



## St Mary's Brownedge

Founded c1780      SDTRTR No. 250037  
 St Mary's Priory, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6SP  
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## Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

Lostock Hall - Preston - PR5 5AA  
**Parish Tel: (01772) 335387      Office Mobile 07442 385553**  
 Parish e-mail: office@saintgerards.org.uk



**Facebook :** @stgerardslostockhall    **Twitter :** @stgerardslostoc    **Instagram :** @stgerardsslostock

**Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest),  
 Tel: 01772 335168; email: pp@stmarysbrownedge.org.uk Fr Colin Battell OSB. Tel: 01772 321201.**

### FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

**1st February 2026**

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	31st Jan Vigil	7:00 pm	St John Bosco <sup>(M)</sup> <b>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Jimmy Parkinson (Anniversary)
Sun	1st Feb	9:30 am 6:30 pm	<b>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Richard Whalley Eccles & Wood Deceased Families
Mon	2nd Feb	9:30 am 4:00 pm	<b>The Presentation of the Lord <sup>(F)</sup> Candlemas</b> For Baby Eliza & Riya Reception into Church of the Body of Elsie Smith
Tues	3rd Feb	10:30 am 4 00 pm	St Blaise <sup>(OM)</sup> Requiem Mass for Elsie Smith Service of Blessing of Throats
Wed	4th Feb	9:30 am 12:00 pm	Mass with Rigby Class Intentions of Catherine Jones Requiem Mass for Maria Muriel Henderson
Thurs	5th Feb	9:30 am	St Agatha <sup>(M)</sup> Whiteley & Swarbrick Families
Fri	6th Feb	9:30 am	Ss Paul Miki and Comps <sup>(M)</sup> Father Jonathan Cotton OSB
Sat	7th Feb Vigil	7:00 pm	<b>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Michael & Catherine Carty & Mary & Michael McNamara
Sun	8th Feb	9:30 am 6:30 pm	<b>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> John Rawcliffe The Parish

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	31st Jan Vigil	5:30 pm	St John Bosco <sup>(M)</sup> <b>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> The Parish
Sun	1st Feb	10:30 am	<b>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Maureen Cook R.I.P.
Mon	2nd Feb	6:30 pm	<b>Presentation of the Lord <sup>(F)</sup> Candlemas</b> Priest's Intention
Tues	3rd Feb	9:15 am	St Blaise <sup>(M)</sup> Mass with Blessing of Throats Ronnie Jackson (Anniversary)
Wed	4th Feb	9:15 am	Service of the Word
Thurs	5th Feb	6:30 pm	St Agatha <sup>(M)</sup> Maureen & Jack Maher R.I.P.
Fri	6th Feb		NO SERVICES
Sat	7th Feb Vigil	5:30 pm	<b>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Marion Parkinson
Sun	8th Feb	10:30 am	<b>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> The Parish Sacramental Programme Unit 3

OM - Optional Memorial    F - Feast  
 M - Memorial                      S - Solemnity

**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](http://www.stmarysbrownedge.org.uk) or  
[www.saintgerards.org.uk](http://www.saintgerards.org.uk) or  
[www.churchservices.tv](http://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.

**Prayers for Salford Diocese**  
 Let us hold in prayer the people of the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. John Bosco, Blackley, with Fr Clement Kafor, CM, of the Vincentian Fathers, together with their Parish Primary schools. We pray for the Xaverian Missionaries and the Sisters of the Cross and Passion.

# Joint Notices



## FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Last week we heard Saint Matthew describing the beginnings of Jesus' public ministry. This Sunday Jesus lays down His "Mission

Statement": what we refer to as the "Sermon on the Mount." This great collection of Jesus' teachings begins with the Beatitudes – the Charter of the Kingdom. It is essential to understand these, if we are to understand what we will read in Saint Matthew during the rest of this year: the key, as underlined by the First Reading, is that the values of this world are not the values of the Kingdom of God – the Kingdom will see things turned upside down: happiness and blessing belong to those whom this world would ignore or mistreat. If we truly wish to live out the Gospel, we would do well to reflect on the virtues laid out in this familiar passage.



## Feast of the Presentation:

On Monday this coming week February 2nd, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. It commemorates two key events: the ritual purification of Mary 40 days after Jesus' birth and the

presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple at Jerusalem. We see Jesus being acclaimed by Anna and Simeon in the temple and Simeon, holds up the baby Jesus, declaring Him to be a Light to the World. Simeon's proclamation, "Now, you can let your servant go in peace... for my eyes have seen you salvation", is proclaimed every night in Compline, the Night Prayer of the Church. There is a tradition that this is the conclusion of Christmas. Thus, our crib scenes in church will be removed after this Feast.

The name "Candlemas" comes from the tradition of blessing all the Church's candles for the year on this day. Candlemas also marks the midpoint of winter, halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Weather predictions were often associated with this day, as reflected in the old verse: "If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, Winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, Winter won't come again." The movie "Groundhog Day" is based on this tradition: if the groundhog, emerges from his burrow on February 2nd and sees his shadow, he retreats, signalling six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't see his shadow, spring is on its way.

As we celebrate Simeon proclaiming Jesus as "*the light that shines in the darkness*", we also bless candles on the Feast of Candlemas, especially those candles which will be used Church in the coming year. There will Mass with the blessing of many of the different types of candles used in church on Monday at 9.30 am at St Mary's and an additional Mass at St Gerard's at 6.30 pm.

**Feast of St Blaise:** The day following Candlemas we remember St Blaise, patron of healing diseases of the throat. There is an ancient tradition of blessing throats with new candles which were blessed the previous day. The blessing of throats will be available on **Tuesday morning at 9.15 am Mass at St Gerard's and at 4pm at St Mary's following the Holy hour of adoration.**

**Sycamore (RCIA): Do you want to become a Catholic or learn more about the faith?** The next session of our RCIA Class is on Tuesday 3rd February at 7pm. Our journey through the 7 Sacraments has looked at the Sacraments Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick. This week it is the "Sacraments of Vocation", Marriage and Holy Orders. We will explore the idea of vocation, and speak about the vocations of marriage, family life, ordination, religious and consecrated life. Also, we reflect on the call to holiness within the single life.

**Visiting Priest:** We are delighted to announce that the diocese has asked us to host a priest from Nigeria who has been granted a sabbatical from his Diocese for 2 years to experience pastoral ministry in the Salford Diocese. Fr Charles Essien is from the Diocese of Uyo in Nigeria. He has been a priest for 26 years. As well as parish work, he has worked in Priestly Formation and Hospital Chaplaincy and, most recently, he has been lecturing at the Catholic Institute of West Africa. Fr Charles will arrive on Thursday and will reside at St Benedict's Monastery with Fr Mark and Fr Colin. He will act as an extra Assistant Priest to both St Mary's and St Gerard's as well as being able to lend support to the parishes across our Deanery when necessary. Please make Fr Charles welcome, help him to adjust to life in Lancashire and pray for him that his presence will be a great blessing on our community.

**Confirmation Programme 2026:** Young people who are in Year 8 at school and above are invited to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be celebrated on **Wednesday 13th May at 7pm** in St Mary's Brownedge Church by the Bishop of Salford. The preparation for our local parishes is being provided by Brownedge St Mary's High School in collaboration with Fr Mark and the parishes. Sessions will begin during Lent and will take place at 3.15pm on weekdays at our High School. Pupils from our parishes who attend other High Schools are also welcome to register.

Many children in St Gerard's Parish attend All Hallows High School; All Hallows is organising Confirmation for those parishes which are in Liverpool Archdiocese. All Hallows pupils who live in the Diocese of Salford are encouraged to register for Confirmation on the link below. We will make special arrangements for their preparation classes. If you would like your child to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please complete the registration form which can be found in the link on this school website: [www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-life/chaplaincy](http://www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-life/chaplaincy) If you have any questions, please speak to Fr Mark.

# Joint Notices

**School Governors:** There is still a vacancy for a Foundation Governor at Our Lady & St Gerard's School. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our children and the wider community.

**What's the Purpose?** Foundation Governors play a vital role in:

- **Supporting the school's vision and values** rooted in our foundation.
- **Ensuring strategic direction** and helping shape the future of our school.
- **Holding leaders to account** for educational performance and well-being.
- **Strengthening links** between the school, church, and community.

## What Are the Rewards?

- **Impact:** Make a positive difference in children's education and future.
- **Personal Growth:** Develop leadership, governance, and strategic skills.
- **Community:** Be part of a dedicated team working for the good of all.
- **Fulfilment:** Contribute to something meaningful and lasting.

No prior experience is necessary—just a passion for education and commitment to our values. Full training and support will be provided. **Interested?** To apply or for more information, contact Fr Mark.

**Diocesan Mass for Engaged Couples:** On Saturday 14 February, Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass for engaged couples across the diocese. The Mass provides couples with an opportunity to seek God's blessing to guide and strengthen them during this time of preparation. Newly-married couples are also invited to receive a blessing in their first year of marriage. The Mass will take place at St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst on Saturday 14 February 2026 at 1:30pm.

## MARRIAGE MATTERS

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time: "Being human". With the ever-increasing pace of life, when do we get a chance 'to be'? Today, the Word of God is intended to relate more to the deeper aspects of our humanity and the inner essence of our being, and the qualities of our personhood. It's about the ways we relate to each other in our marriages, our families, our communities.

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



Our Lady & St Gerard's



St Mary's Brownedge

**Permanent Diaconate:** The diocese is trying to promote vocations to the Permanent Diaconate. If anyone would like to find out more about the ministry of being a Deacon, there is a 'Come and See' Day on the morning of Sat 7th March at St Mary's Church in Burnley. Exact timings are yet to be finalised.

**Diocesan Yearbook:** 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.

## St Mary's SVP Conference Activities & Impact in 2025

Thank you, Parishioners of both St Mary's and St Gerard's, your generous donations through monthly collections and private gifts have enabled us to help those in need throughout our community and abroad.

We have provided Furniture and Household items in 5 instances, White goods to 2 families. Electrical appliances to 4 others. Supplied Clothes and School uniforms to 2 children and provided transport in 2 cases. Vinnie survival packs have been provided for 40 homeless people and we have funded a project to provide goats for 10 families in twin conference in Andhra Pradesh, India.

We have volunteered at the Christian Community Larder and Chorley Buddies for 115 hours, 99hrs of Prison visits, 208 hours of family and elderly visits, given 52 hours of Practical help to others and had 41 hrs of Conference meetings

**See Poster in Church for further Details**

## 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, Eileen McLaughlan, Marie Davis, Mary Craven

### All those who have died recently:

John Harry Riding, Elsie Smith, Fr Peter Foulkes, Richard Hammel, Brian Bamber, Jack Lawson, Maria Muriel Henderson, Peter Dawson.

**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 Housebound and for those who have asked for your Prayers.**

## ***Our Lady & St Gerard's Notices***

**Recently Deceased** - Please Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Peter Gerard Dawson who has died recently and who's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 19th February at 10 am.

**Sacramental Programme** - Next Sunday the 8th February there will be Unit 3 of the Sacramental Programme following the 10:30 am Mass and there will be a Reconciliation Service for the Children on the programme on **Tuesday 10th February** at 7 pm.

**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 Jen on 07957566741 or [Jen@metanoiaproject.co.uk](mailto:Jen@metanoiaproject.co.uk) . Help of any kind, however infrequent, would be gratefully received. Thank you to all who have donated so far.

**Mass Intentions** - If you would like to have a Mass intention please leave a note at the Parish Office clearly stating the Mass Intention. Mass intentions will not be taken over the telephone to avoid spelling mistakes. If you would like to Gift Aid the Donation please let us know.

## ***St Mary's Brownedge Notices***

**Offertory Procession:** Next Sunday 8th February 9:30 am Mass: Pangilinan Family

**St Mary's & St Benedict's RC Primary School:** The GIFT team are hosting a Coffee morning with a reflection on the Rosary on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10am in school. All are invited to attend.

St Gerard's Parish Lottery No. 615 28/01/26			
1st	£100	18	Mrs A Quinlan
2nd	£40	45	Mr J Wilding
3rd	£20	56	Mrs M Pails
<b>W/C 01/01/26</b>		<b>This Weeks Intentions</b>	
<b>Sanctuary</b>		Yvonne Jeffrey	
<b>St Gerard Majella</b>		Mia Aston & Babies	
Offertory 25th / 25th January 2026			
Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance	
£320.80	£217.25	157	
Bingo Jackpots for 04/02/2026			
£29	£25	£48	£39

**CAFOD Messages - Coffee Morning** - Friday 6th Feb after 9.30 Mass, tea, coffee and toasted teacakes, all welcome. Simon, from Cafod Salford, will be coming to give some information about Family Fast Day on 27th February.

**Friday 27th Feb is Family Fast Day.** There will be a short talk on weekend 21/22 Feb and envelopes for donations will be available.

**On Fridays in Lent, 27th Feb, 6th March, 13th March** following 9.30 Mass we will have coffee mornings. There is a list of dates on the Cafod Board.

**Mystery Raffle Tickets** will be on sale each weekend from 21/22 Feb and drawn at the following Lenten Coffee Morning.

**Cafod's Big Lent Walk** - Many thanks to David Gorman who will again be walking 200km in 40 days to raise funds for life-saving water. Your support is much appreciated.

**Parish Walk** - We will also have a **Parish Community Walk** on **Saturday 21st March** starting from church at 10.30am and walking 2.5/5km or a lap or two of the church grounds. You can give a small donation if you want and we will add this to David's total. Refreshments and final draw of mystery raffle in the Narthex afterwards.

**Requiem Masses:** There will be a Requiem Masses for Elsie Smith on Tuesday 3rd February at 10:30 am; for Maria Muriel Henderson on Wednesday 4th February at 12 noon; and for John Anthony 'Jack' Lawson on Thursday 12th February at 10:30 am

**The Preston Salvation Army** - Christmas Thankyou - Extremely big Thank you for your help & support with our Annual Christmas Appeal & Emergency Food Provision - We helped 300 families with toys / gift hampers. WE provided toys for 315 0 to 10 year olds, gifts for 308 10 to 19 year olds. A total of 623 children. On average each child was given 15 items making the total around 9500 toys / gifts given. The Food bank was extremely busy in December, and we gave out 1300 bags of food & toiletries to people in need. Without all the wonderful donations we received we would have been unable to help as many families as we did in Christmas 2025 - Your giving enabled The Salvation Army, Preston, to serve others across the city and beyond. Thank you all once again, and may we wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Sanctuary Lamps Week 01//02/26			
1	In Memory of Susan Harold		
2	For Ann & Jack Molyneaux		
Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend			
7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
45	208	73	326