



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)

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Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

Lostock Hall - Preston - PR5 5AA
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Facebook : @stgerardslostockhall Twitter : @stgerardslostoc Instagram : @stgerardsslostock

Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest), Tel: 01772 335168 (Office)
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Assistant Priests: Fr Colin Battell OSB. Fr Charles Essien Tel: 01772 321201 (Monastery)

EASTER SUNDAY

5th April 2026

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	4th Apr	9:30 am	HOLY SATURDAY Office of Readings
	Vigil	8:00 pm	THE EASTER VIGIL Mary Stead Baptisms / Confirmations
Sun	5th Apr	9:30 am 6:30 pm	EASTER SUNDAY Spicer Family The Parish
Mon	6th April	9.30 am	Richard & Mary Lloyd
Tues	7th April	9:30 am	Margaret Cubbin
Wed	8th April	9:30 am	Brian Vernon Watts
Thurs	9th April	9.30 am 12:30pm	Sheila Allsop Wedding of Mark Birkinshaw & Chloe Cross
Fri	10th Apr	9:30 am	Special Intentions of Maureen & Family
Sat	11th Apr	9:30 am	Fred & Mary Cowburn 2nd Sunday of Easter DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
	Vigil	7:00 pm	Deceased members of the Catholic Club
Sun	12th Apr	9:30 am 11:00 am 6:30 pm	2nd Sunday of Easter DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Gerard Turner (Birthday) Baptism of Robin Hoyle Mary Walmsley (Anniversary)

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	4th Apr		HOLY SATURDAY
	Vigil	6:00 pm	THE EASTER VIGIL Sacred Heart Guild
Sun	5th Apr	10:30 am	EASTER SUNDAY Priest's Intention Baptism of Gabriel Reeves
Mon	6th April	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Exposition Priest's Intentions
Tues	7th April	9:15 am	Holy Souls
Wed	8th April	9:15 am	Priests Intentions
Thurs	9th April	12 noon	Requiem Mass for Valerie Jeffrey R.I.P.
Fri	10th Apr		NO SERVICES
Sat	11th Apr		2nd Sunday of Easter DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY The Parish
	Vigil	5:30 pm	
Sun	12th Apr	10:30 am	2nd Sunday of Easter DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 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.

Prayers for Salford Diocese

This week we pray for the parishioners of Christ the King, Newton Heath, for Fr. Derek McCartney, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school.

Joint Notices

EASTER SUNDAY

TODAY: Easter Sunday RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

The Paschal Mystery; the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, is the single most important event in the history of human existence. And yet it is not merely an event in history; it transcends time and space to be a real and true event in our present time and in our locality. Our celebrations over the Sacred Triduum make present the Paschal Mystery for us here and now.

Easter is the greatest feast on our calendar: We are asked to attend Mass every Sunday because of what happened on Easter Sunday: He is risen! Alleluia! Indeed this feast is so important that it is more than a day—there is an Octave of Easter this week whereby every day is Easter Day. There can be no other feasts celebrated during the days of Holy Week and Holy Week, thus when another Solemnity falls on those days it gets moved to the first available .

As we know, the date of Easter changes each year; this is because of a decision at the Council of Nicaea in 325 that Easter Sunday will be the first Sunday after the Spring Equinox (21 March). Thus, the earliest date for Easter 22nd March and the latest would be 25th April.

Therefore Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the "Feast of feasts," the "Solemnity of solemnities," St. Athanasius calls Easter "the Great Sunday" and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week "the Great Week."

The Triduum and Easter Services: The liturgies of the past week have been wonderful occasions; many thanks to everyone who has helped in any way: sacristans, servers, cleaners, flower arrangers, musicians and singers, reader and other ministers. It is truly a special parish effort visibly demonstrating our Holy Communion. Well done everyone!

Happy Easter! Fr Mark, Fr Colin & Fr Charles would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support, Many members of our community do so much to help us all; it is much appreciated. We pray for every blessing of this sacred feast to be with each of you, your loved ones, and our whole community.

Welcome! Easter is traditionally a time for people to be received into the Church. We are greatly blessed that **nine adults** are becoming Catholics in our Parish this Easter. This follows a group of eight last Easter; this is a great sign of renewal and new life and the attractiveness of our community; welcome to: Edward Seed, Emily Baxter, Dan Butler, Glynn Watson, Sam Cruickshank, Shannon Wright, Molly Bottomley, Amrutha Nair and Lauren Boyd. Also Dan Taylor and Akram Ghasemkhani will be received in the coming weeks. Most of these Baptisms / Receptions / Confirmations / First Communions will take place at the Easter Vigil.



Shroud of Turin: A replica of the Shroud of Turin and a supporting exhibition will be displayed at **Blackburn Cathedral from Monday 23rd March until Sunday 12th April 2026.**

It is a life-size replica of the original burial shroud believed to have been used to wrap the body of Jesus after the Crucifixion. It offers a wonderful opportunity to learn more and study this sacred cloth - which for some, has proved to be a deeply moving and profound experience.

On Sunday 12th April from 1 – 2pm there will be a talk by Fr Andrew Dalton, a lecturer from Rome and a world expert on the Shroud.

The Chaplet to the Divine Mercy: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a very spiritual devotion focussing on the mercy Jesus has for each one of us. The Chaplet can be said daily. There is also a special Novena which runs for the 9 days from Good Friday to the Feast of Divine Mercy on 2nd Sunday of Easter. There are copies of the Chaplet and the Novena available at the back of Church.

Change to Parish Office Hours for Easter holidays: During the school holidays there will be a slight change to the parish office hours:

From Tuesday 7th April the Parish Office Hours will be as follows:

St Gerard's 8:45 am to 11:45pm

St Mary's 12:15 pm to 3:15 pm

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.

Joint Notices

Gift Aid: A Simple Way to Help Your Parish

Many parishioners may not realise that most people receiving the State Pension are now paying Income Tax on it and many more will be from 5th April this year. This means a large number of us already pay enough tax for the parish to reclaim Gift Aid on our offertory giving.

Just to reassure you: we are not asking you to give more (though any increase is always appreciated). What we are encouraging is that whatever you already put into the offertory is Gift Aided.

Gift Aid allows the parish to claim an additional 25p for every £1 donated, at no extra cost to you. All that's needed is a simple Gift Aid declaration. It's quick to complete, confidential, and covers all your regular and one-off giving.

If you're not already signed up, please consider doing so. By Gift Aiding your offerings, you help the parish receive the full benefit of the tax you already pay—strengthening our community and supporting the work of the Church.

The Gift Aid form (and Standing Order if you prefer) are available in the Narthex or if you need any help, please speak to our parish Gift Aid organiser or contact the parish office.

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. Have you been confirmed? Have your children or grandchildren been confirmed? Everyone who is a Catholic should receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The preparation for our local parishes is being provided by Brownedge St Mary's High School in collaboration with Fr Mark and the parishes. If you want more information about being confirmed please get in touch with Fr Mark, the school chaplain or the parish office: www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-life/chaplaincy

S.V.P. – Thank you everyone for your kind donations to the SVP monthly collection, we raised £124.51 from Brownedge and £105.10 from St Gerard's. The SVP befriends those who live alone, or are just lonely, recently bereaved, or disabled. Please let us know through the Church office if you would like a visit and a friendly ear to listen.

MARRIAGE MATTERS

"Love our spouse just as they are" The different behaviour patterns of Jesus' friends are well illustrated in these Scriptures. Jesus loved each of them exactly as they were, just as He loves each of us. Our challenge is to really love our spouse, just as they are, with all the differences that we have. It's a lifelong journey, but like Jesus' friends, our understanding can grow.

SVP: - Camino Pilgrimage - Tuesday 7th April – Barbara Hall will be leaving for the SVP Camino Pilgrimage – Please join her & the other Pilgrims with your prayers – Donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/page/barbara-hall-1 or any donations can be put in the donations basket in Church in an envelope marked Camino.

Please also remember Glynn Watson, who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil and then head off on Easter Sunday to walk the Camino in memory of his wife, Julie, who died last year.

Recommendations for Spiritual Reading: We have recently had recommendations for spiritual reading. A parishioner has suggested: "Theology of the Body" by Pope John Paul II. He often touches on this theme throughout his pontificate—reflecting how we are made by God and the respect and dignity we owe to ourselves being part of the amazing wonder and beauty of God's creation. St Francis de Sales consoling thoughts on different topics such as on sickness and death, on the interior life on the providence of God.

At Easter time it is always good to reflect more deeply on the life of Jesus; Watching a religious documentary or a biblical movie can also lead us into deeper understanding of the Paschal Mystery: Currently on BBC iPlayer there is a good documentary about the winner of "The Traitors", called, **"Harry Clark goes to Rome"**. A good portrayal of a young man seeking to deepen his faith. Well worth a watch. Encourage your families to tune and think about their faith a little more.

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



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, Eileen McLaughlin, Marie Davis, Christina Hall, Anne May.

All those who have died recently:

Patricia Long, Marie Baron, Sheila Allsop, Mary Lawson, Magdalena Denby, Valerie Jeffrey, Ann Barnes.

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

Flowers for Easter - Thank you to those who contributed towards the Easter Flowers it is appreciated.

New Sanctuary Carpet: The new sanctuary carpet looks splendid; many thanks once again to the generous benefactor who donated the cost of the new carpet. The remaining carpet in the Church now looks even more in need of replacing. 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.

We are still waiting for an estimated cost for this, when it arrives you may wish to sponsor a square metre or two!!

CAFOD Walk for water - Michael and Margaret Cronin 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. 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.

Thank you so much for the many kind wishes and prayers following my recent admission to hospital. They were hugely appreciated. God bless you all!
Michael Cronin

Piety Shop - Recently we had the Solemnity of St Joseph. If anyone is especially devoted to him we have a few Sleeping St Joseph Statues available, call in and have a look!

Recently Deceased: Please pray for the soul of Valerie Jeffrey whose Requiem Mass is on Thursday 9th April 2026 at 12 noon.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Lawson. Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 16th April at 11.15am

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Wedding: Best wishes to Mark Birkinshaw & Chloe Cross who will be married on Thursday at St Mary's Brownedge at 12.30pm

W/C 05/04/26	This Weeks Intentions
Sanctuary	Yvonne Jeffrey
Our Lady	In Memory of Gordon Hunt

Offertory 28th / 29th March 2026		
Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance
£342.42	£175	243

Bingo Jackpots for 15/04/2026			
£25	£33	£56	£30

St Mary's Brownedge Notices

Offertory Procession: Next Sunday 12th April 9:30 am Mass: Too Family.

Cafod - Many thanks to all who supported our coffee mornings and raffles during Lent, we have raised a wonderful £1,160. We have also received a generous anonymous donation of £100 and from our Parish Community Walk have given David Gorman £125 towards his Big Lent Walk. From the buckets and sale of goods on the Cafod stall during March, £165. Unclaimed raffle tickets from last week, orange 788, 96, 627, prizes on the trolley in the Narthex. Thank you for standing in love and solidarity with our global family, blessings of Easter to you all

Cafod's Big Lent Walk - CAFOD'S Big Lent Walk 2026: Dave Gorman is, 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>

Mothers Prayers - The next meeting is on Wednesday 15th April at 1 pm in the Priory.

Recently Deceased: Please pray for the soul of Ann Barnes (Nee Foy) whose Funeral Service will be on Monday 13th April at 11:30 am. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Legacies: We are extremely grateful to the late Elsie Smith and Jack Lawson who have left some money to the parish as part of their legacies. It is a wonderful testament to their faith and sense of mission for the future of the Church. R.I.P.

MESSAGE FROM LINDA & PHILIP SWARBRICK - Many thanks to all who helped us celebrate our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Your prayers, cards, gifts and good wishes were much appreciated. A special thank you to Fr Colin & Fr Charles for the Mass and Fr Mark for organizing a Papal Blessing for us. We had a truly memorable day.

CARITAS COLLECTION – Many Thanks to you for raising almost £900 for the poor & underprivileged in our community. This included a £100 donation from the CAFOD group which was greatly appreciated – Well done to you all.

Sanctuary Lamps Week 05/04/26			
1	Deceased Members of the Eastham Family		
2	Prayers for my dear daughter Jade - May she find Peace in Heaven		
Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend			
7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
64	165	67	296