

Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Month of June is Dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart

The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated each June on the first Friday after the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (June 27).

As we ponder the Sacred Heart of Jesus during the month of June let us pray, "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine

NOT EVERYONE HAS FACEBOOK

Some of you will already have read a lot about our new Pope via Facebook and on-line but not everyone has or wants these and for that reason we will try and repeat some of the items which appear on the Facebook pages of both our parishes for those without access.

This month we have a biography of our New Pope and an article about the Guild of St Stephen biannual Mass held this year at Lancaster Cathedral and attended by servers from both parishes.

Issue No 689 June 2025



In this Issue

Popo Leo XIV	Page 2
Cafod — Cancel Debt	Page 5
Brian Pails—Eulogy	Page 8
Guild of St Stephen	Page 9
If God had Voicemail	Page 10
Parish Diary	Page 15



Biography of Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost

Prior to his election as Pope Leo XIV, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops. Here is the biography of the 267th Bishop of Rome.

By Vatican News

The first Augustinian Pope, Leo XIV is the second Roman Pontiff - after Pope Francis - from the Americas. Unlike Jorge Mario Bergoglio, however, the 69-year-old

Robert Francis Prevost is from the northern part of the continent, though he spent many years as a missionary in Peru before being elected head of the Augustinians for two consecutive terms.

First Augustinian Pope

The new Bishop of Rome was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph.

He spent his childhood and adolescence with his family and studied first at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers and then at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where in 1977 he earned a Degree in Mathematics and also studied Philosophy.

On September 1 of the same year, Prevost entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.) in Saint Louis, in the Province of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicago, and made his first profession on September 2, 1978. On August 29, 1981, he made his solemn vows.

The future Pontiff received his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. At the age of 27, he was sent by his superiors to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum).

In Rome, he was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, at the Augustinian College of Saint Monica by Archbishop Jean Jadot, then pro-president of the Secretariat for Non-Christians, which later

became the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and then the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue.

Prevost obtained his licentiate in 1984 and the following year, while preparing his doctoral thesis, was sent to the Augustinian mission in Chulucanas, Piura, Peru (1985–1986). In 1987, he defended his doctoral thesis on "The Role of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine" and was appointed vocation director and missions director of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Olympia Fields, Illinois (USA).

Mission in Peru



The following year, he joined the mission in Trujillo, also in Peru, as director of the joint formation project for Augustinian candidates from the vicariates of Chulucanas, Iquitos, and Apurímac.

Over the course of eleven years, he served as prior of the community (1988–1992), formation director (1988–1998), and instructor for professed members (1992–1998), and in the Archdiocese of Trujillo as judicial vicar (1989–1998) and professor of Canon Law, Patristics, and Moral Theology at the Major Seminary "San Carlos y San Marcelo." At the same time, he was also

entrusted with the pastoral care of Our Lady Mother of the Church, later established as the parish of Saint Rita (1988–1999), in a poor suburb of the city, and was parish administrator of Our Lady of Monserrat from 1992 to 1999.

In 1999, he was elected Provincial Prior of the Augustinian Province of "Mother of Good Counsel" in Chicago, and two and a half years later, the ordinary General Chapter of the Order of Saint Augustine, elected him as Prior General, confirming him in 2007 for a second term.

In October 2013, he returned to his Augustinian Province in Chicago, serving as director of formation at the Saint Augustine Convent, first councilor, and provincial vicar—roles he held until Pope Francis appointed him on November 3, 2014, as Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Chiclayo, elevating him to the episcopal dignity as Titular Bishop of Sufar.

He entered the Diocese on November 7, in the presence of Apostolic Nuncio James Patrick Green, who ordained him Bishop just over a month later, on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the Cathedral of Saint Mary.

His episcopal motto is “In Illo uno unum”—words pronounced by Saint Augustine in a sermon on Psalm 127 to explain that “although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one.”

Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, from 2015 to 2023

On September 26, 2015, he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo by Pope Francis. In March 2018, he was elected second vice-president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference, where he also served as a member of the Economic Council and president of the Commission for Culture and Education.

In 2019, Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy (July 13, 2019), and in 2020, a member of the Congregation for Bishops (November 21). Meanwhile, on April 15, 2020, he was also appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Peruvian Diocese of Callao.

Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops

On January 30, 2023, the Pope called him to Rome as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, promoting him to the rank of Archbishop.

Created Cardinal in 2023

Pope Francis created him Cardinal in the Consistory of September 30, 2023, and assigned him the Diaconate of Saint Monica. He officially took possession of his titular church on January 28, 2024.

As head of the Dicastery, he participated in the Pope’s most recent Apostolic Journeys and in both the first and second sessions of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on synodality, held in Rome from October 4 to 29, 2023, and from October 2 to 27, 2024, respectively.

Meanwhile, on October 4, 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as a member of the Dicasteries for Evangelization (Section for First Evangelization and New Particular Churches), for the Doctrine of the Faith, for the Eastern Churches, for the Clergy, for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for Culture and Education, for Legislative Texts, and of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican City State.

Finally, on February 6 of this year, the Argentine Pope promoted him to the Order of Bishops, granting him the title of the Suburbicarian Church of Albano.

Three days later, on February 9, he celebrated the Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square for the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, the second major event of the Holy Year of Hope.

During the most recent hospitalization of his predecessor at the "Gemelli" hospital, Prevost presided over the Rosary for Pope Francis's health in Saint Peter's Square on March 3.

Source Vatican News and Facebook Pages

CAFOD - Cancel Debt, Choose Hope.

When I wrote the article last month on debt relief and Cafod's latest campaign during this jubilee year, it was before our beloved Pope Francis had died. Perhaps now it has become a matter of urgency that we respond to his plea to act on his vision for richer economies like ours to free poorer nations of their crippling debt burdens and restore some sort of justice to the 54 countries in debt crisis.

A few days ago I attended a zoom meeting hosted by CAFOD which outlined in more detail how richer countries can play their part in putting pressure on financial institutions, many governed by English law, to tighten up their financial regulations to make both borrowers and lenders more accountable and basically to implement fairer laws.

Here in the UK, as a global superpower, we have to put pressure on our MPs and the government to facilitate an end to the debt crisis. You can read all about this in detail on CAFOD's website at [CAFOD.org.uk/cancel the debt](http://CAFOD.org.uk/cancel%20the%20debt).

Parishioners are being asked to support this campaign for justice and in the next few weeks both St Mary's and St Gerard's will be holding a global church 'petition signing' weekend which will allow parishioners to have their say. Please keep your eye on the notice sheets so you'll know when this is taking place!

In the meantime you can sign as an individual the global church petition online at: CAFOD.org.uk/debtpetition

It is important to keep in mind the intricate connection between countries with unsustainable debt and climate change because it is precisely these poorer countries who are unable to invest in infrastructure and projects to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Laudato Si

Other pleas by Pope Francis's for this jubilee year are in support of our common home. This year celebrates the tenth anniversary of his encyclical 'Laudato Si' on the environment, where he expressed his deep concern about our lack of care for our common home and how this has impacted all of us, not least those in developing countries.

In the words of Pope Francis:

'Climate change is a global problem with grave implications and represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.'

'It cannot be emphasised enough how everything is interconnected'

'We cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture.'

None of us can fail to have noticed recent extreme weather events even here in the UK where I believe it has been the driest spring for over a hundred years! Earthquakes in Myanmar and floods in many countries of the world are being followed by devastating droughts and these catastrophic events are set to continue. As usual it is poorer countries with a lack of infrastructure and funds who often face the worst effects of such climate catastrophies.

Some of you will have visited the 'Laudato Si' centre at the bishop's residence at Wardley Hall . You may remember several years ago we collected plastic milk bottles.

These bottles were stuffed with plastic until they became solid and 'brick like' and were then taken to Wardley Hall where they were used to surround raised vegetable beds and as foundations for the outdoor classroom. If it didn't do anything else, the stuffing of bottles raised awareness about the amount of plastic we dispose of!

In the past two weeks there has been a notice in the news sheet advertising a reflection day at Wardley Hall on 'Laudato Si.' For those who were unable to attend, there is a similar day at the Laudato Si outdoor centre at Wardley Hall organised by CAFOD and the Laudato Si project. This is taking place on Friday July 25th from 9.30am-4.00pm and will cover some of the ground we discussed earlier in the year using Cafod's reflection guide- 'Pilgrims of Hope'

All are invited but, once again, places are limited to 20 so booking is essential through: <https://tinyurl.com/3hx3hbez>



On Wednesday July 9th there is a massive lobby of parliament in London organised by the climate coalition where CAFOD supporters and members of sister organisations such as Caritas, Oxfam and other aid agencies will speak to MPs on the need for urgent action on debt relief and climate. More details to follow.

It may seem that our small actions to change the debate surrounding climate change and the debt crisis can achieve very little especially with the rolling back of commitments to change that have been made in previous years by governments such as ours and the USA, but as Christians we have a duty to stand alongside our brothers and sisters who are not as fortunate as us and use our voice to facilitate change.

To quote Pope Francis again:

‘We are pilgrims of Hope’

Margaret

Summer Fair

The Summer Fair will be held this year on **Sunday 22nd June from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Shields Centre.**

We will be holding a **raffle from the 31st May in Church** until the fair. Prizes include 2 Holme Farm Dairies Hampers.

Please could we ask for donations of fancy goods and new or unwanted gifts for the stalls and for cakes to be brought on the day.

We would also ask for volunteers to run stalls or organise games on the day please.

Fund Raising Committee

Brian Pails

1964– 2025



Brian was born in 1964 to parents George and Mary. He was brother to Julie and Martin.

Brian worked at a plastic packaging company for many years.

He was an active member of the Church. He was an Altar Boy and member of the Blessed Sacrament Guild. Brian also helped with Church Social activities.

He enjoyed riding his bike and going for walks. He also liked going on holiday both here and abroad. Brian enjoyed listening to music, going to concerts and watching football.

He died peacefully at home on 29th April. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Gardening for Wildlife in June

Water: Keep bird baths filled.

Food: Leave a section of your lawn to allow "weeds" like daisies and dandelions to flower, which are a great source of pollen and nectar.

Shelter: Create rough areas with logs and leaves for insects, and keep some areas of long grass.

Avoid pesticides: Use natural methods to control pests instead of pesticides, as these can harm beneficial insects.

Consider a pond: A pond will attract a variety of wildlife.

Beware nesting birds: Avoid trimming hedges and pruning trees in June, as many birds are nesting at this time.

LW

Archconfraternity (Guild) of St Stephen National Mass - 17 May 2025

Five Altar Servers from our two parishes, Ryan and Leo from St Mary's along with David, Emily and Olivia from St Gerard's, attended the biannual National Mass for the Guild of St Stephen, on Saturday 17th May at the Cathedral Church of St Peter, Lancaster.

The Guild was established in 1904 and is the international organisation for Altar Servers.

Altar Servers, clergy and family and friends had travelled from across England and Wales for the National Mass which was celebrated by Bishop Paul Swarbrick of Lancaster, the diocese being part way through celebrating its centenary year.

A Votive Mass of St Stephen was celebrated and the liturgy was greatly enhanced by the choir and organists.



Image Reproduced with Permission of the Guild Communication Team

This was found in a church magazine a few years ago and is a humorous look at life and the modern world.

If God Had Voicemail

Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following options:

*Press 1 for requests

*Press 2 for Thanksgiving

*Press 3 for Complaints

*Press 4 for Angels

"I'm sorry, all our angels are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and will be answered in the order received. Please stay on the line, you are 10,364 in the queue."

If you would like to speak to:

: Gabriel, Press 1

: Michael, Press 2

For a directory of other angels, Press 3

1. To find out if a loved one has been assigned to heaven, press 5, Enter their national insurance number then press the hash key.

2. For reservations at My Father's House, please enter J.O.H.N, followed by 3v16.

3. For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the earth and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive here.

4. Our computers show that you have already prayed once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

5. This office is closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday.

6. Please pray again on Monday after 9: 30am. If you need emergency assistance, contact your local clergy.

Thank You.

God is a frequency—stay tuned.

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 (9:15 am Thursday at 6:30 pm
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

1st June	7th Sunday of Easter	21st St Aloysius Gonzaga
2nd	Ss Marcellinus and Peter	22nd CORPUS CHRISTI
3rd	St Charles Lwanga & Comp	23rd St Etheldreda
5th	St Boniface	24th The Nativity of St John the Baptist
6th	St Norbert	27th The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
8th	PENTECOST	28th The Immaculate Heart of Mary
9th	Mary, Mother of God	29th Ss Peter & Paul
11th	St Barnabas	30th The First Martyrs of the See of Rome
12th	Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest	1st St Oliver Plunket
13th	St Anthony of Padua	July
15th	The Most Holy Trinity	3rd St Thomas
16th	St Richard of Chichester	4th St Elizabeth of Portugal
19th	St Romuald	5th St Antony Mary Zaccaria
20th	St Alban	



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June 2025

Saturday 7th June - Stevie D
Saturday 14th June - Natalie Jax
Saturday 21st June - Phil Richmond
Saturday 28th June - John Connolly

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