

Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

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

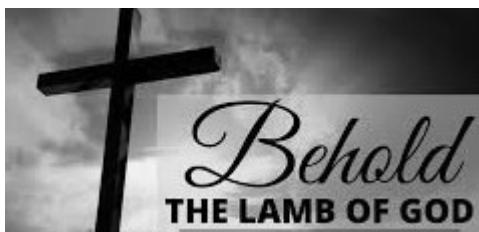
18th January 2026

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.*

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Vincenzo Greco
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Parish
Saturday 17/Sunday 18 January	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Dead List
Monday 19 January	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Chris and Betty Kavanagh
Tuesday 20 January	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Edna Mills
Wednesday 21 January St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Dead list
Thursday 22 January	6.30 – 6.45 pm Confessions 7 pm Mass	Cottingley	Ronnie Parker
Friday 23 January	10 am Mass	Bingley	Stanislaw and Marchalina Gurbis
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Priest's Intention
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	John Kenefick
Saturday 24/Sunday 25 January	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish



"Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." These words are so familiar—heard at every Mass—that we may forget their depth. John is not offering a poetic title or a gentle compliment; he is proclaiming Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb who will freely take upon Himself the weight of our sin, our wounds, and our human frailty. In that brief sentence, he reveals both the mission of Christ and the hope offered to the world.

What is most remarkable is John's humility. Crowds have gathered around him, some even wondering if he might be the Messiah. Yet the moment Jesus appears, John steps back, pointing away from himself and toward the One who surpasses him. His purpose is not to draw attention but to lead others into a deeper encounter with Christ. John embodies what true discipleship looks like: not self-promotion, but self-gift; not spotlight, but service. The revelation of Jesus as the Lamb of God is also a reminder of God's relentless desire to save, heal, and renew us. No burden is too heavy, no sin too deep, no past too broken for the Lamb who takes it all upon Himself. Our task is simply to behold Him—really behold Him—allowing His mercy to reach the places in us that need it most.

This Gospel invites us to examine our own witness. Do our words and actions direct others toward Christ, or toward ourselves? Like John, we are called not only to recognise the Lamb of God but to help others see Him—through kindness offered quietly, forgiveness given generously, and compassion shown consistently.

Parish Notices

Blessing of Candles: On the feast of the Presentation, 2 February, if you wished to have candles blessed for use at home, you are invited to bring to the 10:00am Mass where they will be blessed.

First Sacrament Part 2: Holy Communion will be celebrated on Saturday 16 May in Cottingley at 11:00 am for those who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation last year. Children who are on the program should check in with me after Mass each Sunday.

First Sacraments Part 1: applications are now open for those in year 3 or above who wish to enrol to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this year and the Eucharist next year. Candidates should be attending Mass here regularly. Forms can be obtained from Fr. Pollard after Mass and should be returned to him by the 1 February. Classes will be held in Cottingley on Saturday mornings 10:30-12:00 and at least one parent should attend with their child.

The Holy Father's Intention for January: For Prayer With The Word Of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

Ministers at Masses this weekend

Saturday 17/01 17:00 Eucharistic minister Mark Startin
Reader Anne McArthur

Sunday 18/01 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Teresa Mills
Readers R John McElroy, P Helena Harrington

Sunday 18/01 11:15 Eucharistic minister Deirdre Naylor
Reader Julie Martin

Ministers at Masses next weekend

Saturday 24/01 17:00 Eucharistic minister Michael Rewilak
Reader Mark Startin

Sunday 25/01 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Danuta Petrie
Readers R Teresa Mills, P Susan Holroyd

Sunday 25/01 11:15 Eucharistic minister Jean Denman
Reader Julia Radcliffe

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 Coultr	Steven Shaw
Michael Bradley	Patricia Long	Neil Smith
Ellerie Carroll	Richard Longden	Rosamund Spencer
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
Ian Harrison	Philomena McKenna	Madeleine Wilkins
Elizabeth Hartley	John Moran	

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

Sanctuary Candles are lit each week in memory of your loved ones. Please keep the following in your prayers:
Nora & Peter Spreckley Albert Link

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

Throughout January the **SVP** will be very happy to receive items for future raffles, tombolas or bric a brac, including unwanted Christmas gifts. There will be a box available for donations in both churches. Thanks, Anne

A Day for Catechists "For such as these": Saturday 24th January, 10am-3pm offered by the Diocesan Vicariate for Education - Hinsley Hall. A day aimed at those involved with Children's Liturgy of the Word and other ministry with children. We will explore different resources and ideas to best form our children and young people - with times of prayer, input, Mass and discussion. Free event with lunch provided. Please email formation@dioceseofleeds.org.uk to book your place.

Relics Of St Gerard Majella: On **Thursday 29th January, Leeds Cathedral** will have the privilege of hosting the relics of St Gerard Majella. He is popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, particularly expectant mothers, couples trying to conceive, and those looking for work. Come along to pray in front of his relics, participate in Mass at the Cathedral at 5.30pm, and receive a blessing with his relics.

Also, on **Tuesday 27th January, St Joseph's, Packington Street, Bradford** will have the privilege of hosting these relics. Come along to pray in front of them, participate in Mass at St Joseph's at 6.30pm, and receive a blessing with his relics.

The Parish Memorial Book (Book of Remembrance)

The book has these memories for this coming week:

17 Annie Hunt	21 Rev. Fr. Ken Taylor
17 Richard Clarkson	22 Jan Turner
18 Andrew Hunt	23 Mary Catherine Harker
18 Maria Rowe	23 John Kenefick
19 Theda Barrass	24 Mary Russell – Bristow
21 Annie Winifred Martin	25 Canon Joe Smith

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

The Bradford Deanery Mass for Nigeria, for peace and reconciliation in the country will take place at St Joseph's Church, Bradford, on Tuesday 20th January at 7pm.

CAFOD: Walking in faith

At the start of a new year we often ask, 'what is my new year's resolution?'. Often that's understood in terms of goals or pushing ourselves, but perhaps the most important thing we can do is to keep our love for creation and its Creator alive. Life can be busy, and it can be hard to take a breath, slow down and reconnect with God and God's creation. Giving yourself time to go for a walk can be a wonderful way to take a moment to reflect. It can be a time to talk to God, and to notice the little creatures whom God created and whom he loves (Matt. 10: 29 – 31). You can also pray as you walk....

*God of love, show us our place in this world
as the channels of your love
for all creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
(A prayer from Laudato Si')*

'Peace be with you!' – a retreat day: Saturday 31st January at The Briery, Ilkley. All are invited to join Wharfedale parishioners for a day of prayer and reflection at the start of the year. 10.00-3.30 £35pp including a two-course home-cooked lunch and all refreshments. For more information and to book, contact Beth 01943 607287 or admin@briery.org.uk

December Collections:

Envelopes:	£1003.50
Standing Order Gift Aid:	£2233.00
Standing Order Non Gift Aid:	£261.33
Loose Plate Cottingley:	£529.08
Loose Plate Bingley:	£916.22
Youth Service:	£5
Christmas Offerings:	£1469.22
Parish Christmas card:	£500

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.

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.