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Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

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

1st March 2026

2nd Sunday in 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.

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	Bingley	
Monday 2 March St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Millicent Markham
Tuesday 3 March	9:30am-9:55am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10 am Mass	Cottingley	Dead List
Wednesday 4 March	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Nigel Rose
Thursday 5 March	6.20 – 6.40pm Confessions 7 pm Mass	Cottingley	Mary Mc Bride
Friday 6 March	10 am Mass	Bingley	Anna Danys
3rd Sunday of Lent Year A	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 4:15pm-4:50pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Dead List
Saturday 7/Sunday 8 March	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Don Devenish
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish
	4pm Stations of the Cross	Cottingley	

The Transfiguration happens just after Jesus predicts His Passion. The disciples are confused, frightened, even resistant. God gives them a moment of clarity—a glimpse of Jesus' true glory—to strengthen them for what lies ahead.

Lent often confronts us with our own struggles, our own need for conversion. We face temptations, weaknesses, and the parts of ourselves we'd prefer to ignore. Like the disciples, we sometimes feel overwhelmed. The Transfiguration reminds us: There is glory on the other side of the struggle. The cross is not the end of the story.

Peter wants to stay on the mountain, to build tents and freeze the moment in time. We understand him. It is tempting to cling to comforting experiences of faith and avoid the hard work of daily discipleship. But Jesus does not let them stay. Lent calls us down the mountain— back into the valley where life is ordinary, noisy, complicated. The purpose of divine consolation is not escape but strength for mission.

The Father's command is beautifully simple and profoundly challenging: listen to Jesus.

Not just hear His words, but let His voice shape our choices, our priorities, our identity.

To listen to Jesus means: Letting His mercy soften our hardness. Letting His truth confront our illusions. Letting His love redefine who we think we are. Lent invites us to create more silence around us so we can hear Him more clearly.

When the disciples fall to the ground in fear, Jesus touches them: "Rise, and do not be afraid." This is one of the most tender moments in all the Gospels. Jesus does not scold.

He reassures. He lifts them up. Where in your life is Jesus saying the same words today?

Do not be afraid of change. Do not be afraid of holiness. Do not be afraid of letting go. Do not be afraid of being loved.

Jesus leads us down the mountain with a new vision— not to escape suffering, but to face it with courage and hope.

Consider spending a few minutes each day in silence—no words, no requests— just being present before God, letting Him reveal His light within you.

Parish Notices

First Sacraments Part 1: Classes in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held in Cottingley 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. Children should check in with Fr. Polland after Mass.

First Sacraments Part 2: those who received the sacrament of Reconciliation last year and are due to receive Holy Communion for the first time this year should give their names to Fr. Polland after Mass.

Ministers at Masses this 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 Julia Radcliffe P Viv Drake

Ministers at Masses next weekend

Saturday 07/03 17:00 Eucharistic minister Michael Rewilak
Reader Natalie Baines , P Mark Startin
Sunday 08/03 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Danuta Petrie
Readers R Susan Holroyd, P Teresa Mills
Sunday 08/03 11:15 Eucharistic minister Jean Denman
Reader Irene Stanford-Wood , P Julie Martin

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:
Geoff Lister

There will be a retiring collection on 14/15 March for Catholic Care. They offer services and support to families experiencing difficulties, including pregnant women, people experiencing mental health problems, people with learning difficulties and children in residential care.

The next Christian Aid Lent Lunch this year will be 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.

Collections in January:

Envelopes:	£117.00
Loose Plate Cottingley:	£507.38
Loose Plate Bingley:	£796.32
Standing Order Gift Aid:	£2212.50
Standing Order Non Gift Aid:	£286.33
Christmas offerings:	£124
Poor Mission Fund:	£291.90
Crib offering:	£26.73

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 your 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.

The Parish Memorial Book (Book of Remembrance)

The book has these memories for this coming week:

March	
1 Brian Smith	2 Elizabeth (Betty) Spiller
1 David Denby	2 Gerard Jan Andryszewski
1 Margaret Toothill	5 Mabel Copley
1 Mick Halpin	7 Catherine M. Enright
	8 Dennis Whitaker

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 March: For Disarmament And Peace

Let us pray that nations move to effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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.

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.

Singing Group for our Parish Holy Week Services and Easter Vigil Mass. If you have volunteered for these, please let Paul Copley know which of the 3 services you are available to sing at.

Would anyone who has not had their red mission box emptied recently please drop it off at Mass so that the contents can be counted. Many thanks to everyone for your continued support for the missions.

A coffee morning/social gathering is held on the 2nd Tuesday each month in Sacred Heart Church meeting room. Everyone welcome. The next is on 10th March 10am to 11.30.

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.