

Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

NEWS AND VIEWS

**OCTOBER - In 2020 on the
Feast of Our Lady of the
Rosary (7th October) Pope
Francis said.**

"Today is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. I invite everyone to rediscover, especially during this month of October, the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries, I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Saviour with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations," The pope said that the Blessed Virgin Mary has urged the recitation of the rosary in her apparitions, "especially in the face of the threats looming over the world."

St Gerard Majella - Feast Day this year is on Monday 16th October. More information about St Gerard is on our parish website www.saintgerards.org.uk

Issue No 669 October 2023



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HALF-WAY TO HEAVEN - A PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

The Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand” Matthew 4:17

PART TWO - OUR OWN PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE



In 2019 Margaret became increasingly unwell with an exacerbation of her Rheumatoid Arthritis until she was unable to perform daily tasks. I had been drawn to Medjugorje for many years and I promised Our Lady I would climb Apparition Hill in thanksgiving if she could assist us. Two days later

Margaret's consultant recommended a different medication which had recently been developed. One day after taking this the pain and inflammation disappeared and her full mobility returned. Our Lady had come to our aid once again and Apparition Hill was calling!

Shortly after this however the pandemic made its unwelcome appearance and I contracted a form of Long Covid, so our trip was put on hold. Finally, in May of this year, we were able to begin our trip to fulfil the promise.

It is not easy to describe the extraordinary atmosphere in Medjugorje and to give an account of its transformational effect. The whole town - residents, shopkeepers, waiters, taxi drivers, everyone - has been profoundly affected by the presence of Our Lady for all these years. The place is Spirit-filled. Shortly after our arrival we congratulated a driver on his command of our language and asked if he had ever visited the UK. I would like to, he said, but Our Lady wants me to stay here and tell visitors about her message, so that they in turn will spread the word.

Every evening there are three hours of devotion: the Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Veneration of the Cross and The Holy Rosary. The Parish Church of St James, and a huge area outside, is packed for these events with local residents and pilgrims from all over the World. The atmosphere of reverence and devotion is quite extraordinary. Hundreds of confessions are heard daily in an

enormous variety of languages and the wait is about half an hour to visit one of the many priests. Indeed, it can be said that the central charism of Medjugorje is confession – our guide Mirjana impressed upon us that we could not possibly leave until we had received this sacrament at least once!

It was with great joy that we finally climbed Apparition Hill, reciting the Holy Rosary where the visionaries had first seen Our Lady 42 years ago (See Part One). It is quite a challenge because the terrain is very rough and rocky, but Margaret, following the intervention of Our Lady, sped up to the top like a 25 year old (much quicker than me!). Hundreds of pilgrims climbed with us, saying the Holy Rosary and stopping to meditate at the beautiful works of art depicting each decade. How wonderful it was to be able to thank Our Lady for her help in such a holy place!



Later in the week, we were also able to climb the nearby Cross Mountain, stopping to pray at the magnificent Stations of the Cross which marked the route to the summit. Three times higher than Apparition Hill, it is an even sterner proposition, but this too presented no problem for Margaret with her revitalised

limbs!

It was a truly blessed, transforming time for both of us. Our Lady felt very near to all the pilgrims who were fortunate enough to be able to visit. Like so many, were left with a strong desire to return to this place where the Kingdom feels so very near.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE, PRAY FOR US

(If you want to find out more we strongly recommend you read the autobiography of the visionary Mirjana: **“My Heart Will Triumph”** by Mirjana Soldo (available on Amazon), or much better still go to Medjugorje if you are able!

Michael Cronin



**BROWNEGE, ST. MARY'S BELL RINGERS
30TH ANNIVERSARY OUTING
EASTER MONDAY – 18TH APRIL 2022**



Friday 6th March 1992 is documented in the old tower record book as the date of the inaugural meeting of interested persons from the parish who wished to learn the ancient English art and science of church bell ringing. This first meeting resulted in the formation of the current band of ringers and is a significant occasion, as there had been no band of ringers at Brownedge since the late 70s/early 80's, the previous band having simply faded away due to age! Since those first tentative steps and for the past thirty years, we have rung our bells almost every Sunday for evening Mass as well as other events and civic occasions.

We could not let this occasion pass without some form of celebration. Rather belatedly, due mainly to covid, it was decided to have a mini-tour, ring at three local churches and have a celebratory lunch. Many Brownedge ringers, past and present, were invited, plus friends and ringers who supported us in the beginning. I chose to ring at those towers who supported us in the early days. They did this by allowing us to join their practice nights, en-masse to learn the basics of change ringing.

Our first such church of the day was Hoghton, Holy Trinity, virtually opposite Hoghton Tower. This is an 8 bell tower and it was here where we all de-camped in the very early days on Wednesday evenings, Hoghton bells being much easier to handle than Brownedge. It must have been a facing for the locals to have 6 to 8 'raw' recruits who could barely ring rounds, descend upon their practice night! (I discovered years later that Brownedge bells had something of a reputation locally as being difficult to handle!). Here we enjoyed ringing various methods and call changes until 12:30.

Next, it was back down the long hill and off to the Yew Tree at Walton-Le-Dale. My sister, Pamela had booked a table beforehand for 14 people and we all enjoyed a hearty lunch of traditional pub fayre. Thanks Pam!

Once suitably nourished and refreshed it was back along the same road up to Higher Walton. The church of All Saints is our closest neighbour with a peal of bells and this peal is an excellent one, again possessing 8 bells and now sadly not rung very much due to the local

band drifting away. In the past some of the ringers from this church rang with us at Brownedge and, we in turn, supported their service ringing at various times. When our bells were removed from the tower for rehunging in 2007, we all stayed together and moved to All Saints every week to assist with their service ringing.

Our last church of the day was the Parish Church of St James, Brindle, again another tower we all visited on practice nights in the very early days. St James possess a peal of 6 bells, and we rang here very well. However, they are very loud outside, and the Easter Monday afternoon drinkers sat outside at the Cavendish soon dispersed into the confines of the pub interior.

It is worth noting that Brindle and Hoghton still have the same principal ringers as in those early days, Stuart and Raymond respectively, as they met us and opened the church doors it was great to reminisce about the early days, days that seem like 10 years ago, not 30!

Finally, we were all drawn to the Cavendish Arms ourselves, temptation being too great, having worked up a thirst on a lovely, sunny day. As we partook, we continued to catch up on old, and not so old times and on absent friends who are sadly missed.

Graham Turner

CAFOD

Several weeks ago over a hundred parishioners of St Gerard's signed a copy of a letter which CAFOD are handing in at a meeting they have with the World Bank in October. This asks the Bank to allow farmers in the developing world to make their own decisions when choosing the most suitable seeds to plant on their land. Over 48.000 people in 600 parishes have now signed. Grateful thanks to all those who signed the letter.

It's harvest time again and family fast day is on Friday 6th October when we are asked to pray, give, and eat simply in solidarity with our global family. Most of you will have received your donation envelopes by now. These can be placed in the collection plate on the weekend of 7th and 8th October or posted through the presbytery letter-box.

If you are a UK taxpayer please sign the box on the back of the envelope so CAFOD can reclaim tax on your donation.

I'm sure we've all been horrified at the natural disasters which have been occurring over the past few months. Our television screens have bombarded us with truly dreadful images: floods in Libya; earthquakes in Morocco, Turkey, and Syria; forest fires in Spain and Canada, the list goes on. Such suffering can seem overwhelming and it's difficult to know how we can help. As Christians however we cannot ignore such suffering to our neighbour and have to respond and do what we can to provide assistance.

Brownedge St Mary's parishioners, with help from St Gerard's, have collected over £4000 during the last few months to provide CAFOD with a health clinic to help people in remote areas of the developing world access medical help whenever and wherever it's needed.

CAFOD's harvest appeal for 2023 is concentrating on providing more of these mobile clinics in disaster areas like Pakistan, where last year dreadful floods occurred leaving many thousands of people homeless, sick and destitute. Here, Cafod with their partners on the ground, provided mobile clinics where medical personnel like Dr Nasha could get her team of doctors and nurses quickly to where they were most needed.

In the aftermath of the flooding her team travelled hundreds of miles. On their travels through remote areas they met Meera who had given birth just before the floods had destroyed her home. Meera's family moved into a temporary shelter at the roadside alongside other families. They had little food and only contaminated water to drink. Diseases spread and children got very sick.

Fortunately Dr Nasha and her team arrived in the village and were able to provide life-saving medicines and treatment. Today Meera's baby Marwi is a healthy one year old and Meera and her husband have rebuilt their home and are working to recover what they lost in the floods.

Unfortunately, we know that today these extreme disasters are happening all too frequently and that is why your donations are needed urgently so that CAFOD can help provide more of these mobile clinics in disaster areas.

Please give generously and, if possible, gift aid your donation, as doing so increases the value of your gift by 25p in every pound.

I Wuz there. Honestly (NOT)

When you get folk saying “I was there” in relation to some historical or famous event, you subconsciously say to yourself. “How very impressive is that” or more to the point “Yeah, right!”

You are led to believe that is everyone who told you they were at Wembley Stadium in July 1966 to see England beat the Fatherland in the World Cup Final, there would have been close to half a million spectators there instead of the official attendance of 96,924.



One chap told me that he was there when Prime Minister Harold MacMillan opened the Preston Bypass on 5th December 1958 the UK's first Motorway (M6). Now the fellow in question is in his late 60's which made him a few weeks old or still inside the womb does this count?

Move onto 26th May 1963 and the official opening of the church extension and tower by the Rt Rev Basil Hume OSB, Abbot of Ampleforth. Being one of a considerable amount of Altar servers, I was 'mandated' to attend this historical event. Abbot Hume would go on to become Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, in which capacity he returned to Tardy Gate on 26th June 1995 to consecrate the church.

Sadly, I wasn't at either event.

However despite the church being packed to the gunnels on 26th May 1963 and Father Ian Wilfrid McKenzie OSB silently rubbing his hands in anticipation of a bumper collection, the number of people, who over the years have said that they were there would have made the attendance that day over 1000.

The reason I wasn't able to fulfil my Altar server duties at such a prestigious event was of something which happened the day before, Saturday 25th May 1963, just a few yards away.

The football season had finished, so no Preston North End and the local cricket team, Thomas Moss & Sons on Coote Lane were playing away (I played for them from 1965-1968)

What else was there to do but go sapping (purloining apples) in Father McKenzie's orchard behind the grotto.

As the apples weren't due to ripen until late July/August, they were small and sour but as they were 'free' we ate them anyway.



It was only when our Parish Priest awoke from his afternoon nap that we decided to scarper.

Fast forward, Sunday morning and the worst stomach ache in history. How I cursed Father Mac for not waking up earlier.



I (or my mum) had to report in sick to top alter-server, Vincent Naylor.

By 4:30 pm, after the ceremony, I had made a miraculous recovery. So much so that I went down to church, hoping Fr Mac and Vincent had left the scene. So far, so good.

I forget who it was in church but I was allowed to climb up the tower and take a panoramic view of our 'beautiful village', The first and last time I did this.

So, I'm one of the 'few' who wasn't there!

Tony Billington

Footnote: Forbidden fruits create many jams.

Gardening Tip of the Month

A hedge can give you privacy, absorb excess water run off, absorb carbon from cars and give shelter to small creatures. It can also be a wind break. (LW)

World Youth Day - Lisbon

Day 1 – Monday



On Monday night we flew from Manchester and arrived in Lisbon about 23:00. Arriving at Lisbon, we were immediately greeted by World Youth Day flags, posters and crowds of people arriving from all over the world. The feeling of seeing all these

people from different countries, from all around the globe, was something I will never be able to describe. It was an amazing entrance to the start of a fantastic week. (Photo of Salford Group at Lisbon Airport on arrival)

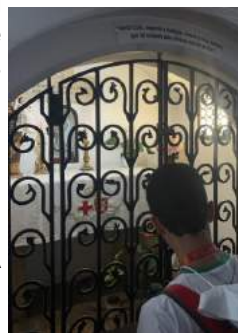
Day 2 – Tuesday

The first official day of World Youth Day had begun, being woken up to a huge crowd of people, with their country's flags, walking down the streets. Their singing and chanting were the only things you could hear from outside.



Soon we were among the crowds of people, all of us in our Salford tops and waving our UK flag, we walked in excitement down the streets to St Anthony's chapel. It had a stunning interior. The design of the church, the artwork, the many statues, everything about this was beautiful and throughout the whole week this was clear in every church we visited.

After attending the short mass in the chapel, we proceeded to go downstairs to the basement which was home to the birthplace of St Anthony himself. A small room fenced off, with a sign above it, marking



the exact spot where he was born. Unfortunately, being from the UK came with its downsides during the week, which was that we could not take the heat. This meant we left the chapel a little quicker than we hoped, however we made sure to take lots of pictures before leaving. After the chapel we headed straight behind it to the Cathedral. Through the huge doors we were once again shown the beauty of the culture in Portugal. Walking around the Cathedral we saw many people in the centre praying and around the edge saw mini crowds around each of the smaller altars, each with their own design.



Now as it was the first day of World Youth Day, there was an opening mass for us to attend. So, we grabbed a quick lunch and headed down in the 38-degree heat to the location of the mass, Parque Eduardo VII.

Parque Eduardo VII is a huge park in the centre of Lisbon and absolutely nothing could've prepared any of us for the number of people that attended this event. We were told a few different estimates of how many attended all being about 200,000.

But after looking on the Catholic News Agency (CNA) we found it to be **“354,000 pilgrims from at least 143 countries”**. As the park started to fill,



there were many different singers from different countries and cultures all playing their styles of music. So, we had a chance to dance along to the music and make some friends with people in our group we hadn't really got the chance to meet properly yet, but also people from other countries.

Once the park had filled fully, I looked around to see the many different flags: Spain, Portugal, France, America, the Latino countries

(South America), Canada, etc. But other countries that I hadn't really expected to see there like: China, Israel, Dubai, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan, Angola and many other countries that I had only thought were predominantly Atheist, or other of faith. Which helped broaden my perspective of how far and wide the Catholic faith reached.



As the mass started, I felt a great sense of unity and comfort within me. Being from a mainly protestant and atheist country, a country where it can be difficult to be a young person and go to Church and practice our faith because of how easy it is to be bullied or laughed at by other young

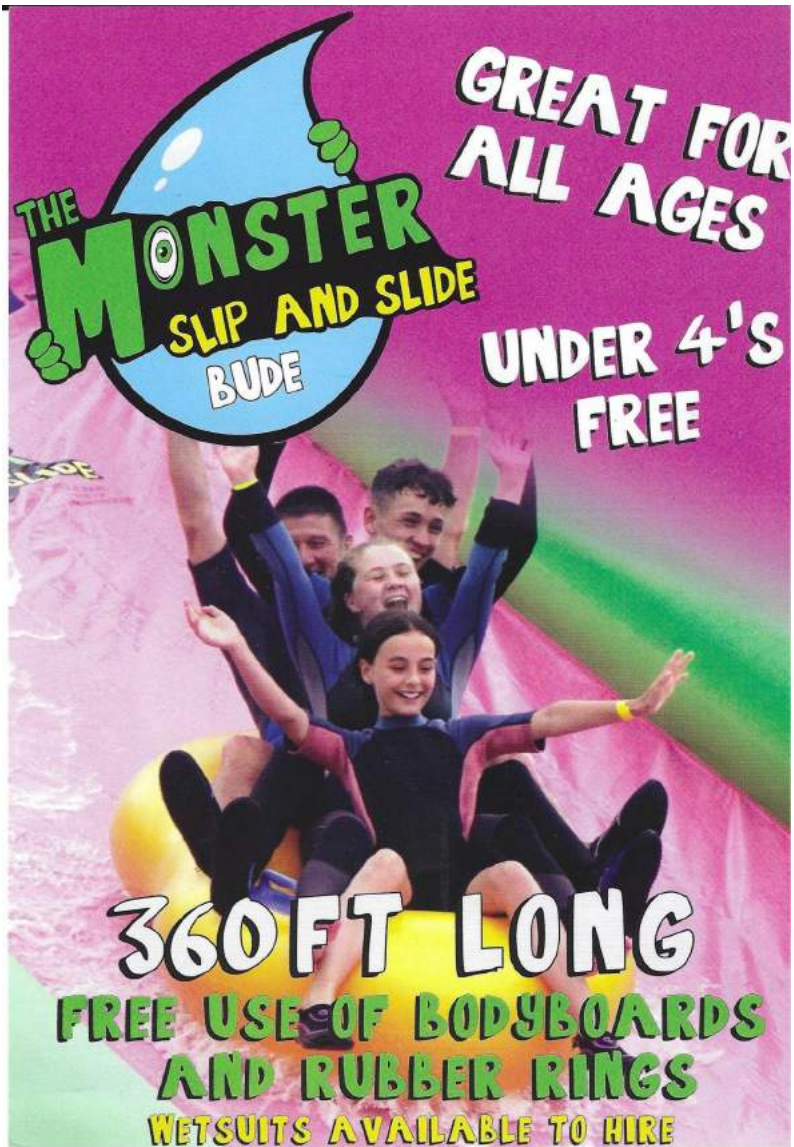
people. It meant that having this knowledge that all these young people, far and wide, in their own countries and languages said the same mass, every week, showed that we aren't alone or isolated in our faith. But there are still millions of us, and being able to see that this is true really helped to give me comfort and reassurance in my faith. Being able to know that the faith will be able to carry on through the generations to come.

As the mass came to an end we walked back to the hotel, in a long conga line with our group so as not to split up or get lost. It was probably more difficult this way, but we had a laugh along the way. Then as the night came around, we enjoyed a nice meal together and had the chance to reflect on everything that had happened on our first day. We all took some time to ring home to tell our families everything that had happened. Before heading off to sleep.



Archie Henderson

Thank you to everyone who helped to raise funds to support us to go on to World Youth Day. I will never forget it.



What did you do this Summer?

Imagine our surprise as we drove into Bude, Cornwall in August to see this poster displayed on Banners and lampposts. Back row from left Rick Henderson, Archie Henderson, Middle Row Olivia Henderson, and Front Row one of our other grandchildren Beatrice. It was taken the year before and used to advertise this years event. We still had to Pay to get in this year though!

Walking Route Cards

We usually publish monthly a list of Health Walks & Rambles in and around the Borough, but for the last few months these have not been happening. The walks of course are still there and the Walking route Cards are available via the South Ribble Website at <https://www.southribble.gov.uk/content/walking-route-cards>

Why not put your best foot forward and download one of these free Walking Route Guides?

The walks range in distance from 1.5 miles to almost 8 miles, with starting points to be found all over the borough.

Listed below are the walks you can download and the distances, the first four are very local and you probably know them

- 01. Farington Lodges Walk (1.5 miles)**
- 02. Farington Lodges Walk (3.5 miles)**
- 03. Hope Terrace Walk (5.5 miles)**
- 04. Tardy Gate Walk (1.5 miles)**
05. New Longton & Whitestake Walk (2.5 miles)
06. Longton Coastal Walk (5.0 miles)
07. Longton Brickcroft Walk (1.5 miles)
08. Hutton & Longton Coastal Walk (7.0 miles)
09. Penwortham Heritage Trail 1 (2.0 Miles)
10. Penwortham Heritage Trail 2 (2.5 miles)
11. Penwortham Heritage Trail 3 (4.3 miles)
12. Penwortham Heritage Trail - Howick & Hutton Circular (3 miles)
13. Penwortham & Howick Riverside Walk (4.1 miles)
- 14. Old Tram Road & Walton-le-Dale Walk (5 miles)**
- 15. Bamber Bridge & Walton Park Walk (5.5 miles)**
16. Gregson Lane & Coupe Green Walk (3.6 miles)
17. Nabs Head Samlesbury Walk (5 miles)
- 18. Lostock Hall Heritage Trail (3.5 miles)**
- 19. Lostock Hall and Farington Railway Heritage Trail (3.5 miles)**
- 20. St Mary's Parish Boundary Walk (7.7 miles)**
21. St Leonard's Parish Boundary Walk (5 miles)

**Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest),
Fr Colin Battell OSB.**

The Presbytery
17C Browndedge Road
Lostock Hall
Preston
PR5 5AA

Tel: 01772 335387 **Mobile 07442 385553 (9am-3pm)**

In an Emergency please phone either

St Marys Browndedge 335168

St Mary's Leyland 455955

St Catherine's Farrington 421174

Contacts

The Primary School 335025

The Parochial Centre 339459

Weekly Services

Sundays: Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays: **MASS** - Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 am
Services of Word & Holy Communion - Monday 6:30 pm &
Wednesday at 9:15 am

Reconciliation: Confessions - before Weekend Masses.

Baptisms

To arrange a Baptism please call the parish office on 01772 335387 between 9 -11.45 am. (Mon – Fri). Parents are expected to attend 2 Baptism Preparation meetings before a Baptism can take place. If people have not been in the practice of attending church regularly, they are asked to attend Mass for a period of six weeks prior to the Baptism to help them to be spiritually prepared for the sacrament and to get into the habit of practicing the Faith.

No Priest! What do we do?

If there is an Emergency and no Priest is available for the weekend Masses, the Eucharistic Ministers, particularly those who have been trained, will perform a Holy Communion Service and this will replace the Mass. Please note that this is **Only in an Emergency** and there is no time to arrange for another priest or no other is Priest is available.

Marriages

At least six months notification of Marriage is required. Pre-marriage instruction is mandatory and organised by the Diocese. Please telephone 335387 to arrange Notification and Preparation.

Parish Organisations

CONTACT

Advertising	John Corrigan	316295
Altar Servers	David Walker	629701
A.P.F. & Sacristan	Christine Flanagan	334723
CAFOD	Margaret Cronin	336475
Catechists & Sacramental Programme		335387
Children's Liturgy Group	Lee McNulty	07478703414
Eucharistic Ministers & Readers	Michael Quinlan	467306
Flowers	Carole Hesmondhalgh	339700
Football Club	Phil Tinsley	07775890667
Fund Raising Group		335387
Gift Aid	John Robinson	335387
News & Views, Website , Printers	David Walker	629701
Majella Companions		335387
Marriage Registrars	Margaret Cronin	336475
	Ann Quinlan	467306
Parochial Centre		
Piety Shop	Vivian Page	313910
P.T.A.	Ross Free	339691
Sacred Heart Guild		
Safeguarding Officer	email: safeguarding@saintgerards.org.uk	
School (Staff, Ancillaries & Governors)		335025
Senior Citizens Organisers	Linda Walsh	311654
	Gloria Duffell	339966
Youth Representative	Lee McNulty	07478703414

Items for News & Views can be left at the Presbytery or emailed to the editor at newsviews@saintgerards.org.uk The last day for submissions is the 20th of each month.

www.saintgerards.org.uk

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St Mary's, Brownedge
Live Streaming Times
<https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge>

Sunday	Mass	09:30 am & 6:30 pm
Monday to Friday	Mass	9:30 am
Private Prayer	Tuesday Thursday	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Saturday	Mass	7 pm Vigil
Sunday	Mass	09:30 am & 6:30 pm

Parish Diary

1st Oct	26th Sunday of the Year	19th	Ss John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues
2nd	The Holy Guardian Angles	22nd	29th Sunday of the Year
4th	St Francis of Assisi	23rd	St John of Capistrano
5th	St Faustina Kowalska	24th	St Anthony Mary Claret
6th	St Bruno	26th	Ss Chad & Cedd
7th	Our Lady of the Rosary	28th	Ss Simon & Jude
8th	27th Sunday of the Year	29th	30th Sunday of the Year
9th	St John Henry Newman	1st Nov	All Saints Day
10th	St Denis	2nd	All Souls
11th	St John XXIII		
12th	St Wilfrid		
13th	St Edward the Confessor		
14th	St Callistus		
15th	28th Sunday of the Year		
16th	St Gerard Majella		
17th	St Ignatius of Antioch		
18th	St Luke		

The **PARISH OFFICE** is open at the following new times:

Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Office hours are now shared with St Marys Brownedge.
AM at St Gerard's
PM at St Marys Brownedge.
Phone: 01772 335387 Mobile 07442 385553 (9am-3pm)

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WHATS ON IN THE PAROCHIAL CENTRE THIS OCTOBER

Saturday 7th October - Chris Quammie

Saturday 14th October - Tabu Duo

Saturday 21st October - John Connolly

Saturday 28th October - Ant Oliver

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