



# Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

## News and Views

Issue No 692 September  
2025

### Our Lady of Walsingham

Our Lady of Walsingham to be celebrated as a Feast Day in the dioceses of England, on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was established in 1061, according to the text of the Pynson Ballad, when devout noblewoman Richeldis de Faverches asked in prayer for inspiration so that she could carry out a special work in honour of Our Lady. The Pynson Ballad says that Our Lady appeared to Richeldis and showed her in spirit the House of the Annunciation where the Angel greeted Mary in Nazareth, and asked her to build a replica in Walsingham as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation.

This Shrine, which was once the focus of Pilgrimage in a land called 'Our Lady's Dowry', is now restored to the prominence it enjoyed for so long.

*"As Sailors are guided by a star to the port, so Christians are guided to heaven by Mary"* Saint Thomas Aquinas.



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## A BIG thank you

Before I start with the first daily blog from my trip to Rome, I would like to say a huge thank you to all those who donated money towards this trip. Without the kind donations it would have been tough to find money to afford the journey, so thank you. It was an incredible experience that I will never forget and cherish forever.

### 28th July – Day One – The journey to Rome:

Now, the first day of the pilgrimage had arrived, I got to the airport at 7:00am to be met by my equally excited and nervous friends (who I had either met on the previous World Youth Day or at the Overnight preparation day in June this year). Skipping past the boring parts, like check-in and security and we were in the airport, sat outside Boots munching on a meal deal sandwich. When we noticed actor Sean Astin, known for his role in Lord of the rings as 'Samwise Gamgee'.



One member of our group (Jacob) went and got a photo. Just after that we found out that there was a storm, that had decided today was the best day to settle over Rome and cause delays to both inbound and outbound flights. None of us, or the flight crew however, believed it would cause any issues with landing.

Images of Sean Astin from  
Wikipedia Commons Licence

Yet, after a flight that felt like an eternity, only extended by the repeated attempts to land, we were forced to take a redirection to land at Pisa airport instead (222 miles north of Rome). We were told that we would have to get a coach down to Rome which would take us around 6 hours, with a 45-minute stop at a petrol station for a snack. It was a tiresome journey in the heat; we were disappointed that we were unable to attend a music festival in the neighbouring village as planned. It took from 16:00-23:15 to get to Villa Palazzola, where we were met by friendly staff and a three-course meal.

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Not a lot happened on the first day, mainly travelling, a lot of brilliant jokes from Fr Chris and pretending not to notice our coach driver's poor driving. Nevertheless, we finished the day together in the dining hall with a prayer, thanking God for a safe journey. All ready for a jam-packed day on the Tuesday.

## **Archie**

### **Mass Tour**

It looks like I'm on a tour of Catholic churches this year. I've already previously written in News and Views about Easter mass in Alicante, Spain, in April.

In May I went to mass in a tiny little church called the Good Shepherd in a village called Haddenham in Buckinghamshire, where my daughter lives. What the church lacked in size, it more than made up for in the energy of the congregation. The sermon was interesting and there was great singing, with most people joining in, regardless of their musical abilities.



In June and July, I went to mass at the Church of the Assumption, Westport, Connecticut, during a visit to my son in the USA. The congregation seemed less engaged in the singing, but it was led by a lady with an amazing voice, so I think people were quite happy to listen. It was an early mass, but there were lots of families there. After mass people were invited to stay behind for coffee and donuts! Very American!

Be it Spain, the USA or here in the UK, we Catholics have a common faith. It is comforting and reassuring to know that wherever we are, whatever language we speak or whatever accent we have, we can all pray together at mass in this Jubilee Year.

**Ann Burke**

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## War Memorials - What War memorials?

Chatting to an old work colleague (Leyland Motors Ltd) in Leyland recently, our chat about the good old days went on to the subject of War Memorials. He said that Lostock Hall did well having Three War Memorials. I quickly corrected him and informed him that Lostock Hall and Tardy Gate had Seven if we included nearby St Pauls CE Church in Farington. "Tell me what you know about the three I mentioned he said," and then I'll look forward to you filling me in about the other four.

The village War Memorial (Cenotaph) was incorrectly recorded as being erected in 1921 when in actual fact it was December 1924. Sadly, despite informing the local branch of the Royal British Legion in Lostock Hall several times about the centenary last December (2024) there was no ceremony to honour and remember this historic event. Nice murals though!

The cenotaph began life close to the 111 Bus Stop at the junction of Croston Road and Watkin Lane before pedestrianisation took place in the 1980's and Hope Terrace became traffic free. The memorial was moved to its present position.



The memorial on Browndedge Road close to the traffic lights appeared in circa 2012 after removal from the Methodist Church on Watkin Lane, when the church closed and was then converted into business premises.

The imposing Memorial in 'Dandy Brook Park' on the corner of Lostock Lane and next to the huge roundabout was unveiled in November 2015.

"Three down and four to go" was the cry from my attentive ex workmate so on I went.

Tardy St Gerards RC Church War Memorial which now stands in the graveyard was placed there at the end of 1962 and beginning of 1963 to pave the way to the church extension in 1963.



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The Memorial stood in its own garden on Lourdes Avenue surrounded by Rhododendron bushes.

St James CE church on Moss Lane boasts its own War Memorial plaque further down from the church entrance.

St Pauls CE on Church Lane, Farington has a similar type, memorial inside the church entrance.

Finally, to complete "The Magnificent Seven", a memorial plaque/stone was erected, according to the bottom line on the memorial in November 1990 to remember those killed by a German Bomber in October 1940. However it was erected just off Watkin Lane on the left hand side of Ward Street affront a rest home, when the actual bomb site was some 200-300 metres further up Ward Street close to the original canteen and dance hall for the nearby Thomas Moss and Sons Cotton Mill and Batley Shoe Factory etc.

So in a village renowned for its many hairdressers, barbers and takeaways, we can boast Seven memorials to the fallen.

**Tony Billington.**

### **A visit to the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.**

On 8th August parishioners of Browndge Saint Mary's and St Gerard's, and Fr Mark's family and friends, visited the spectacular basilica where Pope Francis regularly prayed on his return from far-flung places in front of the beautiful icon of Mary - Salus Populi Romani - The Protector of the Roman People.



Unlike many other popes who are buried in St Peter's basilica in the centre of Rome, Pope Francis requested a simple tomb in St Maria Maggiore. Although we arrived early in the morning, a long queue was already forming of pilgrims desperate to see his tomb and offer silent prayers there.

*Elizabeth Samuel Hampers*

&

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Clare Haythornthwaite, a parishioner of St Mary's, had knit a doll, a replica of Luce, our pilgrim of hope mascot, to accompany us on our pilgrimage.

Clare was determined to show Pope Francis not only her beautiful, hand-made mascot but also to lay some flowers on the tomb she had purchased from Boundary Mill! As we approached we were overcome with the simplicity, silence and light surrounding his tomb.

It was all very moving. Difficult to see though how we would be able to persuade the security man to place Claire's yellow tulips on his grave.

Wonder of wonders though, he smiled at Clare's 'Luce' and accepted her yellow tulips, placing them in a prominent position.



## Margaret

These are pictures of the Marian icon 'Salus Populi Romani'



Large Image from Margaret small one from Flickr Commons Licence



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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.

# **Feast Days and Liturgical Celebrations in September**

September 8 – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Celebrates the birth of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. A joyful Marian feast.

September 14 – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helena and the redemptive power of Christ's crucifixion.

September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows. Honours the suffering of Mary during the Passion of Christ.

September 21 – Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. Celebrates the calling and witness of the tax collector-turned-apostle.

September 29 – Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael (Archangels)

## **Historical Events in September**

September 14, 335 – Dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Church built over the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection in Jerusalem was consecrated by Emperor Constantine's mother, St. Helena.

September 13, 122 – Pope St. Hyginus elected. While not well documented, his papacy began around this time and was marked by early theological challenges like Gnosticism.

September 13, 122 – Death of Pope St. John Chrysostom (407) Archbishop of Constantinople, known for his eloquent preaching ("Golden Mouth") and for standing up to imperial authority.

September 30, 420 – Death of St. Jerome. The Church Father best known for translating the Bible into Latin (the Vulgate), which became the standard text for the Church for centuries.

September 3, 2000 – Beatification of Pope Pius IX and Pope John XXIII by Pope John Paul II. This brought attention to two very different popes: Pius IX, known for the First Vatican Council, and John XXIII, known for convening the Second Vatican Council





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## **Events happening in churches within 30 miles of Preston this September:**

20<sup>th</sup> September - Horn rehearsal & church history talk  
St Michael & All Angels, Ashton-on-Ribble  
21st September - Choral concert  
Same venue

## **Interesting Facts**

. The Ancient Greeks used vending machines.  
Around 1st century BCE, Hero of Alexandria invented a device that dispensed holy water when a coin was inserted. It worked via a system of levers and counterweights — like a primitive soda machine at a temple.

The Mayans had a concept of zero before most of the world. While Europe struggled without zero until about the 12th century, the Maya were using it as early as 4th century CE, represented by a shell-like glyph. It was critical to their complex calendar systems.

The Great Pyramid was originally white and shiny. It was once covered in smooth, white Tura limestone, polished to reflect sunlight and glow like a “gem” in the desert. Earthquakes and looters removed the casing stones, revealing the rough core we see today.

The Babylonians tracked Jupiter with surprising accuracy. Using clay tablets from 350 BCE, they calculated the area under a curve (a technique similar to integral calculus) to predict the movement of Jupiter — a level of astronomy not seen again for nearly 2,000 years.

The Library of Alexandria wasn't destroyed in one day — it faded over centuries. Contrary to the myth of a single catastrophic fire, historians believe the library declined gradually due to multiple fires, neglect, and political turmoil over several hundred years.  
No single villain — just erosion over time.

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**Saturday 6th - Rebecca Duncalf**

**Saturday 13th - eah Wallis**

**Saturday 20th - Alan Henry**

**Saturday 27th - Jill Ellis**

### **\*\*New Opening Hours\*\***

Monday to Thursday 5 pm—12 am

Friday 2 pm to 12 a m

Saturday & Sunday 12 pm to 12 am

## Gardening in September

We are at the back end of the Summer now as I can hear the clicking of the Robin which is always a sign. It is a good year for plums and strawberries, the trees are full of berries (elderberries, hawthorn, acorns etc)

I just whisper a little thank you each time i go in the garden. for we are truly fortunate. Something ate my Dahlias (snails i think) Tomatoes have been good. They need potasium to redden, so i gave them a good feed.

Take care when strimming as youg hedgehogs are still around. Have you ever heard them grunting? Hence the name "Hog" keep filling up the water dishes folks

Thanks. LW

### BACK TO SCHOOL WORDSEARCH

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### Eating in the 50's

- Oil was for lubrication, fat was for cooking.
- Teas was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
- Fish didn't have fingers.
- Eating Raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
- None of us had heard of yoghurt.
- People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.

† NEAL †  
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# 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.



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

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 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 a Baptism Preparation meeting 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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Items for News & Views can be left at the Presbytery or emailed to the editor at [newsviews@saintgerards.org.uk](mailto:newsviews@saintgerards.org.uk)

The last day for submissions is the 20th of each month.

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# St Mary's Brownedge

## Live Streaming Times

<https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge>

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>9:30 am &amp; 6:30 pm</b>
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Private Prayer</b>	<b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>	<b>3 pm to 4 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>7 pm Vigil</b>

3rd	St Gegory the Great	20th	St Andrew Kin Taegon & Paul Chong Hasang & Comp
4th	St Cuthbert		
<b>7th</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>
8th	Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary	23rd	St Pius of Pietrelcina
		24th	Our Lady of Walsingham
9th	St Peter Claver	26th	Ss Cosmas & Damian
10th	St Ambrose Barlow	27th	St Vincent De Paul
12th	The Most Holy name of Mary	<b>28th</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>
13th	St John Chrysostom	29th	Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael
<b>14th</b>	<b>The Exaltation of the Cross</b>		
15th	Our Lady of Sorrows	30th	St Jerome
16th	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	St Therese of the Child Jesus
17th	St Robert Bellarmine	2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels
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