



St Mary's Brownedge

Founded c1780 SDTRTR No. 250037

St Mary's Priory, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6SP

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

Second Sunday of Advent - Year C

8th December 2024

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	7th Dec	11.00 am	First Reconciliation
	Vigil	7:00 pm	Second Sunday of Advent In Memory of David Newton
Sun	8th Dec	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Second Sunday of Advent John May R.I.P. The Parish
Mon	9th Dec	10:00 am	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ^(S) Requiem Mass for Rita Swarbrick
Tues	10th Dec	9:30 am	Our Lady of Loreto ^(OM) Swarbrick & Whitely Families
Wed	11th Dec	10:00 am (N.B. TIME) 6.30pm	St Damasus I ^(OM) Requiem Mass for Norman Brown Diocesan Schools Carol Service
Thur	12th Dec	9:30 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe ^(OM) Richard & Mary Lloyd
Fri	13th Dec	9:15 am (N.B. TIME)	St Lucy ^(M) Requiem Mass for Andrew Sugden
Sat	14th Dec	Vigil 7:00 pm	Third Sunday of Advent Deceased Members of the Murphy & Wayne Families
Sun	15th Dec	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent Fr McNally & Fr Davies The Parish

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	7th Dec	Vigil 5:30 pm	Second Sunday of Advent The Parish
Sun	8th Dec	10:30 am	Second Sunday of Advent Anthony Barton R.I.P.
Mon	9th Dec	6:30 pm	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ^(S) Celebration of the Word & Holy Communion
Tues	10th Dec	9:15 am	Bill Smith R.I.P. Whole School Mass to Celebrate Our Lady
Wed	11th Dec	9:30 am 1.30 pm	No Eucharistic Service Today School KS1 Carol Concert School KS1 Carol Concert
Thurs	12th Dec	9:15 am	Our Lady of Guadalupe ^(OM) Norman Brown R.I.P.
Fri	13th Dec		St Lucy ^(M) NO SERVICES
Sat	14th Dec	Vigil 5:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent The Parish
Sun	15th Dec	10:30 am	Third Sunday of Advent Martin Braford

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:

The Deanery of St John Southworth

We pray this week for the people of the parish of St. Alban, Blackburn, for Canon Jude Harrison, Fr. Paul Taylor, OMI, and Fr. Joseph O'Carroll, for their parish primary schools and the Franciscan Missionaries of St. Joseph.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Joint Notices



TODAY: Second Sunday of Advent

Again we hear about the coming "Day of Christ", and meet the character of John the Baptist. Just as once before he "prepared the way" for the coming of Christ, so today he does the same for us. Our hearts should be open to his voice, as he calls us to repentance, and asks us to make the way straight for the coming of our Lord.

The imagery of this Sunday is particularly rich: the dominant image is of a vast population moving together - the return from exile in the first reading, the going and coming of the sowers in the psalm, the community of the Church preparing together in Paul's letter. We prepare for the coming of the Lord as His people - a community who cooperate to make the "proceSSIONAL way" of the Holy One - flattening the hills of opposition and ridicule, filling in the valleys of doubt and despair, so that "all mankind shall see the salvation of God."

R.C.I.A. Learning about the Catholic Faith: Our RCIA programme is taking a break during this busy season. We have been blessed with 14 excellent sessions over the past 3 months with a regular group of about 15 people of various ages coming together to learn a little bit more about the Catholic Faith. The course will resume in the New Year on Tuesday 7th January.

SALFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD: Please come along to our next meeting for both our parishes on Thursday 12th December – 10:30am till 12:20pm at St Mary's Brownedge Church in the Narthex – Focusing on Theme 3 & 4: Enabling Access and Fostering Christ like care. Please take home the sheets outlining these themes. If you cannot make the meeting, please send some feedback to the questions to the Parish Office.

Retreat Programme: The next retreat will be on **Saturday 7th December 2024: TIME TO REFLECT** - Explore the beautiful space of Advent. The retreats start at 11:30 am through to 3 pm (with 30 minutes Lunch break (please bring a packed lunch)). The cost is £20 per person. The retreats are held in the "Shields Centre" and are led by Donna Worthington. - If interested please contact our office on **01772 335387** or email **office@saintgerards.org.uk** (This will be the last Retreat due to falling numbers)

New Diocesan Yearbook: This has been received this week. 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 ringbound version.

Salford School Singing Programme Carol Service

- A one-hour service of traditional carols and readings featuring school-children from Our Lady & St Gerard's, St Mary's and St Benedict's, Bamber Bridge with Lostock Hall Children's Choir will take place on **Wednesday 11th December** at 6:30 pm at St Mary's Bamber Bridge. Free Admission with Retiring Collection, all are welcome.



Ecumenical Carol Singing in Bamber Bridge:

Next **Saturday 14th Dec** at 11.30am you are invited to "Churches Together" in singing Christmas Carols in McNamara Gardens outside Morrisons. It would be great to see a crowd of people come along on the day and help us spread the true message of Christmas in the heart of our community. *"Do they know it's Christmas time?"*

Stand up for life - The second reading of the "Assisted Dying Bill" took place last Friday and the vote was in favour of moving to the next stage for debate. The Anscombe Centre have launched a set of resources to help and encourage people to engage on this issue. The Centre now have a new 'Resources' page about assisted suicide and euthanasia and the dangers that legitimising it will cause. Go to their website: www.bioethics.org.uk in the "Educational Resources" section. It gives excellent and clear guidance to us in the light of Catholic teaching.

Write to your MP: it is believed that at least 36 MPs voted in favour to allow for further debate but will vote against if not convinced. This would be enough to defeat the bill. Thus, there is still value in writing your MP; The debate will continue and we need to keep our voices heard. It does not have to be complicated: simply ask them to oppose the "The Assisted Dying Bill". Tell them you want a society which promotes the best possible support for all human life rather than dispensing with life as though it has become too burdensome for society to care. Email your MP: FYI: Paul Foster voted in favour of the bill and Maya Ellis voted against it. Paul Foster MP for South Ribble: paul.foster.mp@parliament.uk Maya Ellis MP for Ribble Valley: maya.ellis.mp@parliament.uk Or, write to them at: The House of Commons London. SW1A 0AA. There are also postcards provided at the back of church to send to your MP.

Cafod World Gifts for Christmas - This Christmas give your loved ones something exceptional & life changing. Buying Cafod's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters & brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Each gift represents a gift of hope. You can pick up a booklet from the Narthex or purchase World Gifts at www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk. There is information about World Gifts on the notice board at the entrance to church. Thank You.

Joint Notices

ADVENT RETREAT (AGE 15 TO YOUNG ADULTS) AT CASTLERIGG MANOR - Friday 13 to Sun 15th Dec: Bookings will close for the Advent Retreat at Castlerigg on **December 11th** at Midday. The open retreats at Castlerigg give teens and young adults a great way to make friends, deepen their faith, and have some fun and they usually prove very popular. The weekend costs £65 but anyone who might struggle with this is invited to get in touch. Further details – director@castleriggmanor.co.uk. Sign up at [>> what's coming up](http://castleriggmanor.com).

Advent Reconciliation Service: there will be a joint Reconciliation Service for both our parishes to be held at St Mary's Browndedge Church on **Wednesday 18th December at 7pm**. Please encourage your families and friend to come.

POINSETTIAS – For Christmas, we would like to decorate the sanctuaries of both our churches at St Gerard's and St Mary's with poinsettias. We are asking parishioners to donate poinsettias to help us to make the Altars at St Gerard's and St Mary's look festive. Please drop off your Poinsettias from the weekend before.

Bambinelli Sunday: We will do this over the next 2 Sundays: Next Sunday, on the Third Sunday of Advent, we will celebrate at St Mary's Browndedge at the 9.30 am Mass and on 22nd Dec we will do the same at St Gerard's at the 10.30 am Mass. Everyone is invited to bring their crib figures of the baby Jesus to Mass and they will receive a special blessing.

New Lectionary: This Advent we begin using the new translation of the Liturgy of the Word: The English Standard Version replaces the Jerusalem Bible translation. Many thanks to those who attended the talk last Monday by Maria Hall. It was an excellent presentation with a good attendance from across the deanery. It is available to view on the "Recordings" tab of St Mary's streaming service. It is recommended that all our readers should watch this.

✂ CHRISTMAS MASSES ✂

CHRISTMAS EVE:

St Gerard's First Mass of Christmas: 5:30 pm with Carols from 5 pm.

St Mary's First Mass of Christmas: 7.00 pm.

St Mary's: Midnight Mass with Carols by Candlelight from 11:30 pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

St Mary's Christmas Day Mass: 9:30 am

St Gerard's Christmas Day Mass: 10:30 am

BOXING DAY: (The Feast of St Stephen)

St Mary's: 10.00 am; St Gerard's: 10.00 am.

Year of Jubilee 2025:

In the Catholic Church, the concept of Jubilee or 'Holy Year' was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation. The first Jubilee was declared by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 to mark the beginning of that century. He later recommended it occurring every 100 years. Various other Popes changed the length of the interval between the observances. But Pope Saint Paul II set the present 25-year interval in the 1500s. So Holy Years are "ordinary" when they occur at regular intervals (25 years in these modern times) and "extraordinary" when they are proclaimed for a very special reason. More recently a Great Jubilee was declared in 2000 by Pope Saint John Paul II to celebrate the new millennium. That Jubilee year brought the total number of universal Jubilee years to 28 that so far had been celebrated by the Church.



The 2025 Jubilee, which has the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope" will be a year of hope and trust for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threats to the climate. Intended as a time of conversion and emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness of sins, Jubilees begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destination points for pilgrims, who pass through seeking special graces.

Jubilee World Youth Day Rome 2025 - Are you aged 16-35? Are you looking for an unforgettable opportunity to share your faith with other young Catholics? Pope Francis has announced a special World Youth Day in Rome next summer to celebrate the Church's Year of Jubilee and our diocesan Youth Ministry team invites you to be part of this once-in-a-25-year event! The pilgrimage will take place between **28 July and 3 August**. For more information and to register your interest, speak to Fr Mark or please email Salford Youth Office: youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Jubilee Guide Book: Alive Publishing have produced a small booklet which has a lovely explanation of the Jubilee Year including prayers and devotions. These are available at the back of Church for £1.50.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick, and those who care for them:

Sister Louise, Peter Clough, Dorothy Whittle, Jean Doran, Yvonne Jeffrey, Joseph O'Grady, John Stringfellow

All those who have recently died:

Marie Spicer, Audrey Gould, Harry Jeffrey, Sheila Brown, Andrew Sugden, Norman Brown, Christopher Ashton, Rita Swarbrick, Philomena Hanlon, Margaret Guinan

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound and for those who have asked for your Prayers.

Our Lady & St Gerard's Notices

Christmas Fair – raised a wonderful £1676 for the Parish. Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Parish again this year – Events like this take a lot of work & planning so thank you for all your hard work!

Piety Shop: Winning ticket numbers will be displayed on the Piety shop door and can be claimed before or after Mass on a Saturday evening. Please thank everyone for their continuing support over the years.

1st prize - White ticket 446-450 (claimed)
2nd - Pink ticket 691-695
3rd - Orange ticket 276-280
4th - White ticket 146-150
5th - Orange ticket 321-325

CAFOD: As Christmas is approaching, please consider giving your friends a world gift outlined in the **CAFOD World gift catalogue** available at the back of church.

Parish Lottery - If your membership runs from January to January please get in touch with the office if you'd like to continue. Parish Lottery subscription are still £60 for the year – Prizes are drawn monthly, and you can win excellent cash prizes (£100, £40 & £ 20) with extra prize draws during the year.

Wednesday Night Bingo - The Bingo Team are taking a well deserved break over the Christmas and New Year, Last eyes down for this year is on **18th December** with the first games of 2025 being on **Wednesday 15th January**. If you would like to help this wonderful team raise funds for the parish please come along and speak to one of the team members especially if you would like to lend a hand at 'calling'. The December Parish Lottery will be drawn that night along with the Christmas Hamper Bonus Draw.

Lately Dead: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Guinan. Her Requiem Mass will take place at St Gerard's on Thursday 19th December at 12:45pm.

www.universalis.com: The readings for Mass and the Divine Office:
Scan this QR code with your camera:



St Mary's Browndedge Notices

Offertory Procession: Next Sunday 15th December 9:30 am Mass: Tolentino Family

Giving Tree 2024: Our Christmas Giving Tree is now up at the back of church. Gift tags will be on a table next to the tree. Please take one (or use your own) if you are able to contribute. All presents with gift tag attached need to be returned at the latest by the weekend of 14th/15th December. We will then deliver to the charities we support on Monday 16th December. Thankyou so much for continuing to support this amazing Parish effort.

School Coffee Morning: St Mary's & St Benedict's invite all parishioners to a coffee morning in school on **Wednesday 11th Dec** at 10 am.

SVP Collection – There will be an SVP retiring collection at both Churches on the weekend of 14th and 15th December.

Senior Citizens Party: Many thanks to those who helped to make the SVP party at the Catholic Club this week such a great success.

The SVP have donated £100 to the South Sudan Appeal. A letter of thanks is on the SVP Notice board at the back of Church.

Mission Red Boxes – This is the Popes chosen Charity. Thank you also to all the Collectors for their brilliant help – Anyone who would like a Red Box in their home Please contact Clare Haythornthwaite or the Parish Office.

St Mary & St Benedict's School: Congratulations to everyone involved in our primary school, for a great report from the **Catholic Schools Inspectorate**. Among the highlights: *"-There is a high level of commitment from staff and governors to providing the very best opportunities for every pupil as members of a Catholic community; - the school has excellent links with the parish, which begin from the exceptional level of support from the parish priest. The connection between school and parish is highly valued; - The school uses innovative and effective methods to welcome and support those most in need; - Pupils clearly appreciate the importance and power of prayer; - Pupils are confident when articulating responses, in curriculum religious education, to teacher questioning, discussions and exploring the theology that underpins their faith.* An excellent report for our whole Catholic community. Well done everyone!

W/C 07/12/2024	This Weeks Intentions
Sanctuary	Yvonne Jeffrey

Offertory 30th Nov / 1st December 2024			
Offertory Loose	£295.83		
Offertory Envelopes	£173.50		
Attendance	164		
Bingo Jackpots for 04/12/2024			
£32	£66	£77	£26

Mass Attendance: Our attendance last weekend	
7 pm Vigil	64
9:30 am	155
6:30 p.m..	50
Total	269

Sanctuary Lamps Week 07/12/24	
1	Deceased Members of the McQuillan & Bailey Families
2	In Remembrance of the Moon Family