



Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

News and Views

St Gerard Majella (1726–1755) is best known today as the patron saint of expectant mothers, unborn children, and childbirth. His Feast Day is the 16th October.

His association with motherhood stems from a remarkable moment: he once left his handkerchief behind at a friend's house, and when the daughter tried to return it, he said, "Keep it. It will be useful to you someday." Years later, she was in danger during childbirth, called for the handkerchief and safely delivered her child.

Revered especially in Italy and Brazil, where devotion to him is widespread and invoked by those seeking good confessions, spiritual guidance, and protection for children and mothers.

Often called "The Mothers' Saint" for his miraculous intercession in childbirth.

He was Canonized in 1904 by Pope Pius X; his feast day is October 16.

**Issue No 693 October
2025**



St Gerard Majella

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Arrowsmith Walk - 25 August

A group from both St Mary's and Our Lady and St Gerard's took part in the annual Arrowsmith Walk on a very warm August Bank Holiday Monday afternoon, an approximate 5 mile route following in the footsteps of local Martyr, St Edmund Arrowsmith SJ, a Jesuit Priest who was Martyred for his faith at Lancaster on 28 August 1628.



The walk has been taking place for many years, organised by the parish of St Joseph's, Brindle one of the areas of Lancashire in which the then Fr Edmund Arrowsmith ministered, where he celebrated his final Mass and where he was apprehended. Brian Arrowsmith, to give him his baptismal name, was born in Haydock, near St. Helens, in 1955 and was educated at Douai in France

where he took the name Edmund. His mother belonged to the longstanding Lancashire recusant family of Gerard. Fr John Gerard SJ and Fr Miles Gerard, also a martyr, were relatives. Arrowsmith was ordained at Arras in 1612, returning in secret to England in 1613 where he spent much of his subsequent years ministering to the faithful in Lancashire in the most difficult of circumstances for Roman Catholics. In 1624, following an initial period of imprisonment, Arrowsmith entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Fr Raphael Jones OSB, Parish Priest at St Joseph's, Brindle, led a prayer after which around 40 walkers left the Church shortly after 1.30pm and followed a route which took in the site

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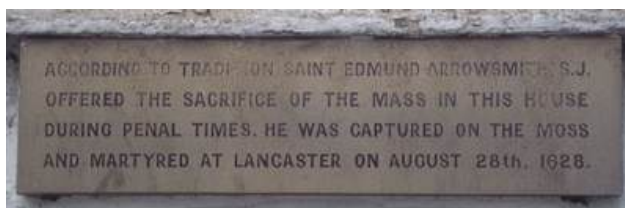
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Brindle St Joseph's ARROWSMITH WALK

Following some of the route of
St Edmund Arrowsmith's last ride

(About 5 miles)

August Bank Holiday Monday
Starts outside Church at 1.30pm



After the walk, there will be Mass in Church at 4.30pm
followed by light refreshments in the Parish Room.

of the Blue Anchor Inn, the son of the inn-keeper being Arrowsmith's betrayer. The next stop on the route was Arrowsmith House, Gregson Lane and a visit, courtesy of owner, Maria Hall, to the upstairs Mass Room where Arrowsmith celebrated his final Mass and where Mass is still occasionally celebrated to this day. The walk then continued along the lanes and across the fields of Brindle before walkers crossed Brindle Moss, below Hoghton Tower, where, having

been betrayed and fleeing Arrowsmith House as the Priest-hunters closed in on him, his horse faltered at a ditch and he was captured. The route then joined the A675 Blackburn Old Road/Hoghton Lane, passing the Boar's Head public house, where Arrowsmith is thought to have been held overnight in the cellar, and then along Private Road and into Chapel Fold and the hidden gem that is St Joseph's Church, a fine example of a 'barn church' dating from 1786.

A Memorial Mass of St Edmund Arrowsmith, Priest and Martyr, was celebrated at 4.30pm by Fr Raphael, where we were joined by those who had not walked, and which was followed by welcome refreshments in the parish room. The Altar at St Joseph's is a converted Jacobean sideboard on which Arrowsmith and other Priest-Martyrs are believed to have celebrated Mass. All those who wished to do so had the opportunity, at this point, to see a number of relics held by St Joseph's Church associated with Arrowsmith, including a vestment, Altar Stones, two small chalices and a tiny ivory



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statue in a case of Our Lady holding the Child Jesus. With the exception of the ivory statue, these items had been found in circa 1724 and in 1774, hidden in the walls of cottages in the area which were either being demolished or renovated. The tiny ivory statue is believed to have been dropped by Arrowsmith on Brindle Moss at the time of his capture.

Arrowsmith was taken to Lancaster Castle where he was imprisoned and, after a show-trial, he was found guilty of being a Roman Catholic Priest and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered, the most horrific of executions reserved for those deemed to be traitors. The sentence was carried out on 28 August 1628, final absolution being given to Arrowsmith by Fr John Southworth (of Samlesbury Hall) from the window of his cell in Lancaster Castle. Southworth himself would be Martyred many years later in 1654. Arrowsmith was beatified by Pope Pius XI on 15 December 1929 and canonised by Pope Paul VI as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales on 25 October 1970. The major shrine of St Edmund Arrowsmith is the church of St Oswald and St Edmund Arrowsmith at Ashton-in-Makerfield where his major relic, his left hand, is preserved. Stonyhurst College has in its collection and on public display, a pedlar's trunk, which was found hidden at Samlesbury Hall and which was used by Priests travelling in disguise to conceal vestments and the sacred items needed to celebrate Mass. It is thought likely that this trunk was used by Arrowsmith.

A big thank you to the parishioners at St Joseph's, Brindle for their usual welcome and hospitality, especially at such a difficult time for the parish, and to Katherine for welcoming us to Arrowsmith House on behalf of Maria Hall. I am also grateful to parishioner and walk organiser, Mick Gardner, for his helpful comments on the draft.

Please remember Fr Raphael, the parishioners and parish of St Joseph's in your prayers as Fr Raphael prepares to return to Ampleforth Abbey on 1 November and a final decision is made on the future of the church and parish.

Dave Gorman
September 2025



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Marriage Preparation

Anyone wishing to get married in a Catholic Church, will need a certificate to say you have attended an accredited marriage preparation course to present to your parish priest. Catholic Marriage Care provide marriage preparation courses in several forms, by zoom over three evenings or a day-long face-to-face course. You can access these and further information on the website at marriagecare.org.uk. The next face-to-face course is taking place at Holy Souls parish centre in Blackburn on 1st November 2025 9.00am to 4.00pm.

Practical skills are discussed around communication, conflict resolution, and how to deepen your relationship throughout your married life. If you want any more information please don't hesitate to speak to Ann Quinlan or Margaret and Michael Cronin.

Marriage Care are looking for volunteers to train as counsellors. Please see the notice at the back of church.

If you feel able to give a certain amount of time for this important work, full training will be provided after which a certificate of relationship counselling will be obtained. Selection of candidates is taking place next autumn 2026 but Marriage Care would be grateful if you could register your interest as soon as possible. Further details can be obtained by phoning 08003893801, or emailing rebecca@marriagecare.org.uk,

Tenth anniversary of Laudato Si'

As you will have read in the weekly notice sheet this jubilee year is the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis' second encyclical letter Laudato Si' on creation and the environment, and from the 1st September until 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, Christians throughout the world have been asked to pray that we will be loving stewards of creation and help care for our common home.

Pope Francis designated 1st September every year as a world day of prayer for the care of creation and Pope Leo has taken up this mantle. His message on 1st September was that we must all play our part to pray with determination and initiate concrete actions to care for our common home.

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Laudato Si' is well worth a read but two short extracts follow which emphasise the importance of us all heeding the cry of the earth: 'We cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture'

'The natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone'

Pope Francis, and now Pope Leo, are offering us a challenge to redefine our relationship with the environment from one of consumption and control to one of care and protection. Are we ready for that challenge?

Family Fast Day

October 5th was family fast day and our harvest appeal this year centres on Ware, from Ethiopia, a mother with 5 children. The family live in southern Ethiopia where severe droughts over the last 4 years have meant that many of their livestock have died. Ware explains how, prior to help from Cafod's partners in this region, made possible by your contributions, she had to get up at 5.00am and walk for at least 5 hours daily to collect water. Sometimes water would take much longer to find, an exhausting and time consuming task.

With your donations, CAFOD has worked with her community to build an underground storage tank and now 300 families in the region can be supported through the lengthy dry season. Her community and a local expert spent weeks digging a huge hole and trenches for the tank which has been designed to collect every precious drop of rain and filter it into safe drinking water. Now water is just 10 minutes away and the women of the community can focus on other things, looking after their goats and helping their children with schoolwork.

We are so fortunate in England to always have clean water on tap and it's difficult sometimes to imagine that such a vital, life-giving commodity is unavailable to so many in the developing world.



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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.

Your harvest contributions this year, a jubilee of hope, are more vital than ever given the decrease in foreign aid throughout the world. Donations from our government have reduced from 0.5% to 0.3% of GDP and America has stopped foreign aid altogether. We must remember our jubilee pledge to walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers worldwide and to be agents of change in building a fairer world where every person on the earth can flourish.

Please ensure you have received a donation envelope and fill in the slip if you are able to gift aid. These can be put in the normal church collection or posted through the presbytery letter box.

Many thanks.

What is a Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is more than just a journey — it's a purposeful quest, often steeped in spiritual, emotional, or cultural significance. Here's what typically constitutes a pilgrimage:

Core Elements of a Pilgrimage

Sacred Destination: The journey is usually to a holy site — like Lourdes, Mecca, Santiago de Compostela, or Walsingham — associated with divine encounters, miracles, or revered figures.

Spiritual Intent: Pilgrims travel not just for sightseeing, but to seek healing, forgiveness, enlightenment, or deeper connection with their faith.

Personal Transformation: The act of journeying itself often becomes a metaphor for inner growth, reflection, and renewal.

Ritual or Tradition: Many pilgrimages follow established routes, dates, or customs — like walking the Camino or bathing in the Ganges.

Communal or Solitary: Pilgrimages can be deeply personal or shared with others, fostering a sense of unity and devotion.



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Beyond Religion - While traditionally religious, pilgrimages can also be: Cultural: Visiting ancestral lands or places tied to heritage. Sentimental: Returning to a loved one's grave or a childhood home. Symbolic: A long walk or journey undertaken to mark a life transition or personal vow.

Trip to Rome

I would like to say how I enjoyed reading Archie Henderson's first installment about his trip to Rome. It sounded like getting there in the first place was a challenge! I am really looking forward to reading more about the visit, once the group had arrived!

Ann Burke

Editors Note: Archie has been busy trying to get ahead of himself with University work but will try and get another day of his Rome adventure ready for next month.

Feast Days and Liturgical Celebrations in October

Oct 1 - St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Carmelite nun, "Little Flower," patron of missionaries and florists

Oct 2 - Guardian Angels, Honouring personal angelic protectors

Oct 4 - St. Francis of Assisi - Founder of Franciscans, patron of animals and ecology

Oct 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary - Commemorates victory at the Battle of Lepanto through Marian intercession

Oct 15 - St. Teresa of Ávila - Mystic, reformer, Doctor of the Church, patron against headaches

Oct 18 - St. Luke the Evangelist - Gospel writer, patron of physicians and artists

Oct 22 - St. John Paul II - Beloved pope, patron of youth and families

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WHATS ON IN THE PAROCHIAL CENTRE OCTOBER 2025

Saturday 7th - Stevie Dee

Saturday 11th - Mikey J Sensation

Friday 17th - Dann Budd as Robbie Williams

Members £12.50. Non-Members £15

Saturday 18th - Dayla

Saturday 25th - Mike McCartney

****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 October

The birds are making a come back now to our gardens after retreating to the countryside to recover from the breeding season and moulting. Please feed them in the winter months when food is hard to source.

Time to put up nest boxes. Face away from the cold winds and direct sunlight.

We has an old shoe cupboard now used to store trays and plant pots. Just had to re-use it.

Same with a wicker basket. I put Thyme in it and it seems happy and growing well. Going to put strawberry plants in time buckets with drainage holes next year. So nice to hear the much needed rain!. **LW**

“Not all of us can do great things, But we can do small things with great love” *St Teresa of Calcutta.*

Historical Events in October

Oct 1, 1949 - Founding of the People's Republic of China
Mao Zedong declared the new communist state, reshaping global geopolitics

Oct 4, 1957 - Launch of Sputnik 1 -
The Soviet Union sent the first artificial satellite into orbit, igniting the Space Race

Oct 13, 1307 - Arrest of the Knights Templar - King Philip IV of France ordered the mass arrest of the Templars, fueling centuries of mystery

Eating in the 50's

- Indian Restaurants were found in India
- Cooking outside was called camping
- Seaweed was not a recognised food.
- “Kebab” was not even a word, never mind a food.
- Prunes were medicinal
- Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.

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Feast Days and Liturgical Celebrations in October - Continued

Oct 28 - Sts. Simon and Jude - Apostles, patrons of desperate causes

Farewell Small Church

I felt sad when I heard that Brindle St. Joseph's and St. Catherine's at Farington were closing. I don't like change and feel sorry for the parishioners who will miss their favourite place to worship.

I understand in today's world that things are not the same, and congregations have dwindled over the years. The cost of heating lighting and the upkeep of our buildings is enormous and without the weekly collection at Mass from parishioners, things would be a lot worse.

A country parish like Brindle with houses spread over a large area struggles to survive. It is a 240-year-old church steeped in history and will close its doors to worshippers later this year They will be able to go to St Bede's or St Chad's.

St. Catherine's has just recently closed and will be missed by a loyal group of parishioners, Father Simon is now at St Mary's Euxton, so they have a choice of there or Leyland St Mary's.

Parishes cannot survive without a group of determined volunteers and at St. Gerard's and St Mary's Brownedge we have a lot to be grateful for..... Thank you to you all.

"The church without the state is a soul without a body, the state without the church is a body without a soul"

Keep the faith and keep it going (as Father Mark says every weekend about Manchester United)

Grace Robinson

**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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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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Senior Citizens Organisers		335387

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.

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St Mary's Brownedge

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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 Therese of the Child Jesus	17th	St Ignatius of Antioch
2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels	18th	St Luke
4th	St Francis of Assisi	19th	29th Sunday of the Year
5th	27th Sunday of the Year	22nd	St John Paul II
6th	St Bruno	23rd	St John of Capistrano
7th	Our Lady fo Sorrows	24th	St Antony Mary Claret
9th	St John Henry Newman	26th	30th Sunday of the Year
10th	St Denis	28th	Sts Simon and Jude
11th	St John XXIII	2nd Nov	ALL SAINTS
12th	28th Sunday of the Year	3rd	ALL SOULS
13th	St Edward the Confessor	4th	St Charles Borromeo
15th	St Teresa of Avila	7th	St Willibrord
16th	St Gerard Majella	9th	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

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