



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)

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Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

Lostock Hall - Preston - PR5 5AA
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Facebook : @stgerardslostockhall Twitter : @stgerardslostoc Instagram : @stgerardsslostock

Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest), Tel: 01772 335168 (Office)
 email: pp@stmarysbrownedge.org.uk
Assistant Priests: Fr Colin Battell OSB. Fr Charles Essien Tel: 01772 321201 (Monastery)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Laetare Sunday)

15th March 2026

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	14th Mar Vigil	7:00 pm	Fourth Sunday of Lent Ann Sergeant (Birthday)
Sun	15th Mar	9:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Lent Rhoda Rawcliffe
		11:15 am	Baptism of Roman Brockbank & Charles Parr
		6:30 pm	Ellen Duncan
Mon	16th Mar	9:30 am	The Soul of Warlita Remo
Tues	17th Mar	9:30 am	St Patrick (F) Sheila Sammon & Family on this special occasion
Wed	18th Mar	9:30 am	St Cyril of Jerusalem Finch Class Mary Elizabeth Yeomans
		11:15am	Requiem for Patricia Long
Thurs	19th Mar	9:30 am	St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S) Thanksgiving for successful operation
Fri	20th Mar	7:00 am	<i>In Monastery Chapel:</i> Thompson Family
		9.30 am	Deceased members of the Hiney, Sweeney & Rowland Family
		4.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	21st Mar Vigil	9:30 am 7:00 pm	Priest's Intentions Fifth Sunday of Lent Denis Hopwood
Sun	22ndMar	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Fifth Sunday of Lent Richard Whalley The Parish

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	14th Mar Vigil	5:30 pm	Fourth Sunday of Lent The Parish
Sun	15th Mar	10:30 am	Fourth Sunday of Lent Gerard Francis Porter (Ann)
Mon	16th Mar	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Exposition Priest's Intentions
Tues	17th Mar	9:15 am	St Patrick (F) Holy Souls
Wed	18th Mar	9:15 am	St Cyril of Jerusalem Gordon Hobson RIP (Birthday Anniversary)
Thurs	19th Mar	6:30 pm	St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (S) Bill Smith (Birthday Anniversary)
Fri	20th Mar	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	21st Mar Vigil	5:30 pm	Fifth Sunday of Lent Madeleine Maher (Birthday Anniversary)
Sun	22ndMar	10:30 am	Fifth Sunday of Lent Sister Louise Shields

During Lent all "Memorial" Saint Days are optional and are called "Commemorations". Only the "Collect" is used at Mass due to the importance of Lent. Feasts and Solemnities, e.g. St Patrick & St Joseph, can be fully celebrated in Lent (but not during Holy Week).

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.

Prayers for Salford Diocese

Let us hold in prayer the parishioners of St. Anne's parish, Openshaw, Fr. Churchill Emeghera, MSSCC, their parish priest, and their parish primary school.



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.

Joint Notices

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

When we get to Easter, there are two symbols of the resurrection that we use in Church: fire and light (the Easter Candle) and water (the Font). Last week we reflected on water, and this week there are passages all about light – true light, that defeats the blindness of sin. Again, this would have been offered to those preparing for Baptism, but speaks to all of us who have been baptised, inviting us to be renewed in the light of Christ at Easter. Remember that one of the oldest titles of the newly baptised was “neophyte”, which means “newly enlightened”. There is a subtle link between the readings on this Sunday: in the first reading, David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord seizes on him. This anointing lights him along the right path - ‘no evil would I fear’ as the Psalm says. Then Paul tells us more about this light: it is Christ shining on us, calling us to live as children of light. All this is summed up in the Gospel, the marvellous story of the healing (by being ‘anointed’ with spittle) of the man born blind. Jesus is the light of the world

Sycamore (RCIA): Do you want to become a Catholic or learn more about the faith? The next session of our RCIA Class is on Tuesday 17th March: Explaining the liturgies of Holy Week; Palm Sunday; Stations of the Cross; The Mass of Chrism; The Lord’s Supper; The Passion of the Lord; The Easter Vigil; Easter Sunday. Coming Weeks: Tues 24th March: Practice the ceremonies of Reconciliation / Baptism / Reception / Confirmation / First Holy Communion Tues 31st March 7pm: Reconciliation Service at St Gerard’s; Saturday 4th April 8pm: The Easter Vigil

Visiting Priest: We are delighted to welcome a new priest to help minister in our parishes: Fr Charles Essien is from the Diocese of Uyo in Nigeria.

Fr Charles will reside at St Benedict’s Monastery with Fr Mark and Fr Colin. He will act as an extra Assistant Priest to both St Mary’s and St Gerard’s as well as being able to lend support to the parishes across our Deanery when necessary. Please make Fr Charles welcome, help him to adjust to life in Lancashire and pray for him that his presence will be a great blessing on our community.

Caritas Sunday - Please note that this will be held on the weekend of **21st / 22nd March**. It usually takes place in January but this wasn’t possible this year. Envelopes for gift aid will be available at the back of church before that date. You are welcome to take one and return on Caritas Sunday. Caritas uses all donations for the poor, the homeless and the underprivileged in our community.

SVP - The monthly collection takes place this weekend at both churches. The SVP befriends those who live alone, or are just lonely, recently bereaved, or disabled. Please let us know through the Church office if you would like a visit and a friendly ear to listen.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Stations of the Cross: There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 4.30pm at St Mary’s and at 6:30 pm at St Gerard’s.

Early Mass on Fridays: There will be the opportunity of attending a Mass at **7.00 am** each Friday during Lent. This year we will hold this Mass in the **Chapel at St Benedict’s Monastery**. It is a good chance for the those who cannot usually attend a weekday Mass due to work commitments.

Evening Masses: Remember we now have evening Mass on Monday and Thursday at 6.30pm at St Gerard’s.

Reconciliation: Lent is an important time to prepare for Easter by going to confession. Perhaps start thing now about when you will do this. We have confessions in both our churches before the vigil Masses on a Saturday evening; you can always ask a priest to hear your confession at any time. We will have a Parish Service of Reconciliation on the Tuesday of Holy Week, 31st March in St Gerard’s Church at 7pm.

Prayer: Make an extra bit of time for prayer during Lent: maybe pray the rosary; listen to a hymn on YouTube; pray the readings form daily Mass on www.universalis.com; listen to the daily reflections on www.pray-as-you-go.org

Fasting: Fridays in Lent are special days of fasting. Eat a little less than we might normally do; go without something which is part of the regular pattern of our lives—a TV programme; social media; offer that sacrifice to God for a special intention.

Almsgiving: give something more than we usually do to a good and worthy cause, especially to help those in need and demonstrate faith in action: CAFOD, Caritas, SVP, your local parish. Maybe set up a direct debit to make your giving a regular habit, or increase slightly the giving which you already make.

Spiritual Reading: Have you considered reading a spiritual book for Lent? There is a lot to choose from; why not start with biography of a saint? If anyone would like to send in recommendations or reviews we can share them here.

CAFOD: Join up with the Big Walk or support the Family Fast Day.

Evangelise: Remind family and friends that it is Lent and encourage them to take part.

Learn More about the Lenten Sunday Gospels: During the Lenten period, Salford Diocese is holding a course to deepen our appreciation of the Sunday Gospel that week: there will be a series of gospel readings taking place **every Tuesday** and delivered online by various speakers including, for the Palm Sunday Gospel, Bishop John Arnold. The next one is 17 March to prepare us for the 5th Sunday of Lent, “The Raising of Lazarus”. For more information, please visit the diocesan website: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/online-readings-for-lent/>

Joint Notices

Lent Scrutinies: Carefully chosen passages from the Gospel of John are read on the Lenten Sundays 3,4 & 5 to identify what binds us to sin, blinds us to truth and takes away our freedom to live in perfect relationship with God. 1st scrutiny is John 4: 4–42, the Samaritan Woman at the Well. Jesus touches the heart of the sinful woman and she receives his living water. 2nd Scrutiny: John 9: 1–41, Jesus and the man born blind. Jesus leads the man born blind to the Kingdom of Light. 3rd Scrutiny: John 11: 1–44, Jesus raising Lazarus from the Dead. Jesus is sent to save us from death and sin and to lead us to a new life lived in full communion with the Holy Trinity.

Confirmation Programme 2026: Young people who are in Year 8 at school and above are invited to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be celebrated on **Wednesday 13th May at 7pm** in St Mary's Browndedge Church by the Bishop of Salford. Have you been confirmed? Have your children or grandchildren been confirmed? Everyone who is a Catholic should receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The preparation for our local parishes is being provided by Browndedge St Mary's High School in collaboration with Fr Mark and the parishes. If you want more information about being confirmed please get in touch with Fr Mark, the school chaplain or the parish office: www.st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-life/chaplaincy

Shroud of Turin: A replica of the Shroud of Turin and a supporting exhibition will be displayed at **Blackburn Cathedral from Monday 23rd March until Sunday 12th April 2026.**

It is a life-size replica of the original burial shroud believed to have been used to wrap the body of Jesus after the Crucifixion. It offers a wonderful opportunity to learn more and study this sacred cloth - which for some, has proved to be a deeply moving and profound experience.

On Sunday 12th April from 1 – 2pm there will be a talk by Fr Andrew Dalton, a lecturer from Rome and a world expert on the Shroud.

MARRIAGE MATTERS

Stop and see, be aware - God was aware of David's adultery with Bethsheba, Uriah's wife, and how he arranged Uriah's murder to cover his sin. Amid political and business 'cover ups' in today's world, it's important to 'stop and see' – the beauty of nature, the beauty and goodness of your spouse. Don't be too busy to recall the joys you have brought to each other.

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



Our Lady & St Gerard's



St Mary's Browndedge

Catholic Family Retreat at Castlerigg Manor // March 27-29th // £160-230 per family- For the first time since Covid, Castlerigg Manor are bringing back their popular family retreats. There will be streams for different ages and fun activities for everybody including Mass in the evening and time to explore Keswick. For more info >> castleriggmanor.com >> events

May Half Term B&B Stays at Castlerigg Manor - In May half-term, Castlerigg Manor (Catholic retreat centre in Keswick, Cumbria) will once again be opening their doors for B&B stays. A great way for families, groups of friends, and individuals to get an affordable stay in Keswick. Mass will be provided on site. For more info >> castleriggmanor.com >> stay with us

St Wilfrid's Walking Pilgrimage to to Ladyewell Shrine with the Stations of the Cross: As this was so successful last year arrangements have been made again for **Saturday 21st March** setting off from St Wilfrid's at 9 am to arrive at Ladyewell to celebrate Mass at 12:30 pm. The walk is approximately 4 miles. All ages are welcome to join in but under 18's must be accompanied by a responsible adult. **As transport back will be offered for walkers, it is vital that you sign up beforehand to ensure enough transport is available.** Details can be found at <https://metanoiaproject.churchsuite.com/events/x9viwafr> where you can also sign up for the walk.

Planned Giving Envelopes / Gift Aid - New boxes of planned giving envelopes (gift aid and non-gift aid) are now ready for collection in the Narthex. If your box is missing or any details are not correct; if you would like to start using envelopes; or if you would prefer to give by standing order, please contact: John Kirkwood 01772 312793 or in the case of St Gerard's contact the parish office direct.

Tea Dance: The South Ribble Central Villages Hub are hosting a **Hot Pot/Butter pie Lunch in the Parochial Centre on Tuesday 17th March from 12 noon until 3 pm.** This **Free event for over 55's** is by **ticket only.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick, and those who care for them:

Sister Louise, Yvonne Jeffrey, Maureen Calderbank, Joseph Finch, Brian Morley, Mick Green, Peter Clough, Joseph O'Grady, Ruth Johnstone, Eileen McLaughlin, Marie Davis, Christina Hall, Valerie Jeffrey, Connie Hardacre. Anne May.

All those who have died recently: Agnes Walker, Patricia Long, Marie Baron, Magdalena Denby.

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 Housebound and for those who have asked for your Prayers.

Our Lady & St Gerard's Notices

New Sanctuary Carpet: If anyone would like to make a donation to raise funds to carpet the remainder of the church it would be appreciated. The last time was in the early 90's so it is not something we do very often.

Coffee Morning: Thank you to all who helped, provided cakes and provided raffle prizes. We made a total of £275 for church funds.

Flowers for Easter - If you would like to make a donation towards fresh flowers for the church for Easter it would be appreciated envelopes are in the porch. Thank you.

CAFOD Walk for water - If you haven't returned your donations there is still time. As stated earlier Michael and Margaret Cronin are walking 500 kms over Lent to support CAFOD's work in bringing clean water to regions of the developing world where people have to walk many kms daily to access something we take for granted. Our just giving site link is:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising/michaels-fundraising-page1036>

Wednesday Bingo Easter Break: There will be no Bingo Session in Holy Week or Easter Week (1st & 8th April). We will restart on Wednesday 15th April.

Thank you so much for the many kind wishes and prayers following my recent admission to hospital. They were hugely appreciated. God bless you all!
Michael Cronin

Easter Triduum Liturgies

"The Paschal Triduum is the matrix of our personal and communitarian lives"- Pope Francis.

Maundy Thursday:

Mass of the Lord's Supper:

St Gerard's at 6pm; St Mary's at 8pm

Good Friday: Celebration of the Passion:

St Gerard's and St Mary's both at 3pm

Holy Saturday: The Easter Vigil:

St Gerard's 6pm; St Mary's 8pm

These three celebrations are a unity and they give meaning to everything else in our lives as Catholics. Make the Triduum a priority in your diary.

W/C 15/03/26	This Weeks Intentions
Sanctuary	Yvonne Jeffrey
Our Lady	Dominic Barrow & Family

Offertory 7th / 8th March 2026		
Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance
£313.49	£173.45	165

Bingo Jackpots for 18/03/2026			
£35	£31	£54	£28

St Mary's Brownedge Notices

Offertory Procession: Next Sunday 24th March 9:30 am Mass: Sethu Family.

On Fridays in Lent, following 9.30 Mass we will have coffee mornings along with the Mystery Raffle Draws.

Mystery Raffle Tickets The last sale of mystery raffle tickets will be this weekend and drawn at our next coffee morning, after the Community Walk, on Saturday 21st March.

Cafod's Big Lent Walk - CAFOD'S Big Lent Walk 2026 - Dave Gorman is once again, for the 5th consecutive year, taking part in the Big Lent Walk and walking a minimum of 200km during the forty days of Lent. Your support and generosity would, once again, be much appreciated in the fight against global poverty. Sponsorship forms are available in the Narthex and in the Sacred Heart porch or you can donate online via: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/daves-fundraising-page4>

Parish Walk - We will also have a **Parish Community Walk** on **Saturday 21st March** starting from church at 10.30am and walking 2.5/5km or a lap or two of the church grounds. You can give a small donation if you want and we will add this to David's total. Refreshments and final draw of mystery raffle in the Narthex afterwards.

Easter Egg Appeal: Once again this year, we are collecting Easter Eggs for the Women's Refuge and other family charities for Easter; Please put donations at the back of Church in the boxes provided or contact Clare Haythornthwaite on 312558.

Recently Deceased: Please pray for the souls of Maria Baron whose Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 24th March at 10.00 am and Magdalena Denby whose Requiem Mass is on Monday 30th March 2026 at 1:00pm.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

On Good Friday, 3rd April, after the Ecumenical Service outside Morrison's, Bamber Bridge, Methodist Parishioners invite us to join them for tea/coffee and hot cross buns at their Church. All welcome.

Mothering Sunday: Blessings to all mothers! This day comes from the tradition of remembering our Baptism on Laetare Sunday to prepare our hearts and minds for the new life of Easter.

Sanctuary Lamps Week 15/03/26			
1	Deceased Relatives of the Swarbrick & Whiteley Families		
2	For the Bailey & McQuillan Families		
Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend			
7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
62	153	66	271