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Our Lady & St. Joseph, Aire Valley

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

15th March 2026

4th 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.

4th Sunday of Lent Year A Saturday 14/Sunday 15 March	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Sandra and Robert Green
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Patsy Hanney
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish
	No Stations of the Cross		
Monday 16 March	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Dead List
Tuesday 17 March St Patrick, Bishop	9:30am-9:55am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10 am Mass	Cottingley	Dead List
	10 am Mass	Cottingley	Dead List
Wednesday 18 March	1pm Requiem Sandra Green	Bingley	
Thursday 19 March St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30 am Mass	St Joseph's School	Frank Cichy
Friday 20 March	No Mass		
5th Sunday of Lent Year A Saturday 21/Sunday 22 March	4.15-4.45 pm Confessions 4:15pm-4:50pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5 pm Mass	Bingley	Mary Paige
	9.15 am Mass	Cottingley	Dead List
	11.15 am Mass	Bingley	Parish
	4pm Stations of the Cross	Bingley	



Today, on *Laetare Sunday*, the Church invites us to pause and rejoice as the light of Easter draws near. We are reminded that God sees differently than we do. In the first reading, Samuel tries to choose a king by appearances. God chooses David, the least expected, the one overlooked. God often works in the small, hidden, and humble places—both in the world and within us. He looks not at appearances but at the heart, calling us out of darkness into His wonderful light.

In the Gospel, Jesus heals the man born blind, revealing that true sight is not just about our eyes, but our hearts. There are many characters, but only one sees

clearly: The blind man begins in literal darkness. After encountering Jesus, he slowly grows in spiritual sight. Meanwhile, the Pharisees—who believe they see—fall deeper into blindness because of pride, fear, and closed hearts. While others cling to judgment, fear, or pride, the healed man opens himself step by step to the truth—until he can finally say, “Lord, I believe.”

This Sunday reminds us that Easter is drawing near. Even if we still feel blind, lost, or imperfect, Christ walks with us. His light is stronger than our darkness. His love is greater than our fear. His healing is already at work.

Parish Notices

First Sacraments Part 1: The last preparation class will be held in Sacred Heart, Bingley, on Saturday 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.

Sacrament of Confirmation: will be conferred by the bishop on Tuesday 2 June at 7:00pm 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.

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. Pollard after Mass.

Ministers at Masses this weekend

Saturday 14/03 17:00 Eucharistic minister Mark Startin

Reader Michael Rewilak, P Natalie Baines

Sunday 15/03 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Teresa Mills

Readers R Anne Monaghan, P Kevin King

Sunday 15/03 11:15 Eucharistic minister Peter Harrison

Readers Jeremy Charnock, P Oma Nwokeji

Ministers at Masses next weekend

Saturday 21/03 17:00 Eucharistic minister Michael Rewilak

Reader Anne McArthur, P Mark Startin

Sunday 22/03 09:15 Eucharistic minister H Sue Wilkinson

Readers R Helena Harrington, P Elaine Schack

Sunday 22/03 11:15 Eucharistic minister Deirdre Naylor

Reader Jeremy Charnock, P Irene Stanford-Wood

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:

Sheila & Tony Monaghan Mary Paice (A)

Mabel & Norman Copley Gerry Smith

The McCausland Family

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 20th at St Wilfrid's Church, Gilstead Lane, at 12 noon. There will be a Bring & Buy at each Lunch. Entry charge is £5.

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.

If you gift aid AND use an **offertory envelope** the new envelopes which start on the first Sunday of the new tax year (12 April) will be available to collect each weekend starting 14/15 March. If you DO NOT gift aid but use envelopes there will be some un-numbered ones (without a name) which you are free to use. If you wish to start a new gift aid with envelopes and/or standing order there are forms held in the foyer of each church which may be returned to Father Nigel or the presbytery

Can you help with the 🧹 Great British Spring Clean ! ?

From 10am to 11am on Saturdays. On 21 March at New Inn Pub, Wilsden and on 28 March at War Memorial, Harden.

Healing Service: with laying on of hands will be held on **Monday 23 March** in Cottingley at 7 pm. Come and ask the Lord for healing and rest in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Baptism Meeting: will be held on Tuesday 31 March in Cottingley at 7 pm. If you attend Mass regularly here and wish to have your child baptised in the next quarter please give your details to Fr. Pollard.

The Parish Memorial Book (Book of Remembrance)

The book has these memories for this coming week:

15 Grace Hitchens 17 John Madden

15 Harry Dearden 17 Bried Smith

16 David Russell 19 Frank Cichy

16 Rev. Fr. Peter Johnson 21 Gerald Smith

17 Ida Camuso 22 William Cavill

17 Cecilia Kerfoot 22 Edward Schack

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.

February Collections:

Envelopes £750

Standing Order GA £2223.50

Standing Order £261.33

Loose plate Cottingley £437.66

Loose plate Bingley £706.41

Poor Mission £1

Lourdes Fund £280.73

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.

Holy Week & Easter Services Singing Group Thank you to everyone who has offered to help lead the singing this Easter-time. Reminder that practices (ending at 11am) after the Cottingley Sunday 9.15 Masses on Sunday 22 and 29 March. If you haven't been in touch but wish to sing, please just come along. Contact paul.wildgeese@btinternet.com for further details. Thanks.

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.

Many thanks to all parishioners who donated items for raffle and tombola prizes and to all those who supported the Coffee Morning on 7th March. We raised over £370 in a couple of hours. A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to all our wonderful bakers who raised over £170 on cakes and biscuits alone.

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.