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Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

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

12th April 2026

2nd Sunday of Easter

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 of Easter Year A Saturday 11/Sunday 12 April	4.15-4.40 pm Confessions 5 pm Vigil Mass	Bingley	Essie Sheehan
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Sally Slaven
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish
Monday 13 April	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Eileen Link
Tuesday 14 April	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Cashew Richards S.I.
Wednesday 15 April	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Mary Mulholland
Thursday 16 April	6:20-6:40pm Confessions 7 pm Mass	Cottingley	Dead List
Friday 17 April	10 am Mass	Bingley	Dead List
3rd Sunday of Easter Year A Saturday 18/Sunday 19 April	4.15-4.40 pm Confessions 5 pm Vigil Mass	Bingley	Josephine Cichy
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Susan Roe
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Susan Roe



The liturgy of the Second Sunday of Easter invites us to stand with the disciples in the quiet, confusing days after the resurrection. They are gathered behind locked doors—full of fear, uncertainty, and perhaps even shame for having abandoned Jesus. Yet it is exactly there, in their fear and fragility, that Christ comes to meet them.

He does not scold. He does not demand explanations. He simply says: "Peace be with you." This peace is not merely the absence of trouble; it is the presence of the risen Christ. It is the peace that comes from knowing that *nothing*—not failure, not sin, not death—has the final word. Thomas is often labelled "the doubter," but he is, in many ways, the most relatable disciple. He wants to believe, but he also wants something solid—something he can touch. And when Jesus appears again, He offers Thomas exactly what Thomas needs: not rejection, but invitation. Thomas responds with the most complete profession of faith in the Gospels: "My Lord and my God!"

This moment tells us something essential about God: He is not threatened by our questions. He is not offended by our doubts. He meets each person with the grace uniquely suited to their heart. Faith grows not by pretending, but by honest seeking.

The first reading describes a community transformed by the resurrection—sharing, praying, breaking bread, and caring for one another. The mercy Jesus shows the disciples becomes the mercy they show the world. This Sunday, the Church invites us to rediscover that mercy: Mercy that heals old wounds. Mercy that loosens the grip of fear. Mercy that restores relationships. Mercy that reminds us we are loved as we are, not as we should be.

Many of us live with our own locked doors: fear for the future, guilt over the past, doubts about faith, or simply the heaviness of life. The Gospel assures us: The risen Christ enters even locked rooms. He breathes peace where peace seems impossible.

He brings hope where hope has faded. He offers mercy where we feel least deserving. And, like the disciples, we are sent—to become instruments of that same mercy in our families, workplaces, communities, and even toward ourselves.

Parish Notices

First Sacraments Parts 1 and 2: check in with Fr. Polland after Mass.

Sacrament of Confirmation: should check in with Fr. Polland after Mass each week. Classes will be held on Saturday mornings 10:30-12 on the **25th April**, 9th May and 16th May at the church hall in Cottingley.

Ministers at Masses this weekend

Saturday 11/04 17:00 Eucharistic minister Mark Startin
Readers Peter Taylor, P Michael Rewilak

Sunday 12/04 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Christine Kay
Readers R Anne Monaghan, P John McElroy

Sunday 12/04 11:15 Eucharistic minister Deirdre Naylor
Readers Julie Martin, P Julia Radcliffe

Ministers at Masses next weekend

Saturday 18/04 17:00 Eucharistic minister Michael Rewilak
Readers Mark Startin, P Peter Taylor

Sunday 19/04 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Danuta Petrie
Readers R Ann McKerchar, P Elaine Schack

Sunday 19/04 11:15 Eucharistic minister Jean Denman
Readers Viv Drake, P Julie Martin

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

Anita Austick	Liam Kay	David Ohr
Angela Barnes	Rita King	Tony Shipman
Marisa Bell	Jacob Kinsey	Steven Shaw
Maria Binns	Ria Koetsier	Neil Smith
Michael Bradley	Melissa Le Coultre	Rosamund Spencer
Ellerie Carroll	Patricia Long	Jeff Trotter
Sylvie Cantopher	Richard Longden	Mary Walker
Frieda Clapham	Brian Marie	Sandra Walton
Rita Curtin	Andrew Markham	Lisa White
Anna Danys	Christine Matthews	Patrick White
Barbara Furniss	Paul McMenamin	Ann Wilkinson
Paul Gallagher	Harry McKenna	Madeleine Wilkins
Ian Harrison	Philomena McKenna	
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:

Deceased Members of the Hammond Family	Ian Naylor Eileen Link & Martin
Deceased Members of the Myers and Tate Families	Link

St Augustine's Youth Day (Harehills): There will be a Youth Day on the 19th April. The Youth Day is open to all children and young people. Lunch will be provided, along with an afternoon programme. Please note that children under 11 will need to be supervised. Mass at 10, potluck lunch. Bring your appetite and a dish to share. Please contact Cassandra at office.staugustines@dioceseofleeds.org.uk for more information/to register.

Retiring Collections: On 26 April for the **Priests' Training Fund**. This fund is for the support of students who are training to be priests for the Diocese of Leeds. It covers their seminary fees, their termly grant, health and insurance cover.

Children's Liturgy: There'll be no liturgy over the Easter holidays. We'll meet again on Sunday 26th April.

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.

Recently died: Please pray for the repose of the soul of a former parishioner David Maxted who sadly died on Easter Sunday. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Parish Memorial Book (Book of Remembrance)

The book has these memories for this coming week:

11 Lucy Semenjuk	14 Trevor Atkinson
12 Dr Ian Naylor	16 Richard Wright
12 Mary Thorp	16 Rosa Obiedzinski
13 Bert Halton	17 Thomas Duffy
13 Peter Madden	18 Josephine Cichy
13 Catherine Spillane	19 Theresa Schonlinner
14 Anne-Louise White	

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

bulletin@ourladyandstjoseph.org.uk

Pope Leo's Intention for April: For Priests In Crisis

Let us pray for Priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

CAFOD: St Paul says, 'We do not grieve as those who have no hope'. He does not mean that we should not grieve. We grieve, but because of Jesus' resurrection we grieve with hope and not despair. This goes for the grief we feel in bereavement, for the wars that harm innocent, and for the climate crisis and the threats to the natural world. Death and destruction are real and we should grieve, rage and fight against them – but we do so in hope.

The Sadducees, chief priests comprised of wealthy elites who collaborated with the Romans, rejected belief in the resurrection because it threatened the *status quo*. By denying the hope of a future resurrection, they wanted to undermine threats from those promising liberation for the oppressed, and to maintain their power and wealth. The resurrection is radical: it is a comfort to those who are afflicted, but it is also an affliction to those who are comforted at the expense of others.

Risen Lord, As we proclaim your Easter song, help us to abandon apathy and despair and to rise up in hope in the light of your resurrection. Amen.

Consultation On The Future Of The Dioceses Of Leeds, Middlesbrough And Hallam:

As part of the consultation currently taking place across our three Dioceses, there is an opportunity for all clergy, religious and members of the lay faithful to contribute by completing an online questionnaire, either individually or as a parish group. Prayerful reflection should be given to the questions so that the Holy Spirit may guide this process of discernment. Prayer resources and a presentation are available on the diocesan website to support this process. Responses should be submitted no later than Friday, 22nd May 2026. For more information and to complete the questionnaire, please visit:

<https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/leeds-middlesbrough-consultation-2026/>

Holy Week & Easter Services Singing Group Thanks to everyone who offered to help lead the singing this Easter-time.

The next **KSC Inter-Parish Quiz** will be held at the Avondale Club (formerly Shipley Catholic Club) on Monday **13th April** at 8.00 pm. Teams will ideally be limited to 5, although parishes may enter more than 1 team.

The format will be the same as usual with NO embarrassing individual questions.

There will be a FREE Pie & Pea Supper, FREE engraved trophy for the winners, FREE answer sheets, a Raffle and good company! Please come and join us.