

Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

NEWS AND VIEWS

Issue No 687 April 2025

The month of April is dedicated to **The Holy Spirit**. The first few weeks this year are in Lent and the liturgical colour is purple but from Easter Sunday we enter the Easter season.

The liturgical colour is white — the colour of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored).

Easter is the feast of feasts, the joy and gladness of all Christians. This truly is "the day that the Lord has made." From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the Easters of this earth will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again with glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father.

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." -- Pope St John Paul II

"The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake." -- Basil Hume OSB (1923 - 1999)



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Cafod

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Pilgrims of Hope



An average of eighteen parishioners from both parishes met over four Monday evenings recently to discuss Cafod's reflection guide: Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope. It was lovely to see both parishes meeting together and discussing in depth how we can be pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year.

During our first session: Jesus of the Jubilee, we discussed the biblical origins of Jubilee and of how in the Old Testament Jubilee Year was a time of renewal and celebration where debts were cancelled, prisoners and slaves freed and land was given to the poor. Jubilee was known as the year of the Lord's favour.

Pope Francis calls us to reset and renew our relationship with God, with one another and with all of creation, thereby becoming pilgrims of Hope during 2025.

We also contemplated the jubilee icon, on the notice board at the back of church, and discussed how this icon, based on Luke 4:16-21, can help us see the gospel in a new light.

The main focus of every evening centred on how we can be pilgrims of hope in our homes, communities and the wider world. 'Christ Jesus in whom the scriptures were fulfilled, guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope. Lead us all to be signs of your hope in our world'

Our second evening 'Jesus of the Good News' focused on how, as Christians, we are called to share the good news of the gospel, good news that is a radical call for us to reflect the justice, healing and peace of God's kingdom and to help build a world where all can flourish. 'Christ Jesus, bringer of Good News, guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope'

In Session three, 'Jesus the Liberator', we looked at freedom and what it means to us, and who are the captives and overburdened in our world today?

We discussed how debt is one way in which people can be trapped. In a jubilee year in the Old Testament debts were to be cancelled, equality restored and those trapped in poverty would be free to make a fresh start. Ahead of the jubilee year Pope Francis called for richer countries to free poorer nations of their immense debt burdens saying this is not just a question of generosity but of justice.

We discussed Sri Lanka and the impact a huge debt burden is having on this country. After independence, Sri Lanka became increasingly dependent on foreign borrowing for its needs. In order to pay these debts, social spending on health and education has been reduced significantly. Since 2015 poorer countries in debt crisis have more than doubled to over 50.

We looked at situations of injustice when it can be easier turn a blind eye.

The bottom line is how can we be tangible signs of hope in our world and how can we raise our voices to call for change and take action now? 'Christ Jesus, liberator of captives and all who are oppressed, guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope'

In our final session, 'Jesus Lord of Creation', we discussed ways in which we can repair our broken relationship with God's creation evidenced by the environmental crisis of climate change, pollution, deforestation and biodiversity loss. As usual it is communities contributing the least to causing the crisis that are the hardest hit. Jenny, in the Amazon rainforest of Colombia, explained how she is teaching youngsters to combat the climate crisis. Here, huge areas of the rainforest, the lungs of the world, have been burnt by huge corporations for agriculture. These are violations of fundamental human rights of the indigenous peoples.

We looked at signs of hope and positive steps we might take as individuals and as a community to care for our common home.

We ended our sessions as we started, with a rousing rendering of the Jubilee hymn and all went home with our personal jubilee pledges to help focus our minds during this Jubilee Year on challenging inequality and injustice. Take a look at some of these pledges on the notice board at the back of St Gerard's and see if there's any thing there you feel you can undertake as a pilgrim of hope! A huge "thank

you” to all those from both parishes who took the time to attend and played such an enthusiastic part in the discussions, prayers and singing!

Tuesday March 18th: CAFOD Parliamentary reception in Speaker’s House, Westminster.

Michael and I travelled to London to attend this reception as CAFOD representatives and met with our MP, Paul Foster, to discuss what MPs can do to play a crucial part in ending the global debt crisis in the developing world. Next month, we’ll look at this in more detail. Meanwhile there is a great deal of information regarding the cancelling of debt on Cafod’s website: CAFOD.org.uk

Margaret

Lenten School of Prayer 2025

Tuesdays 25 March, 1,8 April 11.00am – 1.00pm

Wardley Hall, M28 2ND

Led by Mgr. Paul Smith, Sister Joan Kerley, and Maria Kidd

“Pilgrims of Hope”

Pilgrim of hope with God’s People

1 April - Paul

Pilgrim and preacher of hope

8 April - Jesus

Pilgrim to Jerusalem and his destiny

There is a limit of 30 participants.

To reserve a place please contact Sister Joan

(joankfmsj@gmail.com or 0161 971 7842)

We would be grateful for donations

How to make your vegetable print pots (something for the children)

1. Harvest your chosen vegetables - firm root veg, such as potatoes and carrots work well.
2. Cut the veg into shapes of your choice or use them as paint brushes.
3. Dip stamp into paint and start decoration. You can make fainter prints with stamps used a few times before dipping again.
4. Create patterns out of multiple veg prints.

Frances Mary Cottam

1928 – 2025



Frances was born and raised in Lytham St Annes to a farming family at Eastham Hall, she had one older sister Joan. Frances went to school in Lytham then went on to Grammer school which was Lark Hill in Preston.

When Frances left school, she went to work in an accountant's office in St Annes and Manchester auditing client books.

Frances met her husband Jack, and they were married in 1951 setting up home in Wrea Green on a small holding. Jack worked on the main farm and Frances tended the animals on the small holding.

They had three children together John who lives in Canada and unfortunately cannot be with us today, Margaret and David. They moved to Lostock Hall in 1969.

Frances found employment at the local slipper factory and after a few years moved to work on Preston Railway Station in the Newspaper Kiosk. Frances also did lots of volunteer work for a local Care Home and Age Concern.

Her husband Jack passed away in 1989, so Frances had to find other ways to occupy her time a lot of this being spent caring for her grandchildren. Frances enjoyed taking her grandchildren visiting the family farms when they were younger and the children, we know enjoyed the time spent with the animals. Frances had many friends whom she enjoyed socialising with and her Bingo evenings in the local clubs.

She spent her free time visiting John in Canada in her younger days and as time went by and these trips became too much started going away on coach trips with her Sister in Law

Mary and the WI (Women's Institute)

Frances was a very independent person and was still driving when she had her 90th birthday. "She actually drove herself to her own party held at St Gerard's Parochial Centre".

Reunited with her husband Jack after 36 years.

Eulogies

I would like to say how interesting it is to read about parishioners who are sadly no longer with us. The printed eulogies give a real insight into the lives of interesting people. I've lived in the parish for 39 years and I know a lot of faces but don't always know names. So, it's also really nice to see photos too. Thank you to all the people who allow the memories of their loved ones to be printed in News and Views.

Ann Burke

News & Views - The Future

For the past 20 or so years News and Views has been produced using Microsoft Publisher. Prior to that it was typed in word and then the advertising was pasted manually onto the paper prior to printing.

Microsoft have announced that the Publisher software will be withdrawn from their products in October 2026 and files will no longer be accessible.

If anyone is aware of alternative software (preferably free but can be purchased if necessary) that will do the same job or if you work for a company that produces booklets please ask what software they use or would recommend and let the office know.

If anyone would like to take over the production/editorship at the same time or earlier again please let the office know.

Thank you.

Good news

We live in a world where we are often bombarded with sad and distressing news. So, it's always uplifting to read about happy news and celebrations. Recently I've read about a Golden Wedding and an upcoming 80th Birthday in the parish! Congratulations and please keep the good news coming!

Cicely Bajko

1941 – 2025



CICELY came into this world at Chorley Hospital on 9 July 1941 weighing in at 10lb 7 oz.

She narrowly missed being born in the air raid shelter when her mum went into labour and as difficulties arose had swiftly to be transported by ambulance to Chorley....drama queen from the start !!

Wartime continued and Cicely had another narrow escape when mum and her were approaching the cottage only to be fired upon by a low flying enemy plane. The bullet missed the pram but was later found embedded in the porch surrounds.

She was baptised at St Gerards and spent her early years at St Gerards School, welcomed into reception by Miss Baldwin who arrived daily on her scooter a sight to behold but a most caring and kind lady.

After successfully passing her eleven plus and robed in the lovely brown uniform with matching hat and gloves Cicely continued her education under the strict discipline of the FCJ nuns at Lark Hill Convent

Five years on and O levels successfully completed... it was now time to decide on a career. The careers advice at Lark Hitt in those days being,. Doctor, Vet, Solicitor for the very clever Teacher, Nurse for the not so clever but no mention of Radiography. So you could say Cicely was a rebel when she chose this path.

Absolutely the right path for her.

In 1959 she became a student radiographer at Preston Royal Infirmary a career which was to span 44 years only taking retirement at age 64yrs.

Cicely loved every moment of her job and our tea times were always accompanied by a vivid description of all the sights she had dealt with

that day and all the gory details relating to them. Something my mum and myself did not look forward to !!

She became a Senior Radiographer in A & E and was a real asset when you wanted to Jump the Queue ! Also renowned for her assistance in the Theatres when complicated X-Rays were required.....

At a later date she became the mentor for the students and attended many school careers evenings to promote Radiography as a career. Marie Gornall one such student says.....

“Sad to hear of the passing Cicely a former colleague and mentor of mine at the Royal Preston Hospital. She was the reason for my choice of career as she did a Careers Night at Lark Hill when I was too looking for guidance in the early 70’s. She wasn’t as quiet as some people suggested and she had a mischievous sense of humour. As a new student she sent me to one of the wards for a ”Long Stand” you can Imagine what happened much to everyone’s amusement. She was a well respected member of the Radiography Team. Rest in Peace Mrs. B !

She met her husband at Worsleys Dance Studio in Preston and on 20 February 1965 she married Ferenz (Francis) Bajko a Hungarian refugee who fled the country after the 1956 uprising.. at St Gerards RC Church Father Wilfred McKenzie officiating. The reception to be held in the Church Hall.

Auntie Rose delivering the cake just In the nick of time but, a sight to behold.

Their married life began in Bristol Avenue, Farington and on 24 December 1965 their son Nicholas was born. When Nicholas was eighteen months old Cicely returned to work at PRI, Francis taking over the household duties and my mum looking after Nicholas.

In 1970 they had a bungalow built in Marilyn Avenue which was home for over fifty years.

After the passing of Francis in 2011 times were difficult but under the careful eyes of Nicholas, Annette, Fred and Sue she managed to keep going.

She joined in with several church activities and returned home many

a time with raffle prizes, Christmas Hampers being her specialty....

She also began to Knit toys and animals which were everything from tigers, squirrels, hedgehogs, seven dwarfs to name but a few she would have a go at anything she was asked for.....

Cicely spent her final years at Chestnut Grove where she was given the care she needed and was happy and content.

Cicely, Francis and Nicholas are now back together.

Well at last Cicely I have managed to get the Final Word.

Sleep well Auntie Cis and rest in Peace.

Thank you for responding to our Caritas Sunday Appeal

Thank you so much to your parishioners who continue to pray for children, families and individuals experiencing poverty, homelessness and disadvantage. We are so very grateful to receive a cheque for £497.00 from your Caritas Sunday collection at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella. Please understand what a help this will be towards our many expenses to support those coming to us for help.

As you and your parishioners well know, the need for 'caritas' – love in action - is still great. There are over 333,000 children living in poverty in the geography covered by Caritas Salford's services – which is almost every other child in a classroom in some areas. At the last count in June 2024, there were 419 people sleeping rough over the course of the month and 5,805 households in temporary accommodation, including 8,046 children. And, there are thousands more at risk of losing their home, due to the financial difficulties they are experiencing. We never take your generosity for granted.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a blessed Lent.

Rachel Taylor

Head of Fundraising



It's gardening season again folks and here are some suggestions
as to what to plant.

A GARDEN FOR DAILY LIVING

Plant three rows of peas
Peace of mind
Peace of heart

Plant four rows of squash
Squash Gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be happy

No garden should ever be without turnips
Turnips for service when needed
Turnips to help one another
Turnips the music and dance

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love
There is much fruit in your garden
Because you reap what you sow

To conclude we must have thyme
Thyme for fun
Thyme for rest
Thyme for ourselves

*A flower cannot blossom without sunshine, and a man cannot live
without love.*

Grace Robinson

Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gerard Majella

Welcome and thank you for visiting our Church.
The Church was built in 1912
to replace our first church,
St Paulinus (now used as a boxing club)

In 2024 the parish which includes the
Church building itself,
the Presbytery, the boxing club,
Secretarial and Clergy.
cost **£95,000** to run.

That is approximately **£1,900** a week,
this would have been
much higher but for our amazing volunteers
who carry out so much work for us.

Please be generous and help us to maintain the
parish and if possible Gift Aid any donation you make.

To be eligible to Gift Aid you need to pay Income Tax,
for every £1 Gift Aided HMRC will give us back
25 pence.

Thank you

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	07759 722309
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,	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

<p>4th St Isadore</p> <p>5th St Vincent Ferrer</p> <p>6th 5th Sunday of Lent</p> <p>7th St John Baptist de la Salle</p> <p>11th St Stanislaus</p> <p>13th Palm Sunday</p> <p>17th Maundy Thursday</p> <p>18th Good Friday</p> <p>19th Holy Saturday^{2nd}</p> <p>20th Easter Sunday</p> <p>27th Divine Mercy Sunday</p> <p>28th St George</p> <p>29th St Catherine of Siena</p>	<p>30th St Pius V</p> <p>1st St Joseph the Worker May</p> <p>2nd St Athanasius</p> <p>3rd Ss Philip & James</p> <p>4th 3rd Sunday of Easter</p> <p>The PARISH OFFICE is open at the following new times:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Office hours are now shared with St Marys Brownedge.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AM at St Gerard's PM at St Marys Brownedge. Phone: 01772 335387 Mobile 07442 385553 (9am-3pm)</p>
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April 2025

Saturday 5th - Toni Lee

Saturday 12th - Natalie Ritchie

Saturday 19th - Hayley Michelle

Friday 25th - Madeleine Roberts is Shania Twain

Members £10, non-members £12.50

Saturday 26th - Scott Metcalfe

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Friday 2 pm to 12 a m

Saturday & Sunday 12 pm to 12 am



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