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 Advent – 29th November 2026

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This Week's Mass Times

Sat 28th Nov	4pm	St Thomas More's	First Sunday of Advent (B)	*Private Intention*
	6pm	St John's		*People of the Parish*
Sun 29th Nov	9am	St Bernadette's		*Joan Lyle (RIP)*
	10.30am	St John's		*Anne Conway (RIP) (Ann)*
Mon 30th Nov	***No Mass***		Feast of Saint Andrew	
Tues 1st Dec	***No Mass***		Memorial of Saint Alexander Briant	
Wed 2nd Dec	11.30am	St John's	Funeral Mass	*Barbara Maxwell (RIP)*
Thurs 3rd Dec	10am	St Bernadette's	Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier	*Claudine Oakes (RIP) (Ann)*
Fri 4th Dec	***No Mass***		Memorial of Saint Osmund	
Sat 5th Dec	9.30am	St John's	Weekday of Advent	
	4pm	St Thomas More's	Second Sunday of Advent (B)	
	6pm	St John's		*Anne Whitehead (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

Adoration

Thurs	9.30-10.30am	St John's
Fri	8.00-9.00pm	St John's

Morning Prayer

Sat 5th	9am	St John's

THE WORD THIS WEEK

Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: *"O that you would rend the heavens and come down!"* is the cry, of a people who need God. *"...The master is coming"* is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless, we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today!

SECOND COLLECTION- NEXT WEEKEND

The Poor Missions of the Diocese fund enables the Bishop to support some of the financially less fortunate parishes in our Diocese. This is one collection that reminds us of the support and encouragement we give to each other as a Diocesan family, and our responsibility to care for our wider family in the diocese.

FUNERALS

The funeral for Barbara Maxwell will be at St. John's on Wednesday 2nd December at 11.30am. Please pray for her and her family.

The funeral for Anne Whitehead will be at St John's on Friday 11th December at 12 noon. Please pray for her and her family.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Michael Glynn and Richard McCraith died recently. Their funerals will be announced in due course. Please pray for them and their families

WEDDING

Dean Watts and Maria Lopez are getting married at St. John's on Fri 4th Dec. Please pray for them as they start this next journey of life together.

BAPTISM

Rafael Fernandes will be baptised at St. John's on Sat 5th Dec. Please pray for him and his family as we welcome him into the family of the Church

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

Fri 4th Dec from 8-9pm at St John's

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Masses this year will be at the following times:

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6pm St John's

9pm St Thomas More's

11pm St John's

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day

9am St Bernadette's

10.30am St John's

ADVENT WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS AND CALENDARS FOR THE CHILDREN

The Advent 'Walk with Me' Booklets are now available from all Churches in time for the start of Advent. They are £1.50 each. There are Calendars also available for the children.

FOOD BANK- ST. JOHN'S

The next food bank collection will be after Masses this weekend- 28/29th November. There is a list of suitable items on the notice board in St. John's or you can email Eve. Please do consider donating to this worthwhile cause.

TEA AND CHAT- ST. JOHN'S

The next tea and chat will be in the Parish Centre on Thurs 3rd Dec from 2pm. All are welcome.

BLESSING OF BAMBINELLI – 13th DEC

This is a beautiful Advent Tradition – Bambinelli Sunday, Blessing the Christ Child – which has been celebrated in Rome for over thirty years and helps children and young people to prepare for Jesus. Each family will bring the Christ Child from its own crib or Nativity scene and the Pope blesses it during the noon Angelus that day. It is a wonderful way to bring family and parish together. Following that tradition, I encourage families to bring the baby Jesus from their own cribs to church on the Third Sunday of Advent and, at the end of Mass, I will bless the Bambinelli which have been brought to church. Everyone is welcome to take part – young and old alike. Fr Richard

PARISH CAROL SERVICE

On Sun 20th Dec at 4pm, there will be our annual carol service at St. John's followed with mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Centre. Do come along to this festive afternoon.

CHILDREN'S ROSARY- FUNDRAISING

During Advent, we are fundraising to help spread the Children's Rosary to schools & parishes across the country. The children will be selling raffle tickets and cakes during teas & coffees after Sunday morning Mass. SINCERIS will also be selling a small selection of Christmas gifts with 25% of proceeds being donated too.

EPIPHANY RECEPTION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS ACROSS OUR THREE CHURCHES

On Tuesday 5th January, after our evening Epiphany Vigil Mass, Father Richard would like to invite all Church Volunteers to an evening reception of drinks and nibbles at St. John's Parish Centre to thank you for all that you do. It would be good to get an idea of numbers for catering purposes so if you intend to come could you please let Eve know.

HOLYDAYS OF OBLIGATION 2027

The following dates are Holydays of Obligation which occur on a weekday in 2027 (apart from Christmas Day):

The Epiphany of the Lord – Wed 6th Jan

The Ascension of the Lord – Thurs 6th May

Saints Peter and Paul – Tues 29th Jun

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027 REGISTRATION

Our next First Holy Communion and First Confession preparation programme will start on 21st January and run on certain Thursday evenings at St. John's Parish Centre until June (dates will be given to parents upon registration). If your child has been Baptised and is in school year 3 and above you can enrol them by filling in the online form: First Holy Communion Registration 2027 Alternatively, the form can be found on the parish website. Deadline for registration is Friday 1st January 2027. There will be no registrations past this date.

CONFIRMATION 2027 ENROLMENT

Our next Confirmation preparation programme will start on the 13th April 2026 and run every Tuesday evening at St. John's Parish Centre for 7 weeks (not including half term). If your child is in school year 9 or above and has taken their First Holy Communion you can enrol them by filling in the online form (Please note a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate needs to be emailed/given to Eve along with the registration form in order for your child to be allocated a place on the programme) Confirmation 2027 enrolment form Alternatively, the form can be found on the parish website. Deadline for registration is 12th February 2027. No registrations will be taken after this date.

ST. JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

St. John's primary school warmly invite prospective families to visit St John's Catholic Primary School and experience their welcoming, faith-filled community. Tours are available on: Wed 9th Dec, Thurs 7th Jan & Tues 12th Jan- at 9.15am or 10.30am on all dates. To book please visit the following link: St. John's Catholic Primary School

RESIDENTIAL MARRIAGE COURSE

Join us on the weekend of 8th – 10th January exploring the theology of Marriage, based on Scripture and structured around the Rite itself. With time for personal reflection and exercises, sharing in couples and as a group, this weekend course serves as a standalone or as an accompaniment to other in-person or online courses. For more information and to book: www.christianheritagecentre.com

UK PRAYS-THIS SUNDAY

The next public rosary will be at the War Memorial in the Park in Trowbridge this Sunday 29th November at 4.30pm. All welcome.