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Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

St Monica's Presbytery, Bradford Old Road BD16 1SA

7th December 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent

Diocese of Leeds Charity Number 249404

*O Lord, may your words be on our lips, and in our hearts.
May they give us courage and hope – and draw us nearer to you.*

Mass Schedule for the week beginning Saturday 6th December 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Private Intention
Saturday 6/Sunday 7 December	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Parish
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Priest's Intention
Monday 8 December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	No Mass		
Tuesday 9 December	No Mass		
Wednesday 10 December Our Lady of Loreto	No Mass		
Thursday 11 December	No Mass		
Friday 12 December	No Mass		
3rd Sunday of Advent Year A	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Special Intention
Saturday 13/Sunday 14 December	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Parish
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish Dead List



Isaiah's vision of a new shoot from Jesse's stump reminds us that God brings life even from what seems dead. Advent is a season of hope—trusting that God is doing something new in our lives. Paul urges us to live in peace and glorify God together. Advent is not only personal preparation but also communal—building bridges, forgiving, and fostering unity. This vision challenges us: Are we instruments of peace in our families, workplaces, and communities?

John the Baptist reminds us that faith is not lip service. It must bear fruit—acts of kindness, justice, and mercy. Advent invites us to examine our hearts and remove obstacles that block God's grace. His fiery words shake us out of complacency: Are we ready for Christ's coming, or are we clinging to comfort and pride? Perhaps as part of our Advent we could spend time in prayer and silence—like the desert where John preached—to hear God's voice or make a concrete act of repentance: forgive someone, reconcile, or let go of a harmful habit.

Lord Jesus Christ, come into our hearts and homes, remove all that divides us, and teach us to walk in Your ways of justice and harmony. May this light remind us that Your peace is stronger than fear and darkness.

Parish Notices

The Holy Father's Intention for December: For Christians In Areas Of Conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Parish Christmas Card: If you or your family would like to be included in this year's card, please take an envelope at church and clearly write on the name(s) you wish to be printed on the card; if you are able to make a donation please put the money into the envelope. Envelopes will be collected by Jackie Kirton at Cottingley and Colin Spiller at Bingley by Sunday 14th December. The proceeds will be shared between Bradford Baby Bank and Bingley Food Bank.

Ministers at Masses this weekend

Saturday 06/12 17:00 Eucharistic minister Michael Rewilak
Reader Barbara Hladowski
Sunday 07/12 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Teresa Mills
Readers R Anne Monaghan, P Kevin King
Sunday 07/12 11:15 Eucharistic minister Deirdre Naylor
Reader Viv Drake

Ministers at Masses next weekend

Saturday 13/12 17:00 Eucharistic minister Mark Startin
Reader Anne McArthur
Sunday 14/12 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Danuta Petrie
Readers R Elaine Schack, P Mark Brennan
Sunday 14/12 11:15 Eucharistic minister Jean Denman
Reader Jeremy Charnock

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick and those who care for them, especially:

Anita Austick	Liam Kay	Margaret N
Angela Barnes	Jacob Kinsey	David Ohr
Marisa Bell	Ria Koetsier	Tony Shipman
Maria Binns	Melissa Le Coultre	Steven Shaw
Michael Bradley	Patricia Long	Neil Smith
Ellerie Carroll	Richard Longden	Maureen Thompson
Sylvie Cantopher	Brian Marie	Jeff Trotter
Frieda Clapham	Andrew Markham	Mary Walker
Anna Danys	Christine Matthews	Sandra Walton
Barbara Furniss	Paul McMenamin	Lisa White
Paul Gallagher	Harry McKenna	Ann Wilkinson
Vincenzo Greco	Philomena McKenna	Madeleine Wilkins
Ian Harrison	Joan Meggitt	
Elizabeth Hartley	John Moran	

Please contact Colin 01274 566332 with any changes to this list.

A coffee morning/social gathering will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at Sacred Heart Church. Everyone is welcome. The next will be on 9th December from 10.00 to 11.30

CHORDIALITY Christmas Concert

on Sunday 21st December 2025 at 3 pm at First Martyrs Church, Heaton. Tickets are £10 for adults, including seasonal refreshments after the concert. Children under 12 are free. Tickets available from Anne Copley (07980 006213) and from any member of Chordiality.

In the Parish room at Sacred Heart there are **free prayer cards and spiritual resources** donated by a parishioner. Please help yourself. There is also a wonderful Memory Book about Christ the King Church at Crossflatts which has been gifted to us. Please take a look.

Singers for Parish Christmas Eve Vigil Mass (6pm with Carols beforehand) Wed 24th Dec at St Mary & St Monica's;

As usual, we're organising a Singing Group to help lead the singing at this year's Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. For those able to attend, there will be **practices** (finishing by 11am) **after Cottingley 9.15 Sunday Masses on 7th, 14th and 21st December**. If interested, contact paul.wildegeese@btinternet.com, or just turn up at a practice – and please tell anyone else you think might like to be involved. Many Thanks

Please email **items for the parish bulletin** to me (Colin) at bulletin@ourladyandstjoseph.org.uk before Wednesday and I'll try to fit your item in.

Children's Liturgy We'll be taking a break during the Christmas holidays and there'll be no Children's Liturgy after Sunday 13th December. We look forward to seeing the children again on Sunday 11th January.

The Parish Memorial Book (Book of Remembrance)

The book has these memories for this coming week:

6	Albert Gough	11	May Palmer
6	Donald Williams	11	Thomas Hill
6	Mary Williams	12	Theresa Hunt-Wilkinson
8	William Thomas Broadfoot	13	Ziggy Kirkiewicz (Ziggy)
9	Marcella Maria Cantopher	14	Marion Crowther
10	Maria Antonina Brown	14	Maureen Johnston

To have your loved ones included in the Parish Memorial Book, please send their name and date of death to bulletin@ourladyandstjoseph.org.uk

CAFOD: Laudato Si' tells us that 'the earth cries out to us because of the harm that humans have inflicted on her' and that 'a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach: it must integrate questions of justice in debates about the environment'. As COP 30 takes place in Brazil we ask for your help on CAFOD's Global Day for Climate Action. Please write to the Energy Minister Ed Miliband to call for climate justice: action.cafod.org.uk/page/178976/action/1 and please pray for the care of the earth, our shared home: *O God you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation. Pour upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty. Give us hope in our struggle for justice, love and peace for people and for the earth. Amen.*

The Christmas Party for our Senior Parishioners will be on Sunday 7th December at 2pm. The afternoon starts with a Carol Service and is followed by Afternoon tea, a raffle and entertainment from Sophie Holdsworth. It is free to attend. SVP members will be contacting people who we visit regularly to gather numbers for catering. If you would like to join in you would be most welcome. Please ring Anne McArthur on [01274 551091](tel:01274551091) to book a place.

Laudato Si' Advent Eco-Fair, Hinsley Hall, 62 Headingley Lane, Headingley LS6 2BX, Saturday 13 December 10am to 3pm. FREE entry! Stalls, activities, advice, refreshments! PLUS Adoration in the Chapel & (weather dependent) short Rosary Walk. If YOUR parish, business, or charity would like a stall, contact communications@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

UCM Christmas Raffle in aid of Candlelighters.

Tickets will be sold at all Masses on the weekends of December 13/14th and 20/21st. The Draw will be after 11.15 Mass on December 21st. Tickets 50p each

Christingle Service We'll be holding our Christingle Service on Sunday 14th December during the 9:15am Mass at Cottingley. Children are welcome to join us in the rear room at the start of Mass when we'll prepare our Christingles before rejoining their families at the Offertory. At the end of Mass the children will join us at the front of Church to share what the Christingle is all about. Everyone welcome.

CAFOD have a guide to Pope Leo's new exhortation Dilexi Te'. This is about the Church and poverty. The guide can be found at cafod.org.uk/pray/dilexi-te-explained

Winter Shelter 2026: Thank you to Ruth Core who has agreed to co-ordinate this which will take place from Monday evening, 2nd to Monday morning, 9th February 2026. Now we need volunteers! Please call Ruth on 07737 179948.