



## St Mary's Brownedge

Founded c1780      SDTRTR No. 250037  
 St Mary's Priory, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6SP  
 www.stmarysbrownedge.org.uk    Facebook: @stmarysbrownedge  
 Live Streaming via website (churchservices.tv)

**Parish telephone (01772) 335168      Office Mobile 07442 385553**  
 Parish Office email: office@stmarysbrownedge.org.uk

## 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 (Office)**  
 email: pp@stmarysbrownedge.org.uk  
**Assistant Priests: Fr Colin Battell OSB. Fr Charles Essien Tel: 01772 321201 (Monastery)**

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A)

**22nd February 2026**

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	21st Feb	9:30 am	Priest's Intentions
	Vigil	7:00 pm	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Good Health
Sun	22nd Feb	9:30 am	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Charles Sergeant (Ann)
		6:30 pm	The Parish
Mon	23rd Feb	9:30 am	St Polycarp (OM) Maureen Waterhouse
Tues	24th Feb	9:30 am	Michael Walsh
Wed	25th Feb	9:30 am	Mass with Mary Class Margaret McNeela RIP
Thurs	26th Feb	9:30 am	Mary Smith
Fri	27th Feb	7:00 am	St Gregory of Narek (OM)
		9:30 am	<i>In Monastery Chapel:</i> Holy Souls Philip Morris (Ann)
		4.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	28th Feb	9:30 am	Ellen Bradley (Ann)
	Vigil	7:00 pm	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Joe Dowbakin (Ann)
Sun	1st Mar	9:30 am	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Geoff Thurman R.I.P.
		6:30 pm	Rhoda Turner (Ann)

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	21st Feb	5:30 pm	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> George & Dorren Wane
Sun	22nd Feb	10:30 am	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> Geoff Giddins R.I.P.
Mon	23rd Feb	6:00 pm	St Polycarp (OM)
		6:30 pm	Exposition Priest's Intentions
Tues	24th Feb	9:15 am	Holy Souls
Wed	25th Feb	9.15 am	Holy Souls
Thurs	26th Feb	6:30 pm	Marie Phelan
Fri	27th Feb	6:30 pm	St Gregory of Narek (OM) Stations of the Cross
Sat	28th Feb	5:30 pm	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Julie Watson
Sun	1st Mar	10:30 am	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> The Parish

**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.

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



**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**

We pray for the people of the parish of St. Anne, Crumpsall, and for Father Joshy Joseph, SSP, their Parish Priest, together with their Parish Primary School and the Chaplaincy to the North Manchester General Hospital.

# Joint Notices

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

In the Cycle of Sunday Readings, the oldest are those of **Year A in Lent** – these Gospels have accompanied the Church for many centuries. We must realise why: Lent was originally the time of immediate preparation of candidates for Baptism at Easter (something which has been reintroduced to the Church by RCIA): those already baptised used it as a time to prepare for the renewal of Baptismal promises. This is why so much of the Scripture in Lent is about Baptism, New Life and Salvation. What is the new life of Baptism? What are we set free from? What is sin? We begin Lent by hearing about sin and temptation; the Gospel will tell us of Jesus' own temptations, something he shares with us, though he did not sin. The other Scripture readings prepare us for the Gospel, in which Jesus, the new Adam, triumphs over temptation.

**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 24th February at 7pm. "How to Pray": Prayer is an incredible adventure. It's also a big challenge. Sometimes it's hard to make the time, or we don't know how to start, or it doesn't seem to be working. This week we look at how to appreciate the wonder of prayer and how it can help you in your daily life. It gives you four basic ways of praying that you can try at home, and suggests some prayers and devotions that Christians throughout the ages have found helpful.

**Rite of Election:** Those people who are preparing to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter are invited to be presented to our Bishop on the First Sunday of Lent: **22nd February at 2.30pm at St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst, Manchester. M4 5HF.** We have 13 adults preparing to become Catholics this Easter. Please pray for them.

**Visiting Priest:** We are delighted to welcome a new priest to help minister in our parishes: 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 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.

**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. 10am until 4pm.** Pop along and find out what it involves.

## THE SEASON OF LENT

**Stations of the Cross:** There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 4.30pm at St Mary's and at 6:30 pm at St Gerard's.

**Early Mass on Fridays:** There will be the opportunity of attending a Mass at **7.00 am** each Friday during Lent. This year we will hold this Mass in the **Chapel at St Benedict's Monastery.** It is a good chance for the those who cannot usually attend a weekday Mass due to work commitments.

**Mass on Thursday Evenings:** Remember we now have a Mass on Thursday at 6.30pm at St Gerard's.

**Reconciliation:** Lent is an important time to prepare for Easter by going to confession. Perhaps start thing now about when you will do this. We have confessions in both our churches before the vigil Masses on a Saturday evening; you can always ask a priest to hear your confession at any time. We will have a Parish Service of Reconciliation on the Tuesday of Holy Week, 31st March in St Gerard's Church at 7pm.

**Prayer:** Make an extra bit of time for prayer during Lent: maybe pray the rosary; listen to a hymn on YouTube; pray the readings form daily Mass on [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com); listen to the daily reflections on [www.pray-as-you-go.org](http://www.pray-as-you-go.org)

**Fasting:** Fridays in Lent are special days of fasting. Eat a little less than we might normally do; go without something which is part of the regular pattern of our lives—a TV programme; social media; offer that sacrifice to God for a special intention.

**Almsgiving:** give something more than we usually do to a good and worthy cause, especially to help those in need and demonstrate faith in action: CAFOD, Caritas, SVP, your local parish. Maybe set up a direct debit to make your giving a regular habit, or increase slightly the giving which you already make.

**Spiritual Reading:** Have you considered reading a spiritual book for Lent? There is a lot to choose from; why not start with biography of a saint? If anyone would like to send in recommendations or reviews we can share them here.

**CAFOD:** Join up with the Big Walk or support the Family Fast Day.

**Evangelise:** Remind family and friends that it is Lent and encourage them to take part.

**Learn More about the Lenten Sunday Gospels:** During the Lenten period, Salford Diocese is holding a course to deepen our appreciation of the Sunday Gospel that week: there will be a series of gospel readings taking place **every Tuesday** and delivered online by various speakers including, for the Palm Sunday Gospel, Bishop John Arnold. The next one is 24 February with Sr Teresa Brittain to prepare us for the 2nd Sunday of Lent when we hear "The Transfiguration". For more information, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

# Joint Notices

**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. They can do their preparation classes with All Hallows and their Confirmation with the parish by our Bishop. 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.

**St Clare's Day of Renewal:** The next 'Day of Renewal' will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026 from 10am till 4pm at St Clares Church, Sharoe Green, Preston PR2 9HH. It will be led by Fr Eamonn Mulcahy who will be speaking about 'Unpacking the Paschal Mystery – how to get the best Celebration of Easter'.

**Catholic Family Retreat at Castlerigg Manor // March 27-29th // £160-230 per family-** For the first time since Covid, Castlerigg Manor are bringing back their popular family retreats. There will be streams for different ages and fun activities for everybody including Mass in the evening and time to explore Keswick. For more info >> [castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com) >> events

**May Half Term B&B Stays at Castlerigg Manor -** In May half-term, Castlerigg Manor (Catholic retreat centre in Keswick, Cumbria) will once again be opening their doors for B&B stays. A great way for families, groups of friends, and individuals to get an affordable stay in Keswick. Mass will be provided on site. For more info >> [castleriggmanor.com](http://castleriggmanor.com) >> stay with us

**Pastoral Letter:** This weekend there is a Pastoral Letter from Bishop John. There are copies available at the back of Church to take home.

**New Dawn Catholic Conference 2026** will take place at All Saints Church, Redclyffe Road, Urmston, M41 7LG. Spring Conference from **29th - 31st May**. Principal Celebrants & Speakers include: Bishop John Arnold, Fr Pat Collins CM, Fr James Anyaegbu, Fr Frankie Mulgrew, John Hesketh, Gary Stephens and Daniella Stephens. There will be daily Holy Mass, praise and worship, talks, prayer ministry, children's (ages 5-11) and youth (ages 12-17) ministries, and opportunities for confession and personal prayer; bookings are now open: <https://booking.princeofpeace.org.uk/>. It will be a great celebration of people in prayer, worship, and fellowship with the beauty of the Catholic faith.

A second conference follows 3-7 August. Principal Celebrants & Speakers include: Abbot Hugh Allan O.Praem, Fr Michael Payyapilly VC, Fr Richard Bailey CO, Fr Cliff Fumbelo, Michelle Moran, Deacon Larry and Andi Oney, and Terry Quinn, with bookings open March 1st. For more information go to [www.princeofpeace.org.uk](http://www.princeofpeace.org.uk) - all are welcome.

**World Day of Prayer: Ecumenical Service at St Aidan's Community Hub, Bamber Bridge on Friday 6th March at 2pm.** World Day of Prayer is celebrated on the first Friday of March each year to encourage Christian women to engage in personal prayer and lead communal prayer within their communities. This year, the service is written by the Christian women of Nigeria with the theme, "I will give you rest; Come!" Everyone is welcome!

## MARRIAGE MATTERS

*Avoid independence* - Today, both Eve and Jesus are tempted to become independent, to turn away from the love of God. In marriage, we can think we have a right to fulfil our own desires without considering our partner, but we need to share these deepest hopes and dreams, and be prepared to hear the impact on our loved one and our relationship.

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



Our Lady & St Gerard's



St Mary's Brownedge

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

### The sick, and those who care for them:

Sister Louise, Yvonne Jeffrey, Maureen Calderbank, Joseph Finch, Brian Morley, Mick Green, Peter Clough, Joseph O'Grady, Ruth Johnstone, Eileen McLaughlin, Marie Davis, Christina Hall.

### All those who have died recently:

Jack Lawson, Peter Dawson, Maria Muriel Henderson, Mary Pails, Ena Bolton, Mary Bilsborough, Fr. Robert Morrow, Agnes Walker.

**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**

**Weekday Masses:** With the arrival of Fr Charles, we will resume having Mass on Monday evenings at 6.30pm, and on Wednesdays at 9.15am rather than a Communion Service, when there is a priest available to celebrate it. We will continue to have Adoration on Mondays at 6pm before Mass.

**Coffee Morning:** after Mass on Sunday 8th March there will be a coffee morning launching our "Easter Raffle" which will be drawn on Easter Sunday.

**New Sanctuary Carpet:** We will be replacing the carpet on the sanctuary during the week after next; 2nd—6th March. Thus, there will not be services in Church from Monday to Friday that week so that it can be fitted. We are enormously grateful to an anonymous donor who is helping us to cover the cost.

**Tea Dance:** The South Ribble Central Villages Hub are hosting a **Hot Pot/Butter pie Lunch in the Parochial Centre on Tuesday 17th March from 12 noon until 3 pm.** This **Free event for over 55's** is by **ticket only** which must be requested by Friday 6th March. To obtain your tickets email [communities@southribble.gov.uk](mailto:communities@southribble.gov.uk)

**CAFOD: Family Fast Day** is being held on **Friday 27th February**. This is an opportunity fast and give what we save to help those in developing countries who have no option but to go to bed hungry each night. A short appeal will take place next weekend at both the Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 10.30am mass and envelopes will be given out both before and after mass for you to take home, return the following weekend, and place in the collection plate.

**Metanoia project:** a box has been placed at the back of church next to the larder box This 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. The Metanoia group also provide the homeless with a warm meal every Tuesday 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.

<b>W/C 22/02/26</b>	<b>This Weeks Intentions</b>
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Yvonne Jeffrey
<b>Sacred Heart</b>	Cliff Hughes

<b>Offertory 14th / 15th February 2026</b>		
<b>Loose</b>	<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>
£293.30	£165.50	148

<b>Bingo Jackpots for 24/02/2026</b>			
£32	£28	£51	£25

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

**Offertory Procession:** Next Sunday 1st March 9:30 am Mass: Children's Mass

**CAFOD: 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. The first will be on 27th February along with the first of the Mystery Raffle Draws.

**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 - CAFOD'S Big Lent Walk 2026 -** Dave Gorman is once again, for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, taking part in the Big Lent Walk and walking a minimum of 200km during the forty days of Lent. Your support and generosity would, once again, be much appreciated in the fight against global poverty. Sponsorship forms are available in the Narthex and in the Sacred Heart porch or you can donate online via: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/daves-fundraising-page4>

**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.

**CAFOD Coffee Morning -** Many thanks to all who supported our coffee morning and raffle which raised £210 & from the buckets, donations and sale of goods on the Cafod stall, £155. Thanks to Simon, from Cafod Salford, who gave some interesting information about the Family Fast Day Appeal. He thanked us for all the support over the years in helping our neighbours who face new challenges each day - Four children & John, the chaplain from the High School, joined us and helped with the refreshments. Great to see you, please come again.

**Easter Egg Appeal:** Once again this year, we are collecting Easter Eggs for the Women's Refuge and other family charities for Easter; Please put donations at the back of Church in the boxes provided or contact Clare Haythornthwaite on 312558.

<b>Sanctuary Lamps Week 22/02/26</b>	
1	Torbitt, Firth, & Leonard Families
2	Deceased Members of the Ziolkowski Family

<b>Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend</b>			
<b>7 pm Vigil</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Total</b>
58	166	56	280