



Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

News and Views

July in the Catholic Church

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood. It was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Saviour shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."



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Laudato Si' (continued).

A few weeks ago, Michael and I attended a reflection day on Pope Francis' Laudato Si' encyclical at the Laudato Si' centre at Wardley Hall in the grounds of Bishop John's residence. This was to celebrate 10 yrs since his famous encyclical was published.

Laudato Si' was a call to the world to respect our common home and to reflect on the inter-connectedness of all of us and how our lack of respect and degradation of the world's resources is facilitating climate change and leading to forest fires, floods, drought etc. We all know by now that it is the world's poorest who are disproportionately affected by a warming of the earth.

During the day we walked outside in the forest area and the gardens where the raised beds housed many species of vegetables and flowers, reflecting on the beauty and wonder of how God's loving plan is that every creature has its own value and significance.

We were asked to consider where in the natural world- whether in a fish, a flower, a bird's call, woodland or the movement of an insect - have we experienced a sense of God's presence or beauty. How does recognising this sacredness influence the way we relate to creation?

One of our reflections was on the words of Pope Francis where he links our care of creation and the environment to our care of the world's poorest:

“A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings”

The day finished with a simple Mass in the outdoor classroom and questions to reflect on at home as to how we can live more simply, use less, waste less, recycle more, or maybe even grow more of our own food.

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Everyone can play some part in Pope Francis' dream for us all in educating ourselves about climate change, especially given the fact that many of the present 'developed' world leaders have pushed the subject of climate change down the agenda.

A week or so ago parishioners of both parishes were asked to sign a form begging world leaders in wealthy countries to stop the debt crisis in the world's poorest countries by cancelling unjust debt. We asked leaders to prevent future crises by formulating a debt framework within the United Nations and by formulating a debt justice law to make private lenders take part in debt relief.

You may ask what has this to do with Pope Francis' vision outlined in 'Laudato Si' but debt relief is essential to ensure that the 54 countries presently in debt crisis are able to spend precious resources on health, education and measures to halt climate change in their countries rather than on paying the huge interest rates their debts engender.

Please, please, if you haven't already signed, make sure that you do so before July 9th when Michael and I will be joining CAFOD and numerous other aid agencies in Westminster to lobby MPs about debt relief and climate change during this jubilee year of hope.

You can explore these issues further on Cafod's website: cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt You can also download the full text of 'Laudato Si' on google. It's well worth a read.

Margaret Cronin.



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Feast Days and Liturgical Celebrations in July

July 3 – Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle
Known as “Doubting Thomas,” he is honoured for his eventual proclamation of faith in the risen Christ.

July 11 – Feast of St. Benedict of Nursia
Founder of Western monasticism and author of the Rule of St. Benedict, which became the foundation for many religious communities.

July 16 – Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
A Marian title celebrating the Virgin Mary's role as patroness of the Carmelite Order.
Linked to the Brown Scapular devotion.

July 22 – Feast of St. Mary Magdalene
One of Jesus' closest followers and the "Apostle to the Apostles."
Elevated to a full feast day in 2016 by Pope Francis.

July 25 – Feast of St. James the Greater
One of the Twelve Apostles and patron saint of pilgrims, especially honoured in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

July 31 – Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola
Founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), instrumental in the Counter-Reformation and Catholic education.

Historical Events in July

July 6, 1415 – Execution of Jan Hus A Czech priest and reformer burned at the stake for heresy by the Council of Constance.
His death intensified calls for Church reform and indirectly contributed to the Protestant Reformation.

July 7, 1570 – Pope Pius V excommunicates Queen Elizabeth I of England
A key moment in the English Reformation, deepening the divide between Catholics and the English monarchy.



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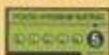
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July 16, 1054 – The East-West Schism Begins
Often marked as the date when mutual excommunications between the Pope's legate and the Patriarch of Constantinople formally split the Church into the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox branches.

July 7, 2007 – Summorum Pontificum issued by Pope Benedict XVI. This apostolic letter expanded access to the Tridentine Mass (Latin Mass) and recognized it as an extraordinary form of the Roman Rite

From Facebook this Month

Knights of St Columba - Council 212, Brownedge

At a recent meeting of Council 212, Brownedge, the following officers were elected for 2025/26:

- Grand Knight and Spirituality and Welfare Officer - Brother Philip Swarbrick
- Deputy Grand Knight and Membership and Social Officer - Brother David Dearden
- Chaplain - Fr Colin Battell OSB
- Treasurer - Brother Kevin Lyth
- Action and Youth Officer - Brother Alaine Tolentino
- Warden - Brother Joe Redmond
- Secretary - Brother David Gorman

If you would like to know more about the Knights of St Columba, feel free to speak to one of the Council 212 members.



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Events happening in churches within 30 miles of Preston this July:

- Summer Concert Series at St George's Church: Located in Preston City Centre, St George's Church will host a series of summer concerts featuring talented musicians from the North West. The concerts will take place on:
July 20: Soprano Ruth Anderson
July 27: Baritone Paul Chamberlain
- Blackburn Cathedral: Organ Recitals. Enjoy the beautiful sounds of the organ at Blackburn Cathedral with recitals scheduled throughout July.
- Lancaster Priory: Choral Evensong. Experience the serene and uplifting Choral Evensong services held every Sunday evening in July at Lancaster Priory
- St John's Minster: On July 15, Community Choir Concert featuring performances by local community choirs
- St Mary's Church, Penwortham: Summer Fair. Join the fun at St Mary's Church's summer fair on July 12, with stalls, games, and refreshments.

Interesting Facts

- Bananas are berries, but strawberries aren't. Botanically speaking, bananas qualify as berries, while strawberries do not.
- Honey never spoils. Archaeologists have found pots of honey in ancient Egyptian tombs that are over 3,000 years old and still perfectly edible.
- Wombat poop is cube shaped. This unique shape prevents it from rolling away and helps mark their territory.
- A group of flamingos is called a "flamboyance". This fitting name reflects their colourful and striking appearance.



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Kirsty Thompson, Director and Solicitor, holds The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) qualification and The Association of Lifetime Lawyers accreditation.

Dog Fouling in Our Church Grave Yard

Our grave yard is a place of peace, remembrance, and reflection. It holds deep meaning for many families who visit the resting places of their loved ones. Unfortunately, a growing concern is threatening the dignity of this sacred spaces: dog fouling.

In recent weeks, our maintenance team have reported instances of dog mess being left in the grave yard. This not only disrespects the memory of those buried there but also creates a health hazard and an unpleasant experience for those attending services or visiting graves.

While we understand that many dog owners are responsible and caring, it only takes a few careless individuals to cause significant upset. The grave yard is not a dog park—it is hallowed ground. Allowing dogs to foul here, and failing to clean up after them, is deeply disrespectful.

We kindly ask all dog owners to:

- Keep dogs on a lead when near or in the grave yard.
- Always carry waste bags and clean up after your pet.
- Avoid using the grave yard as a regular walking route if possible.

We are adding signage as a reminder and there is a bin for dog waste on Browndge Road near the crossing.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.





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Easter in Spain

On Easter Sunday we were staying in Alicante, Spain and we went to mass in the Cathedral. The first thing I noticed were the Jubilee 2025 banners. At the end of mass, I sensed that something was happening.

A procession began to form and a huge statue of the risen Christ was carried aloft through the nave and out into the street. There were hundreds of people gathering and bands playing. The procession made its way very slowly through the narrow streets, pausing frequently for the people carrying the statue to rest. Eventually it made its way to a crowded square. From a different direction came another procession, carrying a large statue of Mary, covered in flowers. When the two came together, the statue of Mary was lowered, as if to bow to Jesus. It was beautiful and very moving. Then the procession moved on through the old town, and eventually back to the cathedral. There were hundreds of people, young and not so young; locals and visitors. Later in the day people gathered in large groups to eat. The atmosphere was wonderful and it was a really lovely way to celebrate Easter Sunday.

Ann Burke



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WHATS ON IN THE PAROCHIAL CENTRE JULY 2025

Saturday 5th July, Steve Hunter

Friday 11th July, The Soul Federation

Tickets £12.50 for members and parishioners.

Saturday 12th July Jess Smith

Saturday 19th July Simon Lee

Saturday 26th July One plus One duo

****New Opening Hours****

Monday to Thursday 5 pm—12 am

Friday 2 pm to 12 a m

Saturday & Sunday 12 pm to 12 am

The Universal Prayer for Peace



Lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe

Gardening in July

Three Hedgehogs have visited munching away at the slugs and moist hog food. Then away they go through the hole in the gate to wander around. They cover quite a distance at night time.

The Great Tits fledged safely despite the cats who visited. Parents worked hard.

Dusk or just after much needed rain is the best time to inhale the smells of the garden. Elderflower, Orange blossom and honeysuckle are divine.

The water butts are still being used. Saving on the water bill during that hot spell. I strongly recommend buying a couple. Even one small one.

My French beans had greenfly, but the ladybirds flew in to the rescue! No pesticides in this garden.

LW.



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That is approximately **£1,900** a week,
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much higher but for our amazing volunteers
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Thank you

**Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest),
Fr Colin Battell OSB.
Tel: Fr Mark 332050; Fr Colin 321201.**

The Presbytery
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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 6:30 pm

Services of Word & Holy Communion -

Monday 6:30 pm &

Wednesday at 9:15 am

Reconciliation: Confessions -

Saturday 5 pm to 5:15 pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday 18:00 to 18:30

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.

335387 to arrange Notification and Preparation.

Parish Organisations

CONTACT

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Gift Aid	John Robinson	335387
News & Views, Website,	David Walker	29701
Majella Companions		335387
Marriage Registrars	Margaret Cronin	336475
	Ann Quinlan	467306
Parochial Centre		
Piety Shop	Vivian Page	313910
P.T.A.	Ross Free	339691
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Safeguarding	email:safeguarding@saintgerards.org.uk	
School (Staff, Ancillaries & Governors)		335025
Senior Citizens Organisers	Gloria Duffel	339966

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

1st	St Olivia Plunket	22 nd	St Mary Magdalen
3rd	St Thomas	23rd	St Bridget of Sweden
4th	St Elizabeth of Portugal	24th	St Sharbel Makhoul
5th	St Antony Mary Zaccaria	25th	St James
6th	14th Sunday of the Year	26th	Ss Joachim & Anne
9th	St Augustine Zhaq Rong	27th	17th Sunday of the Year
11th	St Benedict	29th	Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus
13th	15th Sunday of the Year	30th	St Peter Chrysologus
14th	St Camillus of Lellis	31 st	St Ignatius Loyola
15th	St Bonaventure	1 st Aug	St Alphonsus Mary le Liguori
16th	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	2nd	St Eusebius of Vercelli
20th	16th Sunday of the Year	3rd	18th Sunday of the Year
21st	St Lawrence of Brindisi		

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