

Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

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

28th December 2025

Feast of the Holy Family

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 27th December 2025

Feast of the Holy Family Year A 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
Monday 29 December St Thomas Becket	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Patty Cahill Anniversary
Tuesday 30 December	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Sheila and Tony Monaghan
Wednesday 31 December	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Parish
Thursday 1 January Mary, the Holy Mother of God	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Margaret and Arthur Jenkins Anniversary
Friday 2 January Ss Basil and Gregory	10 am Mass	Bingley	Terry and Cecilia Gibson
2nd Sunday after Christmas Year A Saturday 3/Sunday 4 January	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Special Intention
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Parish
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Addy and Clarkson Families

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family — Jesus, Mary, and Joseph — a model of love, faith, and unity for all Christian families. This feast reminds us that holiness begins at home. The family is the first school of love, forgiveness, and faith. In the Gospel, we see Joseph and Mary's obedience to God's will, even in uncertainty. They trusted God completely, and their home became a dwelling place of divine love.

The Holy Family faced challenges—poverty, exile, danger—but they remained faithful and united. This teaches us that holiness is not about a life without problems, but about responding to life's trials with trust in God and love for one another.

As we reflect today: Do we make time for prayer as a family? Do we practice patience and forgiveness at home? Do we allow God to be at the centre of our relationships?

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless my family. Help us to live in harmony, to forgive generously, and to keep God at the heart of our home. Amen.

Blessing of Homes: Sunday 11 January is the feast of the baptism of Our Lord. On that Sunday I am asking each household to bring a small bottle of water to Mass where it will be blessed and then can be used to bless and protect your home and family when you return.

 to all those who helped to set up our churches for Christmas, those who cleaned, organised the flowers and set up the cribs and decorations. To those who prepared and provided the music and readings. Also thank you once more for your generosity in the collection and for your many cards and gifts. May God bless you for your help and support.

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 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

Ministers at Masses next weekend

Saturday 03/01 17:00 Eucharistic minister Mark Startin
Reader Patrick Abbott

Sunday 04/01 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Helena Harrington
Readers R Kevin King, P Elaine Schack

Sunday 04/01 11:15 Eucharistic minister Deirdre Naylor
Reader Viv Drake

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 Coultrre	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.

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.

Christmas Eve Singing Group. Well done and many thanks to the twenty six parishioners who volunteered to help lead the singing and play music at our Christmas Vigil Mass, some for the very first time. It was a lovely way to mark and celebrate the start of Christmas in our parish. Thank you for sharing your time and gift with us all. Early notice, for anyone interested; we will be organising our singing group again this coming Easter time!!

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.

UCM Christmas Raffle 2025 winning tickets

1st prize Blue 46 C. Quirk

2nd prize Blue 75 T. Elsworth

3rd prize Yellow 25 B. Lumb

Thank you for all your support. £375.50 was raised for 'Candlelighters' - a charity which supports families of children with cancer.

The Parish Memorial Book (Book of Remembrance)

The book has these memories for this coming week:

December 2025

27 Edgar Brearley
28 Christine Martin
28 Mary Addy
29 Edmond Joseph McKenzie
29 Maureen Holmes
29 Paddy Cahill
31 Bernard Paul Palmer

31 Hilary Bottomley

31 Kenneth George Holdcroft
January 2026
1 Margaret Jennings
1 Shantelle Feather
2 Harry Kitching
3 Frank Cureton

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

CAFOD: This Christmas time we remember the people of Sri Lanka, who are suffering from the impact of Cyclone Ditwah, which has destroyed homes, villages and infrastructure. Sri Lankan people are calling for action on the crippling debt burden which is impeding their capacity to recover: "We are trapped by debt. We have to spend almost everything we earn to pay our debt". Please sign the worldwide petition for debt justice: <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign>

Please also remember the people of Sri Lanka, and others affected by the debt and climate crises in your prayers: *Heavenly Father, we pray for the people of Sri Lanka, and all directly affected by the debt and climate crises. We pray that polluting corporations and wealthy nations will listen to the call of suffering peoples and change their ways. Help us to hate evil and love goodness, so that we may disrupt the injustice of the world. May our actions let justice flow like a river so that God's Kingdom is built here on 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.

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.