



St Mary's Brownedge

Founded c1780 SDTRTR No. 250037
 St Mary's Priory, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6SP
 www.stmarysbrownedge.org.uk Facebook: @stmarysbrownedge
 Live Streaming via website (churchservices.tv)

Parish telephone (01772) 335168 Office Mobile 07442 385553
 Parish Office email: office@stmarysbrownedge.org.uk

Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

Lostock Hall - Preston - PR5 5AA
Parish Tel: (01772) 335387 Office Mobile 07442 385553
 Parish e-mail: office@saintgerards.org.uk



Facebook : @stgerardslostockhall **Twitter :** @stgerardslostoc **Instagram :** @stgerardsslostock

Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest),
Tel: 01772 335168; email: pp@stmarysbrownedge.org.uk Fr Colin Battell OSB. Tel: 01772 321201.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT "Gaudete Sunday"

14th December 2025

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	13th Dec		St Lucy (M)
	Vigil	7:00 pm	Third Sunday of Advent Watson Family
Sun	14th Dec	9:30 am	Third Sunday of Advent Fr Gabriel McNally & Fr Raymund Davies
		6:30 pm	The Parish
Mon	15th Dec	9:30 am	Richard Whalley R.I.P.
		7:00 pm	Brownedge St Mary's High School Carol Service
Tues	16th Dec	9:30 am	Intentions of the Cherry Family
Wed	17th Dec	9:30 am	John F Lees
		7:00 pm	Advent Reconciliation Service
Thurs	18th Dec	9:30 am	Christopher Ashton - in Loving Memory
Fri	19th Dec	9:30 am	Robert, Nellie & Joseph Delaney
Sat	20th Dec	7:30 am	Rorate Mass (Our Lady's Altar)
	Vigil	7:00 pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent Hopwood Family
Sun	21st Dec	9:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Ken Lofthouse (Anniversary)
		6:30 pm	Richard Whalley


St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	13th Dec		St Lucy (M)
	Vigil	5:30 pm	Third Sunday of Advent Holy Souls
Sun	14th Dec	10:30 am	Third Sunday of Advent Holy Souls
Mon	15th Dec	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Exposition Service of the Word
Tues	16th Dec	9:15 am	John Lever R.I.P.
Wed	17th Dec	9:15 am	Service of the Word
Thurs	18th Dec	6:30 pm	Michael Scahill R.I.P.
Fri	19th Dec		NO SERVICES
Sat	20th Dec	5:30 pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent Mary & Herbert Jackson
Sun	21st Dec	10:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent The Parish

OM - Optional Memorial F - Feast
 M - Memorial S - Solemnity

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
St. Mary's: Tuesday & Thursday 3 pm to 4 pm
St. Gerard's: Monday 6 pm to 6:30 pm

Confessions: St Gerard's: Saturday: 5 - 5.15 pm
 St Mary's: Saturday: 6.15-6.45 pm (or by request)

Holy Rosary: Streamed at 8pm each evening from St Mary's.

 **Services at St. Mary's and at St Gerard's can be viewed live or on playback at any time on:**
www.stmarysbrownedge.org.uk or
www.saintgerards.org.uk or
www.churchservices.tv

You can usually plug a PC into your TV to watch it on the big screen, On a 'Smart TV' save the site in the TV web browser. Please help any relatives or friends to access the internet.

Hope in the Future - Cycle of Prayer

Let us pray for the people of the parish of the Sacred Heart and St. Francis, Gorton, and Fr Kevin Murphy, their parish priest, together with their parish primary schools.

Joint Notices

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



This Sunday is called "Gaudete" Sunday — "Rejoice Sunday". This comes from the readings we hear today, and it underlines an important point. In the Gospel, we hear John the Baptist telling different groups what

to do - they must repent, and change their lives. We might think of this as a rather joyless thing - something which is hard and unrewarding. The message of this Sunday is that repentance and changing our lives to welcome Jesus is something richly joyful. When we are planning to welcome anyone we love to our homes, we set about cleaning and preparing for their visit with enthusiasm - nothing is too much trouble for someone we care for greatly. Even scrubbing the bath or polishing the furniture can be a happy and joyful thing! The message of this Sunday is that preparing to welcome the Lord - even though it may involve hard work - is something utterly joyful, because of our love for Him, and His love for us.

Advent Candle Three: Joy!

As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. On "Joy Sunday," we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds who heard the "news of great joy". For this reason, the third candle of Advent is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and its colour is pink, the liturgical colour for joy.



Bambinelli Sunday: This Sunday, we will celebrate at St Mary's Brownedge at the 9.30 am Mass. Next Sunday, 21st Dec we will do the same at St Gerard's at the 10.30 am Mass. Everyone is invited to bring their crib figures of the baby Jesus to Mass and they will receive a special blessing.

CAROL SERVICE: Brownedge St Mary's High School Carol Service - Everyone is warmly invited to join our school Carol Service taking place on **Monday 15th December at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church**. The service will include scripture readings, carols and prayers as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our world and lives once more. This is always a lovely, uplifting celebration.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: There will be a joint Reconciliation Service for both our parishes to be held at St Mary's Brownedge Church on **Wednesday 17th December at 7pm**. Please encourage your families and friends to come to prepare our souls for Christmas

Sycamore (RCIA): Do you want to become a Catholic or learn more about the faith?

We are taking a 3 week break for Christmas and New Year. We will resume on Tuesday 6th January at 7pm. All welcome.

✦ CHRISTMAS MASSES ✦

CHRISTMAS EVE:

St Gerard's First Mass of Christmas: 5:00 pm with Carols from 4.30 pm.

St Mary's First Mass of Christmas: 7.00 pm.

St Mary's: Midnight Mass with Carols by Candlelight from 11:30 pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

St Mary's Christmas Day Mass: 9:30 am

St Gerard's Christmas Day Mass: 11:00 am

BOXING DAY: (The Feast of St Stephen)

St Mary's: 10.00 am; St Gerard's: 10.00 am.

Advent Prayer and Reflection: St Bede's Church in Clayton Green is holding a series of holy hours of prayer and reflection for Advent. The opportunity for some space at this busy time of year for us to deepen our Advent preparation for the celebration of Christmas. At St Bede's Church, 598, Preston Road, Clayton Green. PR6 7EB. Thursdays at 7pm on **11th and 18th December**. All welcome.

Poinsettia Plants: For Christmas, we would like to decorate the sanctuaries of both our churches at St Gerard's and St Mary's with poinsettias. We are asking parishioners to donate poinsettias to help us to make the Altars at St Gerard's and St Mary's beautiful. Please drop off your Poinsettias between Thursday 18th and the morning Masses on Christmas Eve. If no-one is around please leave them by the Sacred Heart side entrance at St Mary's and by the Church door at St Gerard's.



Cafod World Gifts for Christmas: Buying Cafod's World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters & brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world: worldgifts.cafod.org.uk or pick up a booklet in the Narthex.

New Diocesan Yearbook: This has been received this week. This year, the diocese have combined two books into one: The Diocesan Ordo and the Almanac. The Ordo is at the back of the Yearbook and details which Mass/feast we should be celebrating each day; what the readings and prayers should be, and even what colour vestments the priest should wear! Copies are available at the back of Church priced £5 each or £6 for a ring-bound version.

Caritas Salford Advent Appeal: Our diocesan charity, "Caritas Salford", has released its 2025 Advent appeal to shine the spotlight on the true meaning of Christmas. To watch their latest animation and to find out more about how to help local people who are facing acute crisis this Christmas, visit: www.caritassalford.org.uk

Joint Notices

Diocesan Synod News: Our emerging vision for a synodal Church in Salford centres on six themes: (1) Prayer, listening, and renewal as the heart of Eucharistic life; (2) Welcoming, inclusive, and accessible communities celebrating diversity; (3) Participation and representation through diverse leadership and formation; (4) Young people and families fully engaged in faith and service; (5) Collaboration and resources shared among all; (6) Outreach, dialogue, and healing with compassion for survivors and interfaith ties. There is a leaflet available at the back of church which explains how this process will develop and be applied in the next couple of years.

SVP: - Thank you for your donation of £317.11 in support of the SVP South Sudan Appeal in November 2025. Your help means the world to us and will make a significant impact in our cause. Thank you once again; your support is invaluable to us, and we are so grateful for your contribution.

SVP - Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets. I'm sorry you couldn't all win, but you have greatly helped my fundraising for the SVP. Now I just need your prayers for a successful Camino Pilgrimage.

The knitted Nativity Scene was won by John Kirkwood and he is donating it to St. Mary's and St. Benedict's School

Marian Pilgrimages: The Fatima Prayer group, lead by Elaine and Jeanette Tolentino and Fr Colin, made a pilgrimage to Fatima this week. The highlight of the week was celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in this sacred place. They offered prayers for the whole parish through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima. Also, another parishioner, Paul Richardson journeyed to Lourdes to celebrate this great Feast of Our Lady at the sacred Grotto of Lourdes. **Holy Mary, Conceived without Original Sin; Pray for us!**

Donations: Make an online Donation to support our parishes by scanning the QR codes below:



Our Lady & St Gerard's



St Mary's Brownedge

MARRIAGE MATTERS:
Third Sunday of Advent
"Cherish the gift" - John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' coming. When Jesus came, the Magi brought gifts. We are preparing gifts for family and friends. When you married, and every day since, you have gifted yourself...entrusted yourselves ...to each other; do you still cherish the gift? How much has trust helped you on your journey together? Thank the Lord!

Year of Jubilee 2025:

Jubilee Mascot: "Luce" is the mascot for the Jubilee and for our Children's Liturgy Group. Her name is the Italian for "Light" and she, like each of us, is a Pilgrim of Hope. She invites us all to walk as Pilgrims of Hope. **We now have a special Luce, knitted by Clare, one of our parishioners and she joined our parish pilgrimage and came with us so see so many amazing things in Rome. Clare has put together a fantastic account of the pilgrimage through the eyes of Luce and taken photos of her in all the places we visited. This lovely book is on our Jubilee display table. Many thanks to Clare for producing such a wonderful little book!**



Jubilee Church Guide: Thanks to David Gorman who has produced a short guide to St Mary's Church for visiting pilgrims. Also, Fr Mark has left copies of the prayers which pilgrims use when they go through the Holy Door of St Peter's. We can use them here when visiting the church.

"Rorate Mass"

A "Rorate Mass" is a Votive Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is celebrated by candlelight before dawn during the Advent season, reflecting that time when Mary was waiting for the birth of her son. It is an ancient tradition which has come back into popular use in recent years. There is a sheet with an article about the practice from "Adoremus" at the back of Church.

We will have a Rorate Mass next Saturday, 20th December at 7.30 am. It will be by candlelight and take place at Our Lady's Altar in St Mary's Brownedge Church. All Welcome.

Universalis.com: Universalis is a website which provides the Mass texts and readings for each day of the year as well as the Liturgy of the Hours. Online it provides free texts for the upcoming 7 days. Buying the App gives full access. This QR Code will take you straight to the Mass Readings of the day:



PLEASE PRAY FOR:
The sick, and those who care for them:
Sister Louise, Yvonne Jeffrey, Mary Bilsborough, Joseph O'Grady, Brian Morley, Jean Doran, Mick Green, Maureen Calderbank, Joseph Finch, Ruth Johnstone, Peter Clough, Dominic McCormack, Elsie Smith, Eileen McLaughlan.
All those who have died recently:
Patricia Clayton, Gerard Carter, Olivia Claire Wallwork, Cliff Hughes, Doreen Gallagher, Geoffrey Thurman, Dorothy Fleming, Jennifer Sharples,

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound and for those who have asked for your Prayers.

Our Lady & St Gerard's Notices



Piety Shop - RAFFLE WINNERS. All prizes have now been claimed and with your continuing support we have raised £185 towards our church funds. We wish each and everyone of you a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

CAFOD World Gifts - As you leave church this weekend please pick up a CAFOD world gifts card. There are some unusual, thoughtful Christmas gifts you can buy for anyone who perhaps does not really need anything and is difficult to buy for. In the process of buying these gifts you will be helping those in the developing world who have very little of the things we consider essential.

Wednesday Bingo - The Team are taking a well deserved break over the Christmas Season and the last session is on 17th December and re-opens 7th January. Have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Marina McNulty's Christmas Raffle for Derian House Results - 1st (Nativity Scene) Ann Quinlan, 2nd (Rabbit) Meg Good, 3rd (Snowman) Kath Mitchell 4th (Tea for Two) James. All prizes have been claimed and £166 raised for Derian House - Thank you all.

Parish Lottery - If your membership runs from January to January please get in touch with the office if you'd like to continue. Parish Lottery subscription are still £60 for the year – Prizes are drawn monthly, and you can win excellent cash prizes (£100, £40 & £ 20) with extra prize draws during the year.

Metanoia project - Recently a box has been placed at the back of church next to the larder box. This box is from the Metanoia project based at St Wilfrid's in Preston and they are collecting warm socks, hats, gloves etc for the homeless in Preston who are struggling to keep warm at this time of year. Besides providing warm clothing the Metanoia group provide the homeless with a warm meal every Tuesdays night. If anyone can cook and has a couple of hours to spare on Tuesdays they would welcome the help. If you are able to assist with this essential work please contact Jen on 07957566741 or Jen@metanoiaproject.co.uk . Help of any kind, however infrequent, would be gratefully received.

St Mary's Brownedge Notices

Offertory Procession: Next Sunday 21st December 9:30 am Mass: Sharples Family

School Coffee Morning: St Mary's & St Benedict's invite all parishioners to a coffee morning in school on **Tuesday 16th December** at 10.15 am.

Giving Tree – This is the last weekend for bringing presents for the Giving tree as we have to deliver them on Monday 15th December. Thank you so much for your generosity. Gift Tags will be on a table next to the tree. Please take one if you are able to contribute or use your own. Thank you so much for continuing to support this wonderful Parish effort.

CAFOD Coffee Morning – - Many thanks to all who supported our recent coffee morning and raffle which raised £254 and from the buckets, knitted goods, jewellery, jigsaws etc £100. Name the doll raised £35 and her name is **Nicola** and has been claimed by Claire, altar server Daniel's grandma. Many thanks for your generosity and continued support. The Cafod Group wish you all the blessings of the season and look forward to our next coffee morning on 2nd January 2026.

Cafod World Gifts - This Christmas, on behalf of the Parish, we have bought World Gifts to the value of £1496 which includes a generous anonymous donation of £500. Each gift is a way to stand in solidarity with our global neighbours. There will be a display of the gifts purchased on the notice board in the near future. Thank you.

200 Club: Are you struggling to find the perfect gift for friends & family? Why not join the 200 club and gift them the chance to win on monthly draws of £200, £100 or £50 & Easter & Christmas hampers? – The perfect present that does good and gives you a winning chance! £1 per number per week that's £52 per year.

SVP - Message from HQ – We recently had a collection for the SVP South Sudan and have received a thank you letter expressing most sincere thanks for our support. Please read the full letter on the church bulletin board, which includes a link to videos of numerous projects funded by SVP South Sudan. Your help means the world to us and will make a significant impact in our cause.

Parish Dinner – Sunday 25th January 2026 – The Menu and order form will be available in Church on the weekend of the 27th & 28th December – Any queries please contact David Dearden on 01772 468313.

W/C 14/12/25	This Weeks Intentions		
Sanctuary	Yvonne Jeffrey		
Offertory 6th / 7th December 2025			
Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance	
£226.94	£117.10	119	
Bingo Jackpots for 17/12/2025			
£32	£112	£43	£34

Sanctuary Lamps Week 14/12/25			
1	Bernadette Ryles & members of the Walsh & O'Conner Families		
2	Phyllis Weston & members of the Jones & Ryles Families		
Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend			
7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
58	181	74	313