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Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

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14th December 2025

3rd 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 13th December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday Year A Saturday 13/Sunday 14 December	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Special Intention
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Parish
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish Dead List
Monday 15 December	10 am Mass		Fr. Richard Carter
Tuesday 16 December	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Edward Adams and Family
Wednesday 17 December	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Marjorie Proctor
Thursday 18 December	6.15-6.45pm Confessions 7 pm Mass	Cottingley	Dead List
Friday 19 December	10 am Mass	Bingley	Sheila Monaghan
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

**Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!**

- Philippians 4:4 -



Our week begins with "Gaudete Sunday." *Gaudete* means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, "The Lord is near." This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose coloured, and the rose-coloured vestments often used at the Eucharist. Isaiah reminds us that it is precisely the desert that will rejoice and bloom. "Be strong, fear not!" James calls the community to "patience." Don't give up the vision! Jesus reminds the disciples of John not to miss the signs of

God's spirit. Signs of power and the outward trappings of success are not what they should look for. They are called to see that "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, the lepers cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." We, too, are called to look for a transformation of values and life. We are called to enter a whole new way of looking at things. Our faith calls us into action filled with hope.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year - this Wednesday. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings changes. The first readings are still from the prophecies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Today we rejoice because Your coming is near. Fill our hearts with gladness that springs from hope and let Your light scatter the darkness of fear and doubt. Come, Lord Jesus, and bring Your peace and joy to the world. Amen.

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 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

Ministers at Masses next 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

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.

At 5:30 on Monday 15th December there will be a **Carol service at Sacred Heart church** led by Year 2. All parishioners are welcome to attend if they wish.

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 14th and 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.

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.

The Parish Memorial Book (Book of Remembrance)

The book has these memories for this coming week:

13 Ziggy Kirkiewicz (Ziggy)	15 Sheila Leftley
14 Marion Crowther	19 Wilhelmina McManus
14 Maureen Johnston	20 Alice Arnold

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 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.*

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)

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 weekends of December 13/14th and 20/21st. The Draw will be after 11.15 Mass on December 21st. Tickets are 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.