



## ST MARY'S BROWNEDGE

Founded c1780 SDTRTR No. 250037

St Mary's Priory, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6SP

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## Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

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

### ✠ 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: 10.00am; St Gerard's: 10.00am.

#### A Christmas Blessing:

Fr Mark & Fr Colin would like to wish all the people of our parishes every blessing in this Holy Season of Christmas. Many thanks for all that you do in helping us to build up the Kingdom of God in our community and in the wider world. May we recognise the presence of God in our midst and make Him known to those who are most in need. In the words of the final line of "A Christmas Carol" - *"as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!"*



For  
Unto  
us a  
CHILD  
is born  
Unto us a Son  
is given, and the  
Government shall be  
Upon His shoulders,  
and His Name shall be called,  
Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace!  
Isaiah 9:6

## Our Lady & St Gerard's Notices

**Wednesday Bingo** - The Team are taking a well deserved break over the Christmas Season and re-open 7th January. Have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

**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.

**Hamper Winners:** Our three hampers winners in the bonus drawer are Mrs S Walker, Mr Anthony Topping and Mrs Jean Taylor. Congratulations to all three.

**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](mailto:Jen@metanoiaproject.co.uk) . Help of any kind, however infrequent, would be gratefully received.

**Marina McNulty's Christmas Raffle 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 Parish Funds - (Correction from last week) Thank you all.

### Offertory 13th / 14th December 2025

Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance
£199.38	£196.10	167

W/C 21/12/2025	St Gerard's Candles:
Sanctuary	Yvonne Jeffrey
W/C 28/12/2025	St Gerard's Candles:
Sanctuary	Yvonne Jeffrey

### St Gerard's Parish Lottery No. 614 17/12/25

1st	£100	43	Mrs M Rands
2nd	£40	15	Ms J Watson
3rd	£20	25	Mr & Mrs A Walsh

### MARRIAGE MATTERS: Fourth Sunday of Advent

*"Taking courage from love "* The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary – and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future – and said "Yes!" We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph we can take courage from our love for each other and God's love for us too.

## St Mary's Brownedge Notices

**Offertory Procession:** Next Sunday 28th December 9:30 am Mass: Taylor Family. On the 4th January the Turner Family.

**Parish Dinner – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – The Menu and order form will be available in Church on the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> December. Any queries please contact David Dearden on 01772 465313.

**Christmas Giving Tree:** Many thanks to you all for once again contributing to our Christmas Giving Tree. It all started about 25 years ago just giving small items of toiletries to Fox St Shelter. It has grown with the generosity of this parish into a Christmas tradition we should all be proud off. We collected **340 presents** and they were delivered to the following organisations who were delighted and grateful for our continued support. Fox St / Foxtan centre, Ace project at recycling lives, Kenmure lodge, Spires, Women's refuge (Wish Centre), Plungington community centre (Caritas), Bay 6 young carers, SLEAP, Wade hall community centre, Metanoia and Salvation Army. Grateful thanks to the Elves who delivered them on a wet Monday morning! A very Happy Christmas and best wishes for peaceful 2026.

**Recently Deceased** - Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Dominic McCormack who has died recently. His Funeral will be on Thursday 8th January at 10:30 am.

**200 Club: November Winners:** 1st Gerard Moulding: £200; 2nd Kim Wearden: £100; 3rd Jeanette Morris: £50. Congratulations!

Also, a big welcome to our recent new members, it's great to have you on board! A Happy and Holy Christmas to all members and good luck in 2026!

### Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend

7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
62	176	70	308

### Sanctuary Lamps Week 14/12/25

1	Deceased Members of the Riley & Kirkwood Families
2	In Memory of the Dearden Family

### Sanctuary Lamps Week 04/01/2026

1	In Memory of the Moon Family
2	In Memory of the Brownedge Choir

### 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, Elsie Smith. Eileen McLaughlan.

**All those who have died recently:**  
Olivia Wallwork, Doreen Gallagher, Cliff Hughes, Geoffrey Thurman, Dominic McCormack, Fr Tom Mullin, Margaret Grealis.

# Joint Notices

**Parish Christmas Card:** We have printed a parish card for each household to take home. It includes a message from Pope Francis and from Fr Mark & Fr Colin and has the times of our Christmas Masses. Collect from the back of the church.

**KSC Christmas Posters:** Once again we have available, Christmas Posters, produced by the Knights of St Columba. Please take one home and place in your window as a sign of the true significance of Christmas.

**POINSETTIAS** – 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 look festive. Please drop off your Poinsettias from the weekend before.

**Christmas Mass Times:** Salford Diocese have compiled a database of Christmas Mass times across the diocese for their website. In the past, this has proved to be a well-used resource and we hope it will help and encourage people - especially visitors - to find opportunities to attend Mass wherever they are in the diocese. <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/christmas-mass-times2025/>

**CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas** - This Christmas give your loved ones something exceptional & life changing. Buying Cafod's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters & brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Each gift represents a gift of hope. You can pick up a booklet from the Narthex or purchase World Gifts at [www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk](http://www.worldgifts.cafod.org.uk). There is information about World Gifts on the notice board at the entrance to church. Thank You.

**Christmas Octave Morning Prayer:** To celebrate the Octave of Christmas in a special way we will celebrate Morning Prayer of the Church together with Daily Mass at St Mary's at 10.00 am each day from Boxing Day until New Year's Eve.

## Masses to celebrate the New Year:

On **New Year's Eve**, Wednesday 31st December, there will be a Vigil Mass at **St Gerard's at 5.30pm** followed by refreshments.

On **New Year's Day**, Thursday 1st January, there will be Mass at **St Mary's Brownedge at 12 noon**. This will be followed by refreshments.

New Year's Day is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Going to Mass is a great way to begin the New Year and pray for the intercession of Our Blessed Mother for the year that lies ahead.

**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.

**SVP** - The Next meeting is on Monday 12th January at 6:30 pm in the Priory Meeting Room.

**New Diocesan Yearbook:** The diocese has 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.

**Christian Community Larder message:** On behalf of the volunteers and families associated with the LARDER, we would like to extend our sincere thanks for your continued support. Your generosity has a profound impact on our ability to assist those in need within our community. We wish you all a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS and send our best wishes for good health and happiness in 2026. Your kindness and ongoing contributions make a real difference and are deeply appreciated by all those who benefit from the LARDER's services. We support an increasing number of individuals and families who are struggling to provide essential food items. At present, we assist 65 families each week, and as demand continues to rise, your help becomes ever more crucial. Our work relies on the continued food and monetary donations from our Christian communities: Brownedge St. Mary's, St. Gerard's, the Methodist Church, St. Aidan's, St. Bede's, and local Schools. We are also grateful for the generosity of local residents, especially the customers of Morrison's and Sainsbury's. Without your support, the LARDER's efforts would not be possible. We invite you to join us for morning coffee or tea, toast and cakes. Our dedicated volunteers are willing to listen and chat. We have contacts with a range of professionals who can offer advice - Opening Hours: 09:30 to 11:30am every Monday and Friday - Location: St. Aidan's, 46 Station Road, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6QL - Email: [christiancommunitylarder@gmail.com](mailto:christiancommunitylarder@gmail.com) - Telephone: 07762 905978

**Safeguarding Survey:** The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) are completing a safeguarding inspection within the Diocese of Salford, and would like to hear the views of as many people as possible regarding their arrangements for safeguarding. Responses will be collected anonymously unless you choose to provide your contact information, and the survey will close at 11:45pm on Friday 16th January 2026. To submit your response, please scan the QR code:



**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:



## Double Edition Newsletter for Sunday 21st December & Sunday 28th December

**4th Sunday of Advent:** Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people.

**Feast of the Holy Family:** As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today's Gospel reminds us, there were also the so-called "hidden years" - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. Whatever the context, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	20th Dec	7.30 am	Rorate Mass
	Vigil	7:00 pm	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Hopwood Family
Sun	21st Dec	9:30 am 6:30 pm	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Ken Lofthouse (Anniversary) Richard Whalley R.I.P.
Mon	22nd Dec	9:30 am	Deceased Lancaster Family
Tues	23rd Dec	9:30 am	Kath & Diane Harvey
Wed	24th Dec	9.30 am	Priest's Intention
		7:00 pm	<b>First Mass of Christmas</b> Ann & Charles Sergeant
		11:30 pm	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
		Midnight	<b>Midnight Mass</b> The Parish
Thurs	25th Dec	9:30 am	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b> <b>Christmas Day Mass</b> William Grayless
Fri	26th Dec	10:00 am	<b>St Stephen</b> (F) Harold & Ellen Dixon
Sat	27th Dec	10.00 am	<b>St John the Evangelist</b> (F) Priest's Intention
	Vigil	7:00 pm	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b> Deceased members of the Brownedge Catholic Club
Sun	28th Dec	9:30 am 6:30 pm	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b> Richard Whalley The Parish
Mon	29th Dec	10:00 am	St Thomas Becket (F) Richard Whalley
Tues	30th Dec	10:00 am	Private Intention
Wed	31st Dec	10:00 am	Private Intention
Thurs	1st Jan	12 noon	<b>Holy Mary, Mother of God</b> (S) Holy Souls
Friday	2nd Jan	9.30 am	Blessings for the Hardacre Family
Sat	3rd Jan		<b>The Holy Name of Jesus</b>
	Vigil	7:00 pm	<b>2nd Sunday of Christmas</b> Michael Cox
Sun	4th Jan	9:30 am 6:30 pm	<b>2nd Sunday of Christmas</b> Mary Rita Swarbrick Priests Intentions

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	20th Dec		<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
	Vigil	5:30 pm	Mary & Herbert Jackson
Sun	21st Dec	10:30 am	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> The Parish
Mon	22nd Dec	6:00 pm	Exposition
		6.30 pm	Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Tues	23rd Dec	9:15 am 11:00 am	Holy Souls Funeral Service for Olivia Wallwork R.I.P.
Wed	24th Dec	4:30 pm 5:00 pm	<b>Carols</b> <b>First Mass of Christmas</b> Gordon Hunt R.I.P.
Thurs	25th Dec	11:00 am	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b> <b>Christmas Day Mass</b> Margaret & Roy Billington, Cross Family
Fri	26th Dec	10:00 am	<b>St Stephen</b> (F) Holy Souls
Sat	27th Dec		<b>St John the Evangelist</b> (F)
	Vigil	5:30 pm	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b> William Thomas Gardner
Sun	28th Dec	10:30 am	<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b> Sacred Heart Guild
Mon	29th Dec		NO SERVICES
Tues	30th Dec		NO SERVICES
Wed	31st Dec		<b>New Year's Eve Vigil Mass</b>
		5.30 pm	<b>Holy Mary Mother of God</b> (S) Holy Souls
Thurs	1st Jan		NO SERVICES
Friday	2nd Jan		NO SERVICES
Sat	3rd Jan		<b>The Holy Name of Jesus</b>
	Vigil	5:30 pm	<b>2nd Sunday of Christmas</b> Holy Souls
Sun	4th Jan	10:30 am	<b>2nd Sunday of Christmas</b> The Parish

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's**  
Tuesday & Thursday 3 pm to 4 pm

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 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:** Recorded Stream online at 8 pm each evening