



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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A)

8th March 2026

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	7th Mar	9:30 am	Ss Perpetua and Felicity Priest's Intentions
	Vigil	7:00 pm	Third Sunday of Lent Eileen & Bob Hornby
Sun	8th Mar	9:30 am	Third Sunday of Lent Robert McGeown R.I.P.
		11:00 am	Baptism of Bonnie Fearon
		6:30 pm	The Parish
Mon	9th Mar	9:30 am	St Frances of Rome Mary Hewitt (Wedding Ann)
Tues	10th Mar	9:30 am	Private Intention
Wed	11th Mar	9:30 am	Haydock Class In Thanksgiving
Thurs	12th Mar	9:30 am	Agnes & Jim Livesey
Fri	13th Mar	7:00 am	<i>In Monastery Chapel:</i> Margaret Halliwell R.I.P.
		9.30 am	Francis, John & Elizabeth Dowbakin
		4.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	14th Mar	9:30 am	Priest's Intentions
	Vigil	7:00 pm	Fourth Sunday of Lent Ann Sergeant (Birthday)
Sun	15th Mar	9:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Lent Rhoda Rawcliffe
		11:15 am	Baptism of Roman Brockbank & Charles Parr
		6:30 pm	Ellen Duncan

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	7th Mar		Ss Perpetua and Felicity Third Sunday of Lent Sacred Heart Guild
	Vigil	5:30 pm	
Sun	8th Mar	10:30 am	Third Sunday of Lent Mary Patricia Hewitt (Wedding Anniversary)
Mon	9th Mar	6:00 pm	St Frances of Rome Exposition
		6:30 pm	Priest's Intentions
Tues	10th Mar	9:15 am	Reception, Yr 2 & Yr 6. Helen Ward (Birthday Memories)
Wed	11th Mar	9:15 am	Priest's Intentions
Thurs	12th Mar	6:30 pm	Peter Worthington R.I.P.
Fri	13th Mar	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	14th Mar		Fourth Sunday of Lent The Parish
	Vigil	5:30 pm	
Sun	15th Mar	10:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Lent Gerard Francis Porter (Ann)

During Lent all "Memorial" Saint Days are optional and are called "Commemorations". Only the "Collect" is used at Mass due to the importance of Lent. Feasts and Solemnities, e.g. St Patrick & St Joseph, can be fully celebrated in Lent (but not during Holy Week).

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.

Prayers for Salford Diocese

This week we pray for the parish of St. Clare, Blackley, for Fr Jeremiah Budau, OFM Conv, and the Franciscan community. We pray for their parish primary school and Our Lady's High School, for the Good Shepherd Sisters and for the Chaplaincy to the Romanian community.



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.

Joint Notices

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

The Gospel of the third Sunday is the remarkable conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman by the well, the theme is water - which gives life, which cleanses, which is so necessary. This reading forms part of the catechesis given before Baptism at Easter: the candidates who would go into the water are invited to reflect on what that means. But more necessary than the water which gives life is the water which gives eternal life - the water of baptism, the water flowing from Jesus' side on the cross. Even if your Church does not have any candidates preparing for Baptism, every catholic is invited to renew our baptismal promises at Easter: we should take this opportunity to reflect on what baptism has given us, and what God has done for us in this gift.

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 10th March at 7pm. We have completed the 20 sessions of the Sycamore video series; we will spend the next few weeks looking at some of the essential parts in the life of a Catholic. This week we will look at some of the structures of the Church: Hierarchy; Parishes; deaneries; dioceses; Bishops' Conference; role of lay faithful; common priesthood of all baptised. There will also be the opportunity to ask any questions regarding life as a Catholic.

Coming Weeks: Tues 17th March: Explaining the liturgies of Holy Week; Palm Sunday; Stations of the Cross; The Mass of Chrism; The Lord's Supper; The Passion of the Lord; The Easter Vigil; Easter Sunday.

Tues 24th March: Practice the ceremonies of Reconciliation / Baptism / Reception / Confirmation / First Holy Communion

Tues 31st March 7pm: Reconciliation Service at St Gerard's

Saturday 4th April 8pm: The Easter Vigil

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.

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.

Caritas Sunday - Please note that this will be held on the weekend of 21st/22nd March. It usually takes place in January but this wasn't possible this year. Envelopes for gift aid will be available at the back of church before that date. You are welcome to take one and return on Caritas Sunday. Caritas uses all donations for the poor, the homeless and the underprivileged in our community.

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; listen to the daily reflections on 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 10 March to prepare us for the 4th Sunday of Lent when we hear "The Man Born Blind". For more information, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

Joint Notices

Baptism Preparation Course - The next course starts this week at St Mary's Brownedge at 7 pm on Tuesday with enrolments on Sunday 15th during Mass.

SVP: Thank you for this month's collection which raised £148.89 at St Mary's and £59.25 at St Gerard's.

Planned Giving Envelopes / Gift Aid - New boxes of planned giving envelopes (gift aid and non-gift aid) are now ready for collection in the Narthex. If your box is missing or any details are not correct; if you would like to start using envelopes; or if you would prefer to give by standing order, please contact: John Kirkwood 01772 312793 or in the case of St Gerard's contact the parish office direct.

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 the school website: www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-life/chaplaincy

MARRIAGE MATTERS

Find our 'living water' Jesus' message to the woman at the well reminds us of His first miracle at Cana where He changed water into wine. Today, He promises us "living water where we will never be thirsty again...a spring inside...welling up to eternal life". When His grace is poured into us, into our marriages, it can overflow, strengthening us, reaching out to others.

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



Our Lady & St Gerard's



St Mary's Brownedge

Lent Scrutinies: Carefully chosen passages from the Gospel of John are read on the Lenten Sundays 3,4 & 5 to identify what binds us to sin, blinds us to truth and takes away our freedom to live in perfect relationship with God. 1st scrutiny is John 4: 4-42, the Samaritan Woman at the Well. Jesus touches the heart of the sinful woman and she receives his living water. 2nd Scrutiny: John 9: 1-41, Jesus and the man born blind. Jesus leads the man born blind to the Kingdom of Light. 3rd Scrutiny: John 11: 1-44, Jesus raising Lazarus from the Dead. Jesus is sent to save us from death and sin and to lead us to a new life lived in full communion with the Holy Trinity.

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 >> 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 >> stay with us

St Wilfrid's Walking Pilgrimage to to Ladywell Shrine with the Stations of the Cross: As this was so successful last year arrangements have been made again for **Saturday 21st March** setting off from St Wilfrid's at 9 am to arrive at Ladywell to celebrate Mass at 12:30 pm. The walk is approximately 4 miles. All ages are welcome to join in but under 18's must be accompanied by a responsible adult. **As transport back will be offered for walkers, it is vital that you sign up beforehand to ensure enough transport is available.** Details can be found at <https://metanoiaproject.churchsuite.com/events/x9viwafr> where you can also sign up for the walk.

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, Valerie Jeffrey, Connie Hardacre. Anne May.

All those who have died recently: Ena Bolton, Mary Billsborough, Agnes Walker, Marie Baron.

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

New Sanctuary Carpet: WOW, what a difference and thank you to our very generous anonymous donor. If anyone would like to make a donation to raise funds to carpet the remainder of the church it would be appreciated. The last time was in the early 90's so it is not something we do very often.

Thank you also to Baz Howard and his team for carrying out the decorating of one side of the church in the same time frame.

A huge thankyou to those who came to clean up on Friday afternoon—it was an amazing effort!

Majella Companions - Meet this week on Tuesday 10th at 2 pm in the Shields Centre.

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

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

CAFOD Walk for water - Please remember to return your donations for family fast day this weekend in the collection plate. As stated last weekend Michael and I are walking 500 kms over Lent to support CAFOD's work in bringing clean water to regions of the developing world where people have to walk many kms daily to access something we take for granted. This was brought home to us a few days ago when we walked to St Wilfrid's to take some of the clothes for the Metanoia project so generously donated by parishioners. Rather than take the car we put them in rucksacks and set off! We were exhausted and sore by the time we arrived. Millions of people are carrying much heavier loads daily to access water and they are unable to get the 111 bus home!

Our just giving site link is:
<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising/michaels-fundraising-page1036>

Wednesday Bingo Easter Break: There will be no Bingo Session in Holy Week or Easter Week (1st & 8th April). We will restart on Wednesday 15th April.

W/C 08/03/26		This Weeks Intentions	
Sanctuary		Yvonne Jeffrey	
Our Lady		Helen & Frederick Ward (Wedding Ann)	
Offertory 28th February / 1st March 2026			
Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance	
£301.64	£283.85	208	
Bingo Jackpots for 10/03/2026			
£34	£30	£53	£27

St Mary's Brownedge Notices

Offertory Procession: Next Sunday 15h March 9:30 am Mass: Children's Mass.

St Mary & St Benedict RC Primary School Coffee Morning: Tuesday 10th March from 10:15am till 11am after morning Mass – All Parishioners welcome to come along to school.

Brownedge High School Year 7: On Wednesday this week, children in Year 7 will be having a retreat day for Lent. They will be spending much of the day in and around church doing various prayer activities. Please pray for them and the those leading them.

On Fridays in Lent, following 9.30 Mass we will have coffee mornings along with the the Mystery Raffle Draws.

Mystery Raffle Tickets will be on sale at each weekend Mass and drawn at the following Friday Lenten Coffee Morning.

Cafod's Big Lent Walk - CAFOD'S Big Lent Walk 2026 - Dave Gorman is once again, for the 5th 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.

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.

Recently Deceased: Please pray for the souls of Patricia Long whose Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 18th March at 11:15 am and Maria Baron whose Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 24th March at 10.00 am May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Sanctuary Lamps Week 08/03/26			
1	For the Repose of the soul of Peter Haythornthwaite		
2	For Francis, John & Elizabeth Dowbakin		
Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend			
7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
59	140	60	259