

**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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28th July 2024

Parish Priest: Father Richard Elson richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com 01225 752152

Parish websites: www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk
www.together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/bradfordonavon/churches/stthomasmore/

This Week's Mass Times

Sat 27 th Jul	4pm	St Thomas More's	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	<i>Peter (RIP)</i>
	6pm	St John's		<i>Micenec Family</i>
Sun 28 th Jul	9am	St Bernadette's		<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.30am	St John's		<i>Special Intention</i>
Mon 29 th Jul	No Mass		Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus	
Tues 30 th Jul	6pm	St John's	Weekday in Ordinary Time	
Wed 31 st Jul	12noon	St Thomas More's	Funeral Mass	<i>Malcolm Jackson (RIP)</i>
Thurs 1 st Aug	10am	St Bernadette's	Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Mary Liguori	
Fri 2 nd Aug	9am	St John's	Memorial of Saint Peter Julian Eymard	
Sat 3 rd Aug	4pm	St Thomas More's	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	6pm	St John's		

Confessions

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

THE WORD THIS WEEK

Last week the Gospel ended on a cliffhanger - Jesus 'set himself to teach the people at some length'. Today we begin five weeks of that teaching, at a rare point where John's Gospel parallels that of Mark, beginning with the feeding of the crowds - five thousand men (John does not add 'beside women and children'.) This miracle of Jesus is the only one to be found in all four Gospels, but there are a few details which John adds. The first is It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. This cannot be incidental; it is associating this meal with the feast, perhaps as the new Passover. The second is after the gathering up of the fragments, so that nothing gets wasted. What does this instruction of Jesus himself mean? There are different opinions - is it an allusion to the reverence due to the Eucharist? It rather resembles the words in the Didache, 'as grain once scattered on the hillside, now in this broken bread made one.' But it may be a way of emphasising the abundance of the gift - in v.27, Jesus says 'do not work for food that cannot last' - like the bread in this story. In the Old Testament parallel in the First Reading there is also an overabundance. The beneficiaries of these miracles were fed and filled, their hunger was entirely satisfied, all their desires were granted. Finally, note that John specifies barley loaves. Barley was the earliest grain crop and ready about the time of the Passover.

FROM CANON TOM

Canon Tom would like to express his sincere gratitude to all parishioners at St. Thomas More, St. Bernadette's and St. John's for all the kind words, cards and gifts before and during his departure to Bristol. Also, a massive thank you for the kind parting cheque presented to him at Mrs. Tracey Sessions Retirement Mass on the 23rd July. It will be spent wisely!

ST THOMAS MORE'S

Coffee, tea and cake after Mass next Saturday, 3rd August. All are welcome.

CONFIRMATION

Bishop Bosco will be coming to Saint John's to celebrate this year's Confirmation Mass on Tuesday 19th November. Application forms are now available, and a programme of preparation will begin in September. Copies of the form are available in all of the churches and have been sent out with the newsletter. Anyone who will be in Year 9 (current Year 8) or above can apply for the programme. Please return completed application forms to the presbytery, or email to richard.elson@cliftondiocese.com

APPEAL FOR CATECHISTS

I will need some help from catechists with running this year's Confirmation programme, and with next year's First Holy Communion programme. Many thanks for those who have already replied; if anyone else feels that they may be able to help out, please let me know. Fr Richard.

MALCOLM JACKSON RIP

The Funeral Mass of Malcolm Jackson, who died on 29th June, will take place at St Thomas More's Church on Wednesday 31st July at 12 noon. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

PARISH MEETINGS

I would like to hold a series of parish meetings, after the summer holidays, in order to help discern the pastoral needs of our parishes. The first of these meetings will be held at St Thomas More's in September. Further details to follow. Fr Richard.

HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION

Thursday 15th August is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is a Holyday of Obligation. I would like to standardise the Mass times for Holydays of Obligation and I would appreciate any thoughts or suggestions that people might have. The following are the dates of Holydays of Obligation for 2024 and 2025, which do not fall on, or are transferred to, a Sunday:

Thurs 15 th Aug 2024	The Assumption of Mary
Fri 1 st Nov 2024	All Saints
Thurs 29 th May 2025	The Ascension of the Lord
Fri 15 th Aug 2025	The Assumption of Mary

I will confirm the Mass times for 15th Aug as soon as possible. Fr Richard

TROWBRIDGE FOOD BANK

As always, a massive thank you to all who have contributed to the Trowbridge Foodbank Collection each month. Many people rely on your generosity. The next collection will take place this weekend. Please leave you donated goods in the Church Porch at St. John's and St. Bernadette's.

PASTORAL LETTER

Bishop Bosco has written his first Pastoral Letter, which will be read at all Masses this weekend.

ADOREMUS

It is some time away yet, but there is a National Eucharistic Congress taking place at Saint Mary's College, Oscott, on Saturday 14th September. Whilst there are representatives from each diocese taking part, each parish is nevertheless invited to host a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Watch this space.

CATHOLIC MOTHERS BATH & WEST WILTSHIRE

A new group for mothers to meet once a month for Mass at St John's the Evangelist, Bath and then afterwards in the hall to share tea, cake, faith and fellowship. Children are most welcome. It was wonderful to meet so many mothers at our first meeting, and we look forward to coming together again on Monday 12th August after the 9.30 Mass. Contact Amy on 07872382979 to find out more.

NEW LECTIONARY

The Lectionary, which is the book that contains the Scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments, is changing. The new Lectionary will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter. The New Lectionary will come into use on the First Sunday of Advent this year. The Catholic Truth Society and Redemptorist Publications will be publishing new people's Missals. Further information is available on their websites.

The Catholic Truth Society has also provided some more information about the Lectionaries that will be used in church – including images of some sample pages: <https://www.ctsbooks.org/lectionary-site/inside-lectionary/>

Readers might find it helpful to start looking at this information.

CAR PARKING 10.30 MASS

Please note, overflow car-park at St. Augustine's is available every Sunday morning.

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.

