



Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

News and Views

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Issue No 694 November
2025

The Royal British Legion Lostock Hall have confirmed the arrangements are as usual. The Remembrance Parade will take place again this year and are inviting as many people as possible to show respect and support this important day

The Parade will Fall in between 2 and 2:15 pm on 9th November and step off at 2:30 pm. The remembrance Service will take place at 3 pm at the memorial.

Lest We Forget

There will be laying of wreaths at the Browndge Memorial on the corner of Duddle Lane / Browndge Lane at 10:30 am on the same day.

Our Church will remember our deceased relatives on Saturday 15th November at the 5:30 pm Mass where relatives are invited to bring up a candle during the service in memory of their loved ones.



WYD - ROME

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World Youth Day - Rome 2025

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Year Youth Pilgrims

Day 2

After the very late arrival at Palazola, we all hoped for a nice long rest. Unfortunately, that was not the case. We were up at 4:30am, with the aim of being in the Vatican for 6:30am. The drive to the Vatican was about an hour and whilst everyone else was asleep on the coach, I sat at the back, watching the sun slowly rise over the landscape. It was incredible. The drive flew by, I might have nodded off for a bit towards the end, which may have helped. Upon arrival, the streets were silent, not a single other soul about other than the few road sweepers. My first view of the basilica was breath-taking.



We walked in and had the chance to explore the basilica on the inside before the large crowds arrived later on. The architecture, the colours, everything about it was outstanding. At 7:30am, we were blessed with the opportunity to have a mass in the crypt (which we were informed that very few people get the chance to do so). It was a lovely way to start the day, a chance to be thankful for a safe journey to Rome the day prior and to be able to say that I have attended mass alongside numerous previous popes is truly special.

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After mass, we headed back upstairs and had a chance to visit the gift shop and to pray with others. We headed back outside into the scorching heat, seeking any shade we could find as we waited for the others in the group to appear. As we waited a lady from BBC Radio (not sure which one) was conducting interviews with some members of our group, whilst myself and a few others spoke to passers-by: Korean, Mexican and Italian. We exchanged pin badges and took group pictures with them.

A little while later, when the group had all met back up and we had had our packed lunches, we began our walking tour of some of the most iconic landmarks of Rome. Beginning at Castel Sant'Angelo, passing by ancient Roman ruins, then the Fountain of Neptune, Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi and the Pantheon. Then after a little break we continued, visiting the Trevi Fountain, the Quirinal Palace and Sant'Andrea al Quirinale. Then arriving at the final spot on our walking tour, at the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major. With Bishop John's expert skills, he managed to convince the guards to let our group skip the (at minimum) 2-hour long queue, without actually saying a single word. He joked that they were just fans of his.



With this we entered the basilica and had the chance to pay our respects to the burial sight of Pope Francis.

His tomb was like no other tomb of a previous pope that we had seen, it was simply a concrete burial stone on the floor. But it was a perfect symbol of everything he stood for.



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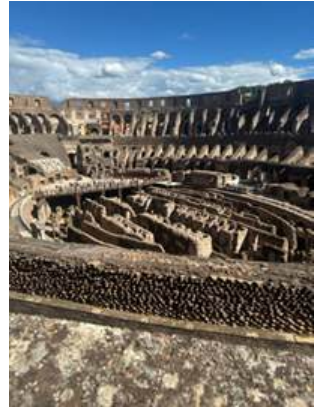
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After this we had about 7 hours (until 6pm) to go sight seeing. A group of about 7 of us went for some food, before walking down to the colosseum. It was huge and very cool to see but definitely overrated/overpriced.



Time flew by, and soon it was time to head back to the meeting point at Castel Sant'Angelo. It was such a long walk back to the meeting point, as we thought it would be much easier than using the bus. But we were all keen for what was to come. 6pm arrived, our group was all together again, and we headed back up towards the Vatican again for the opening ceremony/mass of World Youth Day 2025. We got a spot along the street, next to groups from all over the world. Between 6-7pm we used the time to speak to other people, take pictures, exchange social medias.



7:30ish the mass began, and to hear so many languages say mass at the same time was amazing. I felt such a huge feeling of unity and togetherness. Then at 8:30, the Pope arrived. Everyone rushed to the pathway which had been made for him to pass down. Luckily, I was right next to it and on the shoulders of my friend Joseph, Pope Leo passed within a few feet of me, not once but twice.

Such a surreal experience. Then after a long, long day we headed back to Palazola for some much-welcomed sleep.



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My visit to the Christian Community Food Larder

I recently decided to visit the Christian Community Food Larder at St Aidan's Church, Bamber Bridge. I'd always wondered what happened to the modest donation of food items that I put into the collection container in Sainsburys when doing my weekly shop.

The Christian Community Food Larder includes St Gerard's, St Mary's, St Bede's, St Aidan's, St Leonards and the Methodist church.

When I arrived at St Aidan's church hall, I was made very welcome. The first thing I noticed was the warm atmosphere with people sitting around tables, chatting & enjoying tea, coffee and cake. In the corner a group of small children were playing and there was a table selling a range of donated items. There was a range of people including volunteers, clients and people like myself, who had popped in for company and a chat.

I then had a tour of the storage container outside, where the volunteers take the food that has been donated and collected & organise it on the shelves. There were even flowers, technically past their sell by date, that will perk up and brighten someone's home with a bit of TLC. The clients are invited to visit the container & have a browse, before selecting the items they need.

I enjoyed a cup of tea and an interesting chat about how the Larder works, from two of the wonderful volunteers, Joan and Margaret. Joan is the manager and she has almost 30 volunteers working as a team over the Monday and Friday sessions. These people work tirelessly in our community to help other people in need of support.

So, what do we need to know?

Collecting points

Sainsburys, Morrisons, Bamber Bridge, Waitrose, St Gerard's
St Mary's

What is needed? Here are some suggestions: Cereals, Tinned meat, Vegetable oil, Pasta, Rice, Washing powder, Washing up liquid. Hand soap, Men's + women's toiletries.

Elizabeth Samuel Hampers

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Laudato Si' – Reduce, recycle, reuse

The article about Laudato Si' in the October edition of News and Views was very thought provoking. The reference to 'throwaway culture' was definitely food for thought. It's very easy to get demoralised when hearing about the challenges facing the planet. I try to remind myself that everyone has a part to play, however small. That extra jumper in the winter or trip outside to the recycling bin, every bit helps. I am always looking for new ways to reduce, recycle and reuse. Perhaps other people have creative recycling, reducing and reusing suggestions that they could share in News and Views.

Ann Burke

Remembering

I hate war and everything it creates, poverty, homelessness, death and broken souls. I have yet to see what the warlords gain from it, it is people that start wars, not countries.

November the 11th is approaching, and we all think about past wars and what was left behind.

We meet at war memorials and pray for the lost souls and listen to the band play The Last Post, and that always brings tears to my eyes.

I cannot watch the news on television without it affecting me, when it is showing scenes of desperate people and starving children in the Middle East, When all the hostages were released, I thought "What are they going back to?" Who will rebuild the carnage?

I can only remember them in my prayers,

In the words of JFK "Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind"

Gone, but not forgotten

Grace Robinson

*'All Saints give testimony to the truth, that without real effort,
no one ever wins the crown'
Saint Thomas Becket*



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St Joseph's Brindle - Update

Dear Editor,

I've been asked by several members of Brindle St Joseph's parish community to drop a line to clarify some ideas put forward in the article 'Farewell Small Church' published in issue 693 October 2025.

Firstly, there is no clarity yet as to whether St Joseph's is going to close. Discussions are taking place this week with the Ampleforth Abbey Trust (AAT) about the nature of our relationships going forwards. The Transition Group has a robust plan (See attached) that is being considered by AAT and the Archdiocese especially the provision of pastoral support from the Holy Family Fathers and the Brothers of Youth. We are hoping to explore new models of being a parish community that will try to avoid the simplistic approach of simply closing churches.

Paragraph 3 says the church has a 240 year history, however this is only the main church building. Over the last 450 years there have been 2 other chapels and church buildings on the site and its history is even deeper than suggested. It is worth pointing out however that the parish community is more focused on the future which is full of potential.

Despite rumours to the contrary, the parish is financially viable and full of people waiting to volunteer to get involved in a revitalised mission to the area.

In terms of the church and state working well together Chorley Borough Council are supporting us as an important community asset in the area as is Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

If people are interested they can look at our 'Transition Communication' page on our website that contains a lot of the communication pertaining to the proposed closure. There is some interesting stuff but also bits that might cure insomnia.

Continued on next page....



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Our Website is <https://brindlestjosephs.org.uk/> and the tab is Transition Communication.

I just wanted to set the record straight and we keep on walking in hope.

Bren Cook

Arrowsmith Walk

I found the article about the Arrowsmith Walk in the October edition of News and Views very interesting. In these days of religious freedom in this country it's hard to imagine the lengths that priests and laity had to go to in order to attend mass and receive Holy Communion in the past. I remember visiting Chingle Hall in Goosnargh when I was young, seeing the "priests' holes" and wondering how on earth they could get into them. How scary, claustrophobic and uncomfortable it must have been to hide there.

Ann Burke

All Hallows Catholic High School [1975-2025] 50th Anniversary Mass

On Thursday 18th September a mass was held at All Hallows to celebrate 50 years since the school opened in September 1975. It was attended by past & present staff & pupils, parents & friends from the wider community. The lively liturgy included music, flag waving, singing, readings, dance and lots of memories.

Afterwards there was an opportunity for people to gather and share memories. Numerous young people from the parish of Our Lady & St Gerard's have attended All Hallows over the past 50 years. Fr Mark concelebrated the mass alongside other priests and the Archbishop of Liverpool. It was a very special occasion.

Ann Burke

"Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will"
Saint Bede the Venerable



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Saturday & Sunday 12 pm to 12 am

Gardening in November

“Seasons of Mist and Mellow Fruitfulness”

Look at the amazing colours around you. Looking at Nature is supposed to lighten your mood.

When the wind dropped I cleaned the shed out and the hedgehog house ready for winter. Then filled hog's house with clean straw.

The old straw I used to cover the Rhubard crown. Every year it never fails to give us a good supply.

Time to plant tulips and collect leaves for free compost next year. You will probably see a Robin looking for an extra free meal when you sweep your leaves!

The “Harvest Moon” was splendid. It is the first full moon after the Autumn Equinox. **L.W.**

Historical Events in November

November 1 - 1512:

Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel were first exhibited to the public.

1993: The Maastricht Treaty came into effect, formally establishing the European Union (EU).**November 2**

2000: The first crew arrived aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Eating in the 50's

1. Water came out of a tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock.
2. And the things we never ever had on our table in the 50's or 60's: Elbows phones!!

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Feast Days and Liturgical Celebrations in November

Nov 1 – All Saints' Day - Solemnity

Honours All Saints—known and unknown—who now share in the glory of God in Heaven. It reminds us of our own call to holiness and the communion of saints.

(Transferred this year to the 2nd so that it can be celebrated on the Sunday)

Nov 2 – All Souls' Day - Commemoration

A day of prayer for all the faithful departed, especially those in purgatory. We remember loved ones and entrust them to God's mercy.

(Transferred this year to the 3rd so that it follows All Saint Days on the Sunday)

Nov 9 – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica - Feast

Celebrates the dedication of the Pope's cathedral in Rome, the "mother and head of all churches." A reminder that we are the living temples of God.

Nov 21 – Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)

Commemorates Mary's dedication to God as a child, foreshadowing her lifelong "yes" to God's will.

A call to offer ourselves completely to God.

Nov 23 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Solemnity

Celebrated on the last Sunday of Ordinary Time. Honours Christ as King and Lord of all creation. A call to place Him at the centre of our hearts and lives before Advent begins.

Nov 30 – Saint Andrew, Apostle - Feast

Brother of Saint Peter and one of the first disciples called by Jesus.

Patron of fishermen and Scotland.

His zeal inspires us to lead others to Christ.

**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
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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.

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335387 to arrange Notification and Preparation.

Parish Organisations

CONTACT

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School (Staff, Ancillaries & Governors)		335025
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 Browndge

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

2nd	ALL SAINTS	21st	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
3rd	ALL SOULS		
4th	St Charles Borromeo	22nd	St Cecilia
7th	St Willibrord	23rd	Christ the King
9th	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	24th	St Andrew Dung Lac and Companions
10th	St Leo the Great	25th	St Catherine of Alexandria
11th	St Martin of Tours	30th	1st Sunday of Advent
12th	St Josaphat	3 rd Dec	St Francis Xavier
15th	St Albert the Great	4th	St John Damascene
16th	33rd Sunday of the Year	6th	St Nicholas
17th	St Elizabeth of Hungary	7th	2nd Sunday of Advent
18th	Dedication of the Basilica of SS Peter & Paul		

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