



Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

NEWS AND VIEWS

MAY

Issue No 688 May 2025

The month of May is dedicated to **The Blessed Virgin Mary**. This year the whole month falls within the liturgical season of **Easter**, which is represented by the liturgical colour white — the colour of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). May is often associated with new growth and the start of summer, making it a fitting time to celebrate Mary, who is seen as a symbol of spring and renewal.

THE ORIGINS OF THE ROSARY

There is debate about the historical origins of the rosary. Legend has it that St Dominic, the founder of the Dominican Order, received a vision from Mary who handed him rosary beads, but there are indications that Christians were using rosary beads to pray long before St Dominic was born.

The word rosary comes from Latin the 'rosarium' meaning 'rose garden', in Medieval Latin it means a 'garland' of roses. The rose is symbolic of the Virgin Mary and as the rosary is a collection of prayers, the rosary itself is likened to a collection of flowers offered to the Blessed Mother, just how we might give roses to our earthly mother.



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Extract from Pope Francis Last Easter Message 2025

Christ is risen, alleluia!

“Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter! Today at last, the singing of the “alleluia” is heard once more in the Church, passing from mouth to mouth, from heart to heart, and this makes the people of God throughout the world shed tears of joy.

From the empty tomb in Jerusalem, we hear unexpected good news: Jesus, who was crucified, “is not here, he has risen” (*Lk 24:5*). Jesus is not in the tomb, he is alive!

Love has triumphed over hatred, light over darkness and truth over falsehood. Forgiveness has triumphed over revenge. Evil has not disappeared from history; it will remain until the end, but it no longer has the upper hand; it no longer has power over those who accept the grace of this day.

Sisters and brothers, especially those of you experiencing pain and sorrow, your silent cry has been heard and your tears have been counted; not one of them has been lost! In the passion and death of Jesus, God has taken upon himself all the evil in this world and in his infinite mercy has defeated it. He has uprooted the diabolical pride that poisons the human heart and wreaks violence and corruption on every side. The Lamb of God is victorious! That is why, today, we can joyfully cry out: “Christ, my hope, has risen!” (*Easter Sequence*).

On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!”

The Full text can be downloaded from the Vatican website.

May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

CAFOD

Catholics throughout the world in this jubilee of hope are being asked to unite in solidarity with the many low income countries in the developing world which are in debt crisis.

An understanding of what all this means is fiercely complicated so I've tried to explain it in layman's terms and why it is so vital that as Christians we respond to this crisis. If you want to know more there's an excellent, detailed summary on the CAFOD website!

News and Views Page 2

The last Jubilee debt campaign in the year 2000 saw hundreds of thousands of people throughout the world take to the streets to demand debt justice and relief for the world's poorest countries and over 130 billion dollars of debt was cancelled for 36 low income countries. As a result of this campaigning the number of children in these countries completing primary school increased from 45 percent to 66 percent as the money saved on debt repayments was poured into public services. A fantastic achievement but unfortunately new financial regulations to make lenders or borrowers more accountable weren't negotiated and so debt crises are still recurring.

In 2024 it was estimated that over 54 of the poorest countries are spending more on repaying debt interest than on education, healthcare and on measures to protect their communities from floods or droughts. Interest rates for these countries are often much higher than the rates to richer countries like the UK, which means they often have to pay their initial debts several times over! In effect they will never be able to repay them. The money they borrowed was often from huge corporations and 61 per cent from private lenders such as international banks and hedge funds, who are making huge profits from lending at such unfair interest rates.

Pope Francis has called in this jubilee year of hope for richer countries to free poorer nations from these immense debt burdens, saying this is not just a question of generosity but of justice: 'If we really wish to prepare a path to peace ...let us commit ourselves...to settling unjust and unpayable debts.'

CAFOD, alongside other international aid agencies, is actively campaigning for a reformed system governing global debt and, on July 9th, alongside other aid agencies, it is participating in a parliamentary lobby organised by the climate coalition to press for urgent action on this debt crisis. Michael and I will be attending this event and hoping to emphasise the urgency of debt cancellation to MPs. In March we met in Westminster with Paul Foster and gave him the paper produced by CAFOD about how we can address this issue. He was supportive and assured us he would look carefully at the material. Hopefully we'll meet him again in July alongside Maya Ellis, the MP for Ribble Valley, who was unable to attend on March 18th. As more than 90 per cent of loans granted by big banks are governed by English law, the UK is a 'global 'superpower' and our MPs can play a crucial part in ending the global debt crisis.

CAFOD stipulates that a fairer and more functional debt system will need to involve compelling private creditors to offer adequate debt relief to countries in crisis. A fairer system will involve reform of the way the IMF approaches and assesses debt sustainability. As a major stakeholder, the UK government must champion these reforms when the IMF reviews its processes in 2025. A fairer system must also involve making lender and borrower governments accountable and transparent within a United Nations framework and involve the automatic cancellation of debt payments following catastrophic events. All these structures could be constructed and managed within a new UN debt framework, providing a level playing field for debt negotiations, with both debtor and creditor countries fairly represented.

We must bear in mind that most of today's developing countries were born into debt as a result of a colonial legacy of resource-extraction and economic exploitation by colonial powers and, as such, it is imperative that we follow Pope Francis who says that Christian countries must set an example by cancelling or significantly reducing the debts of the poorest countries.

Myanmar:

As you know, there has recently been a dreadful loss of life and devastation of infrastructure caused by the Myanmar earthquake, and CAFOD has set up an emergency appeal to try and gather the resources needed to assist the people and country rebuild. Brownedge St Mary's group has sent a generous donation from its funds to CAFOD's Myanmar disaster appeal. I realise it's only a few weeks since our Lenten family fast day to which you all gave so generously, but if any of you have the means to help please can you consider making a donation so that CAFOD can continue to support the people of Myanmar? There is a poster at the back of church with further details.

Cafod's lenten walk: Thank you so much to all those who sponsored Michael and I in our Lenten walk. We walked over 500 kms to raise funds for those in the developing world so much less fortunate than ourselves. We've not yet closed our site so you can still sponsor us on:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising/michael-cronin2025>

John Guinan

1939 – 2025



John was born in 1939 in Blackburn to parents, Thomas and Ellen Guinan, John had a younger sister Anne.

He was an avid Blackburn Rovers supporter, going onto watch his team through thick and thin.

John took up employment with Rediffusion mending televisions which invariably were very heavy and felt like a ton weight.

They all live together in Blackburn.

John met Margaret and were soon engaged, they enjoyed time together with trips to Southport and West Kirby, they also enjoyed holidays in Plymouth and visiting Buckfast Abbey in 1958.

John and Margaret were married in March 1959 at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church in Blackburn and took their honeymoon in Lytham St Annes.

Children soon came along with Stephen in 1960, Janet in 1961, David in 1962 and Andrew in 1966, John and Margaret were devout Catholics, and all the children went to catholic schools and church services on a Sunday.

In 1969 the whole family moved to a newly built house in Glendale Crescent in Lostock Hall.

John was now working for The Radio Department at Police Headquarters, Hutton.

He was very good at D.I.Y. and was meticulous in all his home projects, making his own windows, putting up a partitioning wall and decorating his new home.

John loved going to Old Trafford cricket ground to watch England and Lancashire knock a few fours and sixes.

John liked a good laugh and a joke and could see the lighter side of life.

He was a devoted Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. John and Margaret enjoyed holidays and especially in the caravan which he said he would never have.



Also, they did coach holidays with friends to all corners of the country, which often included food and drink which suited John down to the ground as one thing that John liked was his food.

John looked after Margaret during her illness, the last few years were difficult, but John had the patience to deal with it.

Sadly, after Margaret passed away John's own health deteriorated, and he passed away on 21st March 2025.

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.

Dominic Gray

1991 – 2025



Thank you everyone for coming today. It's lovely to see so many people from all walks of life here to say farewell to Dominic, and I'm honoured to be able to say a few words on behalf of our family.

Dom was a beloved son, father, uncle and friend. Over the last year and a half Dom was able to become uncle to Oakley and Camden. Oakley loved face timing Dom, and Dom would watch with joy as Oakley babbled away at him. Dom loved his son Riley with all his heart and he asked about him every single day. He wanted to be there to guide him and love him, and the pain of being unable to be the father he wished weighed heavily on his heart.

When I remember Dom, I think back to simpler times spent holidaying in France. I'm not sure who thought it was a good idea to drive 15 hours with 3 kids in the back of the car, but we made it work. Whilst I was at the tiger club, Dom and Chris would be zooming around the go cart track outside Les Charmettes. He loved to cycle around Il de Re, stopping off in the market square, then dad would put on his best French accent to order "deux coca et un Perrier". We'd grab a flan at the patisserie, then head back for an afternoon of body boarding and crab hunting on the beach.

Dom's faith was important to him, and he would go to Blackburn cathedral most days. He enjoyed finding a quiet place in the cathedral to speak aloud from the bible. He believed that he should try to give back to the less fortunate, and would always give a tenner to anyone who needed it. He would bring the homeless off the cold streets and in to the cathedral, as he knew there was always someone there who would look after them.

But like many, Dom battled with substance misuse, and there were many times this overshadowed the good in his life. Many of us will be mourning a life that should have taken a different path. We will all be feeling an immense sadness that Dom never managed to find

sobriety. You may feel a relief that his pain is over, and that's ok too. Life is complex and each of our journeys with grief will look different.

Dom would not want to be defined by his struggles, and rather than dwell on the tough times, we cherish the good memories. He had a love for poetry and music (don't worry, I won't start rapping in his memory). Chris, dad and Dom loved to jam upstairs at the weekends, with Dom on the drums, usually until the neighbours complained, at which point they would relocate to the garden to make even more noise.

Dom loved visiting Blackburn cathedral with mum or dad, then having a spoons breakfast. He loved holidays in Tenerife, Il de Re, Les Charmettes and Javerdat. When we were younger, we spent many weekends in the caravan at Greenacres. The boys would learn to fish then spend hours in the arcade on the 2p pushers and trying to outlast each other on electric chair game.

Dom saw the world through rose tinted glasses, and genuinely wanted to live forever. He was strong willed and stood by the choices that he made in life. Dom found comfort in his faith, and his church were always looking out for him. Jim and Jackie did absolutely everything they could possibly have done to try to help Dom navigate through life.

Dominic, we will always love you, and I will hold these memories close to my heart forever. We acknowledge the battles you fought, but also the love you shared for others. You will be missed and we will never forget you. Thank you

Emily (Dom's Sister)

It's exam time again so here is help for parents
Help I have a teenager, and it is GCSE exam time.

You can feel the tension in the country as the exams start and families with teenagers take a sharp intake of breath, here are some thoughts to help you through.

If your teenager is stressed then treat them like you would treat a frightened child, on the outside stressed pupils can display stubborn behaviour and refuse to do things, remember behaviour is always a way of communicating what is really going on for them. On the outside it may be wilful and moody but on the inside they are absolutely P.T.O.

frightened to death,
frightened of failing,
frightened of letting you down,
frightened of walking out into the big wide world,
frightened of not knowing what to do,
frightened of what their peers think of them.

I realise that you will have tried everything with them and may have tried these, but here are some strategies that will most definitely help....

1. Text them every day telling them that you love them, are proud of them and that it doesn't matter what happens you will always be proud of them, (they will wonder what is going on but do it anyway).

2.

3.2. Just listen, ask them how their day was and just listen, don't tell them what to do (I know it's really hard not to as it feels that their future is at stake right now, but the thing that they need most is to feel listened to, if they are feeling anxious, they will be feeling frightened and when frightened they will just shut down at any instructions as to what to do).

4.

3. Ask them do they need a hug, they will balk at you and think you are crazy, but every teenager no matter how cool they think they are still needs a hug from their mum. I have given this advice to countless parents, and one reported back that their son was having lots of tantrums about everything. The mum just stood there and offered him a hug, the son refused, but the mum continued to offer a hug each morning and eventually he took the hug and things got much better, not in a Disney happily ever after way, but in a "we are going to be ok" way.

4. Be kind to yourself, you aren't failing as a parent because they are struggling, the best thing that you can do for your teenager is to be calm and relaxed and have faith that they and you will come through this unscathed and smiling.

Remember to breathe, feel and allow it to flow, it's the not feeling our uncomfortable feelings that causes so many problems"

"It takes a big heart to help shape little minds"

Grace Robinson

Praise Be

It's always good to hear something positive! whilst covering the office phones I received a call last week from a lady who attends William of York church in Bolton, which unfortunately, is closing.

She rang to say that she watches our Masses online and wanted to point out how good the young altar server was. and she was so impressed by the priest and the server she had to let us know.

The day was either Tuesday or Wednesday 8th/9th April, so if you were a young man serving at Brownedge that day, you can feel proud as she said you are a credit to our parish,

Thank You.

John Robinson

FAT BALL BIRD FEEDER

Making home made fat balls is an excellent way to support local bird populations, especially during winter and spring when natural food sources are more scarce. These nutritious treats provide birds with essential energy rich fats and proteins they need to maintain body heat and survive cold weather. They're also significantly cheaper than shop bough versions and allow you to control exactly what goes into them, avoiding artificial preservatives.

Steps

1. Soften 1 part lard/suet at room temperature (don't melt the lard or suet completely)
2. Mix with 2 parts bird seed in bowl until well combined.
3. Cut an apple to 1cm thick slices.
4. Thread string through the centre of the apple and tie the string ends together to make a loop.
5. Dip the apple into the softened lard.
6. Then dip the apple into the seed mix to coat both side pressing the seed mix into the coated apple.
7. Refrigerate for 2 hours until firm.
8. Hang outside in a sheltered spot away from direct sunlight.

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

G.D.P.R. Privacy Notice. In order to withdraw your consent for us publish your details above or within this magazine, please contact Father Mark at (office@saintgerards.org.uk). All processing of personal data can cease upon request, with exception of legal obligations or instances where personal data is required to protect public safety.

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

4th	3rd Sunday of Easter	27th	St Augustine of Canterbury
10th	St John of Avila	29th	The Ascension of the Lord
11th	4th Sunday of Easter	31st	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
12th	St Nereus and Achilleus	1st	7th Sunday of Easter
12th	St Pancras	June	
13th	Our Lady of Fatima	2nd	Ss Marcellinus and Peter
14th	St Matthias	<p>The PARISH OFFICE is open at the following new times:</p> <p>Monday to Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Office hours are now shared with St Marys Brownedge.</p> <p>AM at St Gerard's PM at St Marys Brownedge. Phone: 01772 335387 Mobile 07442 385553 (9am-3pm)</p>	
18th	5th Sunday of Easter		
19th	St Dunstan		
20th	St Bernardine of Siena		
21st	St Christopher Magallanes and Companions		
22nd	St Rita of Cascia		
25th	6th Sunday of Easter		
26th	St Philip Neri		



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WHATS ON IN THE PAROCHIAL CENTRE

May 2025

Saturday 3rd May - Impact

Saturday 10th May - Paul Chase

Saturday 17th May - Sharleen Kennedy

Saturday 24th May - Jo Lloyd

Saturday 31st May - Ian Christie

****New Opening Hours****

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Friday 2 pm to 12 a m

Saturday & Sunday 12 pm to 12 am



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