



St Mary's Brownedge

Founded c1780

SDTRTR No. 250037

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Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

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Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest),

Tel: 01772 335168; email: pp@stmarysbrownedge.org.uk Fr Colin Battell OSB. Tel: 01772 321201.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT (Year A)

7th December 2025

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	6th Dec Vigil	11.00am 7:00 pm	St Nicholas (OM) First Reconciliation Service Second Sunday of Advent Derek Nickson R.I.P.
Sun	7th Dec	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Second Sunday of Advent Brian Stead (Anniversary) The Parish
Mon	8th Dec	9:30 am	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S) Esther Conroy
Tues	9th Dec	9:30 am	St Juan Diego (OM) Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Wed	10th Dec	9:30 am 11.00am	Our Lady of Loreto (OM) George Duckworth School Reconciliation Service
Thurs	11th Dec	9.30 am	St Damasus 1 (OM) Swarbrick & Whiteley Families
Fri	12th Dec	10 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe (OM) Requiem Mass for Geoffrey Thurman R/I/P.
Sat	13th Dec Vigil	7:00 pm	St Lucy (M) Third Sunday of Advent Watson Family
Sun	14th Dec	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent Fr Gabriel McNally & Fr Raymund Davies The Parish

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	6th Dec Vigil	5:30 pm	St Nicholas (OM) Second Sunday of Advent Sacred Heart Guild
Sun	7th Dec	10:30 am	Second Sunday of Advent Vocations for the Diocese
Mon	8th Dec	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S) Exposition Service of the Word
Tues	9th Dec	9:15 am 2.00 pm	St Juan Diego (OM) Bill Smith (Anniversary) Jubilee Pilgrimage with OLSG and SMSB School GIFT Teams
Wed	10th Dec	9:15 am	Our Lady of Loreto (OM) Service of the Word
Thurs	11th Dec	6:30 pm	St Damasus 1 (OM) Holy Souls
Fri	12th Dec		NO SERVICES
Sat	13th Dec Vigil	5:30 pm	St Lucy (M) Third Sunday of Advent Holy Souls
Sun	14th Dec	10:30 am	Third Sunday of Advent Holy Souls

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Mary's: Tuesday & Thursday 3 pm to 4 pm

St. Gerard's: Monday 6 pm to 6:30 pm

Confessions: St Gerard's: Saturday: 5 - 5.15 pm
St Mary's: Saturday: 6.15-6.45 pm (or by request)

Holy Rosary: Streamed at 8pm each evening from St Mary's.



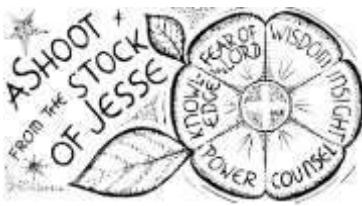
Services at St. Mary's and at St Gerard's can be viewed live or on playback at any time on:
www.stmarysbrownedge.org.uk or
www.saintgerards.org.uk or
www.churchservices.tv

You can usually plug a PC into your TV to watch it on the big screen, On a 'Smart TV' save the site in the TV web browser. Please help any relatives or friends to access the internet.

Hope in the Future - Cycle of Prayer

We pray this week for the parishioners of St. Catherine's, Didsbury, together with Fr. John Hitchen, their Parish Priest. We pray for their Parish Primary School, the Barlow High School and Francis House Children's Hospice.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Today we have an unequivocal and very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture that he paints, and so the first reading offers tender words of comfort to help us understand who is coming, and why we should be ready to meet him. The Gospel focuses on the great Advent prophet, John the Baptist, with his message of preparation - we are invited to get ourselves ready, making a way for the Lord.

Sycamore (RCIA): Do you want to become a Catholic or learn more about the faith? Session 13 on Tuesday 9th December at 7pm in the Narthex at St Mary's. "The Community of the Church". Why do we need the community of Church? Is it not possible to be a Christian on your own? And if there are so many different churches, how can the Catholic Church claim that it has a special place in God's plan? This Sycamore film helps you to explore what it means to be a Christian, and the special gift that Catholic Christianity brings to the world.

After this week, there will be a 3 week break for Christmas and New Year. We will resume on Tuesday 6th January.

SVP: The winning ticket for the Knitted Nativity Set will be drawn after the 9:30 Mass at St Mary's on Sunday 7th December.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Our Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage group invites you to a special Mass in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, will take place at 3pm on **Sunday 7 December** at St Patrick's, Collyhurst (M4 5HF). Following Mass, information will be shared by the Salford Lourdes Pilgrimage group on plans for the 2026 pilgrimage.

Advent Prayer and Reflection: St Bede's Church in Clayton Green is holding a series of holy hours of prayer and reflection for Advent. The opportunity for some space at this busy time of year for us to deepen our Advent preparation for the celebration of Christmas. At St Bede's Church, 598, Preston Road, Clayton Green. PR6 7EB. Thursdays at 7pm on **4th, 11th and 18th December**. All welcome.

* CHRISTMAS MASSES *

CHRISTMAS EVE:

St Gerard's First Mass of Christmas: 5:00 pm with Carols from 4.30 pm.

St Mary's First Mass of Christmas: 7.00 pm.

St Mary's: Midnight Mass with Carols by Candlelight from 11:30 pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

St Mary's Christmas Day Mass: 9:30 am

St Gerard's Christmas Day Mass: 11:00 am

BOXING DAY: (The Feast of St Stephen)

St Mary's: 10.00 am; St Gerard's: 10.00 am.

Advent Reconciliation Service: There will be a joint Reconciliation Service for both our parishes to be held at St Mary's Brownedge Church on **Wednesday 17th December at 7pm**. Please encourage your families and friends to come to prepare our souls for Christmas

Bambinelli Sunday: We will do this over the next 2 Sundays: Next Sunday, on the Third Sunday of Advent, we will celebrate at St Mary's Brownedge at the 9.30 am Mass and on 21st Dec we will do the same at St Gerard's at the 10.30 am Mass. Everyone is invited to bring their crib figures of the baby Jesus to Mass and they will receive a special blessing.

Advent Carol Concert: Many thanks to all who supported the concert last Sunday. The amount raised was approx. £700 for the charitable work of the Knights of St Columba.

POINSETTIAS – For Christmas, we would like to decorate the sanctuaries of both our churches at St Gerard's and St Mary's with poinsettias. We are asking parishioners to donate poinsettias to help us to make the Altars at St Gerard's and St Mary's beautiful. Please drop off your Poinsettias between Thursday 18th and the morning Masses on Christmas Eve. If no-one is around please leave them by the Sacred Heart side entrance at St Mary's and by the Church door at St Gerard's.

Cafod World Gifts for Christmas: Buying Cafod's World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters & brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world: worldgifts.cafod.org.uk or pick up a booklet in the Narthex.

New Diocesan Yearbook: This has been received this week. This year, the diocese have combined two books into one: The Diocesan Ordo and the Almanac. The Ordo is at the back of the Yearbook and details which Mass/feast we should be celebrating each day; what the readings and prayers should be, and even what colour vestments the priest should wear! Copies are available at the back of Church priced £5 each or £6 for a ring-bound version.

Joint Notices

Diocesan Synod News: Our emerging vision for a synodal Church in Salford centres on six themes: (1) Prayer, listening, and renewal as the heart of Eucharistic life; (2) Welcoming, inclusive, and accessible communities celebrating diversity; (3) Participation and representation through diverse leadership and formation; (4) Young people and families fully engaged in faith and service; (5) Collaboration and resources shared among all; (6) Outreach, dialogue, and healing with compassion for survivors and interfaith ties. There is a leaflet available at the back of church which explains how this process will develop and be applied in the next couple of years.

Caritas Salford Advent Appeal: Our diocesan charity, "Caritas Salford", has released its 2025 Advent appeal to shine the spotlight on the true meaning of Christmas. To watch their latest animation and to find out more about how to help local people who are facing acute crisis this Christmas, visit: www.caritassalford.org.uk

SVP: - Thank you for your donation of £317.11 in support of the SVP South Sudan Appeal in November 2025. Your help means the world to us and will make a significant impact in our cause. Thank you once again; your support is invaluable to us, and we are so grateful for your contribution.

Preston Retreat for Young Adults: Young adults (aged 16-35 or Year 10+) are invited to a one-day retreat at Corpus Christi High School in Preston on **Saturday 13th December from 9am - 9pm**. This jam-packed, one-day retreat promises to be a truly wonderful occasion, and offers the opportunity to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist, grow in relationship with Him and His Mother, and form friendships with other young adults from the local area. To register, please visit: <https://youth2000.churchsuite.com/events/s8vr6vf2>

Donations: Make an online Donation to support our parishes by scanning the QR codes below:



MARRIAGE MATTERS: Second Sunday of Advent

A New Beginning for us; Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defenses, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

Year of Jubilee 2025:

Jubilee Mascot: "Luce" is the mascot for the Jubilee and for our Children's Liturgy Group. Her name is the Italian for "Light" and she, like each of us, is a Pilgrim of Hope. She invites us all to walk as Pilgrims of Hope. **We now have a special Luce, knitted by Clare, one of our parishioners and she joined our parish pilgrimage and came with us so see so many amazing things in Rome.** Clare has put together a fantastic account of the pilgrimage through the eyes of Luce and taken photos of her in all the places we visited. This lovely book is on our Jubilee display table. Many thanks to Clare for producing such a wonderful little book!



Jubilee Church Guide: Thanks to David Gorman who has produced a short guide to St Mary's Church for visiting pilgrims. Also, Fr Mark has left copies of the prayers which pilgrims use when they go through the Holy Door of St Peter's. We can use them here when visiting the church.



Primary Schools Jubilee Pilgrimage:

Our two primary schools are bringing together their GIFT Teams to celebrate these final weeks of the Jubilee Year.

On Tuesday 9th December at 2pm they will make a procession around the perimeter of the grounds at St Gerard's carrying a statue of Mary, Our Blessed Mother, and assembling in Church for a service at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special occasion.

Universalis.com: Universalis is a website which provides the Mass texts and readings for each day of the year as well as the Liturgy of the Hours. Online it provides free texts for the upcoming 7 days. Buying the App gives full access. This QR Code will take you straight to the Mass Readings of the day:



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick, and those who care for them:

Sister Louise, Yvonne Jeffrey, Mary Bilsborough, Joseph O'Grady, Brian Morley, Jean Doran, Mick Green. Maureen Calderbank, Joseph Finch, Ruth Johnstone, Peter Clough, Dominic McCormack, Elsie Smith.

Eileen McLaughlan, Jennifer Sharples,

All those who have died recently:

Patricia Clayton, Gerard Carter, Olivia Claire Wallwork, Cliff Hughes, Doreen Gallagher, Geoffrey Thurman, Dorothy Fleming.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound and for those who have asked for your Prayers.

Our Lady & St Gerard's Notices



Christmas Fair - A huge thank you to all the volunteers and helpers that supported the Church Christmas Fair last weekend – The event raised **£1625.00 in total** – This events and all the events that are organised for Church by the Fundraising team are completely reliant on the time and generosity from volunteers and parishioners

which we are very grateful for – If you would like to help out at future events and would like to be a member of the Church Fundraising team please get in touch with the Church office for more information.

Piety Shop - RAFFLE WINNERS. 1st Prize: "Pink" Ticket 441; 2nd: "Brown" 221; 3rd: "Blue" 91. Please bring your winning ticket and collect your prize from the Piety shop. Thank you to all those who support us every year by buying our tickets it's very much appreciated. We will let you know in due course how much you have raised towards our church funds. We wish each and everyone of you a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

CAFOD World Gifts - As you leave church this weekend please pick up a CAFOD world gifts card. There are some unusual, thoughtful Christmas gifts you can buy for anyone who perhaps does not really need anything and is difficult to buy for. In the process of buying these gifts you will be helping those in the developing world who have very little of the things we consider essential.

Wednesday Bingo - The Team are taking a well deserved break over the Christmas Season and the last session is on 17th December and re-opens 7th January. Have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Metanoia project - Recently a box has been placed at the back of church next to the larder box. This box is from the Metanoia project based at St Wilfrid's in Preston and they are collecting warm socks, hats, gloves etc for the homeless in Preston who are struggling to keep warm at this time of year. Besides providing warm clothing the Metanoia group provide the homeless with a warm meal every Tuesdays night. If anyone can cook and has a couple of hours to spare on Tuesdays they would welcome the help. If you are able to assist with this essential work please contact Joe on 07481188102 or Joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk

W/C 07/12/25		This Weeks Intentions	
Sanctuary		Yvonne Jeffrey	
Offertory 29th / 30th November 2025			
Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance	
£291.60	£127.00		
Bingo Jackpots for 10/12/2025			
£30	£110	£41	£32

St Mary's Brownedge Notices

Offertory Procession: Next Sunday 14th December 9:30 am Mass: Children Family

CAFOD Coffee Morning – Friday 5th December after Mass. **Thank You** - Many thanks to all who attended our recent coffee morning and raffle which raised £250 and from the buckets, jewellery, jigsaws etc £115. Also, Teresa Worden, has knitted many things including clothes for a baby doll which we are asking you to guess the name of, 50p a guess. A list of names and donation box is at the back of church.

Giving Tree – Our Christmas Giving Tree is now up at the back of Church. Gift Tags will be on a table next to the tree. Please take one if you are able to contribute or use your own – All presents with gift tag attached need to be returned at the latest by weekend of 13th / 14th December. We will then deliver to various charities we support on Monday 15th December – Thank you so much for continuing to support this wonderful Parish effort.

Thankyou to the ladies in Bamber Bridge Post Office who have donated a big bag of Teddy Bears!

School Coffee Morning: St Mary's & St Benedict's invite all parishioners to a coffee morning in school on Weds 16th Dec at 10.15 am.

200 Club: Are you struggling to find the perfect gift for friends & family? Why not join the 200 club and gift them the chance to win on monthly draws of £200, £100 or £50 & Easter & Christmas hampers? – The perfect present that does good and gives you a winning chance! £1 per number per week that's £52 per year.

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School Carol Service - All are warmly invited to join our school Carol Service taking place on **Monday 15th December at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church**. The service will include scripture readings, carols and prayers as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our world and lives once more.

SVP - Message from HQ – We recently had a collection for the SVP South Sudan and have received a thank you letter expressing most sincere thanks for our support. Please read the full letter on the church bulletin board, which includes a link to videos of numerous projects funded by SVP South Sudan. Your help means the world to us and will make a significant impact in our cause.

SVP - Next meeting is on Monday 6th December at 6:30 pm in the Priory.

Sanctuary Lamps Week 07/12/25			
1	Bowman Family Intentions		
2	Deceased Relations & Friends of the Carty & McNamara Families		
Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend			
7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
67	149	66	282