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Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

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

21st December 2025

4th 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 20th December 2025

4th Sunday of Advent Year A Saturday 20/Sunday 21 December	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Brian Davies
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Geoff Taylor
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish
Monday 22 December	10 am Mass		Terry and Cecilia Gibson (Lately Dead)
Tuesday 23 December	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Danny Kay
Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve	5:40 Carol Service 6:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass	Cottingley	Parish
Thursday 25 December Christmas Day or The Nativity of the Lord	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Josie Glacken (Anniversary)
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	John Rawnsley (Anniversary)
Friday 26 December St Stephen, the first Martyr	10 am Mass	Bingley	Pat Ahern
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Saturday 27/Sunday 28 December	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Priest's Intention
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Sheila Patton
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish



As the world rushes toward Christmas, this Sunday invites us to pause: God is truly with us, in our struggles and joys. Today's Gospel brings us into the quiet drama of Joseph's heart. He discovers that Mary, his betrothed, is with child—and his world turns upside down. Joseph is described as a "just man," and in his justice, he chooses mercy. He plans to protect Mary from shame, even as he steps away. But then, in the silence of his struggle, God speaks: "Do not be afraid... the child is from the Holy Spirit."

This moment teaches us something profound: God often enters our lives not in noise or grandeur, but in the midst of our confusion and fear. Joseph

listens. He obeys. And through his trust, the promise of Isaiah is fulfilled: "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel—God with us."

As we stand on the threshold of Christmas, this is our invitation: to believe that God is truly with us—in our homes, our workplaces, our joys, and even our uncertainties. Like Joseph, we may not understand everything, but we can choose faith over fear, obedience over doubt.

So, let us prepare not just our homes, but our hearts. Clean hands and pure hearts, as the Psalm says, ready to welcome the King of Glory. Emmanuel is coming—not as an idea, but as a living presence. May we open the door wide.

"God of all promise, like Isaiah, grant us hope; like Joseph, grant us obedience; like the Psalmist, cleanse our hearts. As advent draws near to Christmas, may we embrace Emmanuel—God with us—and let His presence transform our waiting into joyful trust."

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.

Ministers at Masses this weekend

Saturday 20/12 17:00 Eucharistic minister Michael Rewilak
Reader Mark Startin

Sunday 21/12 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Christine Acomb
Readers R Helena Harrington, P Ann McKerchar

Sunday 21/12 11:15 Eucharistic minister Peter Harrison
Reader Julie Martin

Ministers at Masses next weekend

Saturday 27/12 17:00 Eucharistic minister Michael Rewilak
Reader Peter Taylor

Sunday 28/12 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Sue Wilkinson
Readers R John McElroy, P Anne Monaghan

Sunday 28/12 11:15 Eucharistic minister Jean Denman
Reader Irene Stanford-Wood

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

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

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

The Knights of St Columba have again donated **"Keep Christ in Christmas" posters**. Please take one and display it in your window. (Available at both churches)

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.

A heartfelt thanks from the SVP to all those who came to the Christmas party on 7th December. We had a great afternoon with a reflective Carol Service, a scrumptious tea and terrific entertainment. Thanks also to all who came to support the **Carols for a Cow** event recently. £895 was raised.

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 21st December.** If interested, contact paul.wildgeese@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:

20 Alice Arnold	25 Mary Hanney
22 Catherine Cowan	26 Edwin Michael Watson
23 Frances Days	26 Mary Monaghan
23 Jonathan Willis	26 Patrick Joseph Campbell
23 Mary McGrory	26 Thomas Toothill
24 Kevin Stewart	27 Edgar Brearley
25 E.F.J. Plowden	28 Christine Martin
25 John Rawnsley	28 Mary Addy

To have your loved ones included in the Parish Memorial Book, please send their name and date of death to

bulletin@ourladyandstjoseph.org.uk

Dead List Masses: there are forty five Masses which will be said throughout the year. In a change to previous years the Dead List is displayed in each church and the actual lists are behind the display. Do take time to check the list and let me know if there are any mistakes. Thank you. Fr Pollard

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Vincenzo Greco** who died recently. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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 Milliband 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.*

St Joseph's Catholic primary school Parent and Friend Association has arranged a **fundraising evening for the school with Shama restaurant in Bingley**. On Monday 19th January, Shama will open at 7pm exclusively for friends and family of the school and parish, charging £20 per head for a set meal [Poppadoms and pickle tray to share, any starter, any main, any sundry but BYO alcohol], with £10 per meal purchased donated directly back to the PFA. There will be a "winter warmer" themed raffle on the evening, all donations of prizes for the raffle gratefully received by Monday 12th January.

Book your tickets at the school office

There are a few copies of the **2026 Diocese of Leeds Directory** available at both churches. £5 each.

There are some **2026 Missio calendars** in the foyer of each church. Please feel free to take one. There are also some Missio magazines (with freepost envelope) which have information on how to donate.

UCM Christmas Raffle in aid of Candlelighters.

Tickets will be sold at all Masses on the weekend of December 20/21st. The Draw will be after 11.15 Mass on December 21st. Tickets are 50p each

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 if you can help.