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Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

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

22nd February 2026

1st Sunday of Lent

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.*

1st Sunday of Lent Year A Saturday 21/Sunday 22 February	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Thanksgiving
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Ed Schack
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish
	4pm Stations of the Cross	Cottingley	
Monday 23 February St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Millicent Markham
Tuesday 24 February	9:30am-9:55am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10 am Mass	Cottingley	Margaret Mc Loughlin
Wednesday 25 February	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Eric Adamson
Thursday 26 February	6.20 – 6.40pm Confessions 7 pm Mass	Cottingley	Teresa Bolland
Friday 27 February	10 am Mass	Bingley	Alan Scott
2nd Sunday of Lent Year A Saturday 28/Sunday 1 March	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 4:15pm-4:50pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Albert Link
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Joan Meggitt
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish
	4pm Stations of the Cross	Cottingley	

The First Sunday of Lent invites us into the desert with Jesus. The Spirit leads Him into a place of silence, struggle, and surrender. It is there—away from comfort and distraction—that the truth of His identity is tested. The temptations Jesus faces speak directly to the human heart:

1. The temptation of comfort: “Turn these stones into bread.” The enemy whispers that we should satisfy ourselves first—that our needs are all that matter.

But Jesus reminds us that real life comes from the Word of God. Lent invites us to ask:

What hungers am I trying to satisfy that only God can fill?

2. The temptation of control: “Throw yourself down and let God catch you.”

This temptation is subtle: using God instead of trusting God. Jesus shows us that faith is not manipulation; it is confidence that God is already with us.

Lent asks: Do I trust God enough to surrender what I cannot control?

3. The temptation of power: “All these kingdoms I will give you.” This is the temptation to take shortcuts—to grasp at glory without the cross. Jesus chooses obedience over influence, worship over ambition. Lent invites us to consider: Where am I tempted to seek status or approval instead of God’s will?

The desert is not punishment—it is invitation. It slows us down so we can recognise the inner battles that daily life hides. Jesus does not show us how to avoid temptation—He shows us how to face it with clarity, courage, and trust. May this season help us turn from distraction and deepen our trust in God.

Parish Notices

Lenten Observances: During Lent we will have **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from 9:30am -9:55am on Tuesday mornings in Cottingley and in Bingley from 4:15pm - 4:50pm on Saturdays. There will also be **Stations of the Cross** on Sundays at 4:00pm beginning in Cottingley next Sunday. We will be looking for volunteers to lead the stations each Sunday. A sheet will be at the back of Church next Sunday to sign up.

Sacrament of Confirmation: will be conferred by the bishop on Tuesday 2 June in SS Mary and Monica Church Cottingley. If you have a child currently in Year 6 who attends Mass regularly here and you wish them to be confirmed please see Fr. Polland for an application form. If you child has been baptised outside the parish you will need to return the form with a baptism certificate. Forms must be returned by end of 11:15 Mass on 15 March 2026

Healing Service: with laying on of hands will be held on Monday 21 March in Cottingley at 7:00pm. Come and ask the Lord for healing and rest in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Ministers at Masses this weekend

Saturday 21/02 17:00 Eucharistic minister Michael Rewilak
Readers Barbara Hladowsk, P Anne McArthur
Sunday 22/02 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Christine Kay
Readers R Ann McKerchar, P Helena Harrington
Sunday 22/02 11:15 Eucharistic minister Peter Harrison
Readers Viv Drake, P Oma Nwokeji

Ministers at Masses next weekend

Saturday 28/02 17:00 Eucharistic minister Mark Startin
Readers Michael Rewilak, P Barbara Hladowski
Sunday 01/03 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Helena Harrington
Readers R Elaine Schack, P John McElroy
Sunday 01/03 11:15 Eucharistic minister Deirdre Naylor
Readers Julie Martin, P Viv Drake

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

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

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:
Albert Link Eric Adamson (A)

Thank you to all who have donated items to the SVP raffle and tombola collection. It is never too late to donate. You can do it throughout the year- just give to a member of the SVP or leave in the entrance of either church with a note.

A Coffee Morning to raise funds for the SVP is being held in the Parish room at Cottingley on Saturday 7th March from 10am to 12 noon. There will be a Cake stall, Book sale, Tombola, Raffle and Bric a Brac. Please come to support the SVP, enjoy a chat, a hot drink and some home baking.

World Day of Prayer: This year All Saints are hosting the WDP on March 6th at 2pm in All Saints church.

The first Christian Aid **Lent Lunch** this year will be on March 6th at Bingley Baptist Church, followed on March 13th at St Mary's & St Monica's, Cottingley. There will be a Bring & Buy at each Lunch.

Bradford Festival Choral Society is performing Haydn's 'The Creation' at St George's Hall on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm. It's an inspirational work celebrating God's creation of the world as told in Genesis. Featuring Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra. Join us for an exhilarating performance! Tickets Bradford Theatres 01274 432000

Want to join in March St Patrick's-time Celebrations with The Wild Geese? – see notice in the church porch for details.

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.

First Sacraments Part 1: Classes in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held in Cottingley next Saturday 28 February and on Saturday 7 and 21 March 10:30-12:00 and at least one parent should attend with their child. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated at 5:00pm on Tuesday 24 March at 5:00pm in Cottingley.

The Parish Memorial Book (Book of Remembrance)

The book has these memories for this coming week:

February		
21	Mary Ann Starr	25 Albert Link
22	George Starr	25 Kath Grassby
22	Peter Whiteley	25 Selwyn Roberts
23	Eleanor Millicent Markham	27 Roger Power
23	Tony Monaghan	27 Vera Lucy Yates
March		
23	Eustachy Obiedzinski	1 Brian Smith
23	Kitty Marion Keane	1 David Denby
23	Mavis Ruth Starr	1 Margaret Toothill
24	Simon Dearden	1 Mick Halpin
24	Susan Deluca	

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

bulletin@ourladyandstjoseph.org.uk

The Pope Leo's Intention for February: For Children With Incurable Diseases Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Join Bishop Marcus in Praying for Vocations: Our Lady of Unfailing Help! Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send labourers into His harvest and that He will grant an abundance of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life within the Diocese of Leeds, and throughout the world. Amen.

CAFOD: The word 'Lent' comes from the Old English lencten, meaning 'Springtime'—the quiet season when light grows, the earth stirs, and hope begins to rise. We pray this Lent will be a true Springtime for your soul. In addition, you are warmly invited to enjoy the start of Spring in Bingley by joining the Big Lent Walk!! Sponsorship materials are available at: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/resources>. If you cannot take part, please consider supporting another walker, and keep in prayer all whom CAFOD serves, seeking justice for our world.

Loving God, sustain our hope, deepen our reflection, and make us agents of your healing. Amen.

Singing Group for our Parish Holy Week Services and Easter Vigil Mass. We're organising a Singing Group to help lead the singing at this year's Parish Holy Week Services and Easter Vigil Mass; Holy Thursday 7pm Bingley, Good Friday 3pm Cottingley, Easter Vigil Sat 4th April 8pm Cottingley. If interested, please contact paul.wildgeese@btinternet.com for further info or just turn up at a practice – and please tell anyone else you think might like to be involved. Practices (finishing by 11am), for those able to join us, will be after Sunday 9.15 Cottingley Masses on March 8th, 22nd and 29th. Many Thanks.

*** Have you any Bradford Council issues?**

If you live in Cottingley, Cullingworth, Harden or Wilsden I am here to help.

Please visit my Councillor Surgery in Wilsden village Hall Saturday 7 March, 10 - 11.00am

OR email paul.sullivan@bradford.gov.uk
Regards, Paul Sullivan, Ward Councillor *