@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@st-johns-trowbridge.wilts.sch.uk)

### **GIFT AID- NEW TAX YEAR REMINDER**

As we enter a new tax year, parishioners who donate by Standing Order or envelopes are asked to review their tax status. With frozen personal allowances and rising pension income, some may now be paying tax and could help the parish by joining the Gift Aid scheme at no extra cost. A simple form allows the parish to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated from HMRC. Existing Gift Aid donors are also reminded to check that they are not claiming more than their tax paid allows, especially after generous support for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal. A general guide is that Gift Aid donations should not exceed four times the tax paid. Higher-rate taxpayers may claim additional relief through their tax return. For advice or Gift Aid forms, please contact: Mike Heather, Parish Gift Aid Manager 01225 762966 [mike284305@btinternet.com](mailto:mike284305@btinternet.com)

### **DR SCOTT HAHN VISIT**

Dr Scott Hahn is a Catholic writer, author, broadcaster and teacher. He is coming to this country in May and will be speaking at St John the Evangelist in Bath on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm (doors from 6pm). It will be a ticketed event only at £20 per person. This is a truly great opportunity for our diocese to welcome Dr Hahn -You will not want to miss this great speaker. To buy a ticket please see: <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/oicym1q4>

### **INVESTITURE OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL**

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, the eve of Pentecost, there will be a distribution and investiture of the Miraculous Medal in the Church of Our Lady & St Alphege, Oldfield Park, Bath which will be followed by Exposition, Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Afterwards there will be refreshments in the hall. Further details on the flyer on the noticeboard.

### **SYMPOSIUM TO EXPLORE THE TEACHINGS OF POPE LEO IN HIS APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION 'DILEXI TE'**

'Now is the Time' is a Symposium to explore the teachings of Pope Leo in his Apostolic Exhortation 'Dilexi Te' (Love for the Poor) at St Brendan's College, Brislington, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Our keynote speakers will be Bishop Bosco MacDonald, Sir John Battle KC\*SG and Raymond Friel (CSAN). We will start the day at 10am (refreshments from 9.30am) and finish at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch. To register for the day please use the Eventbrite link: <https://dilexite.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026, the Diocese of Clifton will be observing the National Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse. The theme for this year's Day of Prayer looks at Domestic Abuse which causes pain and fear that prevent its victims from living the life Jesus came to bring. This day invites us to pause as a Diocesan family to: Pray for all survivors and victims of domestic abuse, acknowledge the profound impact of abuse within families and relationships and commit ourselves anew to listening, safeguarding, and creating safe spaces in our Church communities. We recognise that this day may be especially challenging for some, and we encourage anyone who is affected to seek support. The Clifton Diocese Safeguarding Team is available to listen, offer support, and respond to safeguarding concerns with care, respect, and confidentiality. Tel: 01179540993 Email: [safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com)

### **ENCOUNTER 2026- FROM EASTERTIDE TO PENTECOST**

Join us for a series of inspiring evenings exploring how the Holy Spirit calls, guides and sends each of us on mission in our vocations. Our next speaker is Fr Stephen Corrigan. In person at Clifton Cathedral (or livestream or YouTube after the event) Tuesdays, 21 April – 19 May | 7:00–9:00pm. For more information: [Encounter@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:Encounter@cliftondiocese.com) or ring Ann on 07815 751 556.

### **CAFOD: STAND WITH SUDAN**

On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, CAFOD asks for your help: "So many in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger and disease. That is why I'm asking you to consider setting up a monthly gift to support families who are fleeing the violence." Donate at <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/stand-with-sudan>

### **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.

