



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
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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)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A)

22nd March 2026

St Mary's, Brownedge			
Sat	21st Mar Vigil	9:30 am 7:00 pm	Priest's Intentions Fifth Sunday of Lent Denis Hopwood
Sun	22nd Mar	9:30 am 11:00 am 6:30 pm	Fifth Sunday of Lent Richard Whalley Baptism of Ella Clarke The Parish
Mon	23rd Mar	9:30 am	St Turibius of Mongrovejo (oc) Robert, Nellie & Joseph Delaney
Tues	24th Mar	10:00 am	St Oscar Romero (oc) Requiem Mass for Maria Baron
Wed	25th Mar	10:00 am	The Annunciation of the Lord (S) Requiem Mass for Sheila Allsop
Thurs	26th Mar	9:30 am	Linda & Philip Swarbrick 60th Wedding Anniversary
Fri	27th Mar	7:00 am 9.30 am 4.30 pm	<i>In Monastery Chapel:</i> Private Intention Charles Sergeant (Birthday) Stations of the Cross
Sat	28th Mar Vigil	9:30 am 7:00 pm	Kath Harvey (Birthday) PALM SUNDAY Lolanda & Cyril Walsh; 60th Wedding Anniversary
Sun	29th Mar	9:30 am 6:30 pm	PALM SUNDAY Margaret Grayless John Lees

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	21st Mar Vigil	5:30 pm	Fifth Sunday of Lent Madeleine Maher (Birthday Anniversary)
Sun	22nd Mar	10:30 am	Fifth Sunday of Lent Sister Louise Shields
Mon	23rd Mar	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	St Turibius of Mongrovejo (oc) Exposition Priest's Intentions
Tues	24th Mar	9:15 am	St Oscar Romero (oc) Leo Phelan R.I.P.
Wed	25th Mar	9:15 am	The Annunciation of the Lord (S) Priests Intentions
Thurs	26th Mar	6:30 pm	Jack & Frances Cottam (Ann)
Fri	27th Mar	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	28th Mar Vigil	5:30 pm	PALM SUNDAY Doreen Wane R.I.P.
Sun	29th Mar	10:30 am	PALM SUNDAY The Parish

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.



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.

Prayers for Salford Diocese

This week we pray for the parish of St. Dunstan and St. John Vianney, Moston, and for Fr. Job Zirra Stephen, their priest, together with their parish primary school and St. Matthew's High School. We pray for the residents of St. Mary's Care Home and for the repose of the souls of all buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Joint Notices

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The Gospel of the Fifth Sunday is perhaps the deepest meditation on the mystery of Baptism and membership of the Church. It is a prelude to the events of Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the triumph of life over death. To be plunged into the waters of baptism is to be buried with Christ, only to rise with him from the waters. This paradox of life and death is the content of today's readings. There is no more important part of our faith than the resurrection: that Christ rose from the dead is the very centre and heart of all that we believe - without it, our faith is useless. In the same way our belief in our own resurrection is vital: it is the most deeply needed gift that Christ gives us. This is why the climax of the instructions given to candidates for Baptism was this teaching: that Christ would give them life after death. Look ahead to the 3rd Sunday of Easter, where Saint Peter preaches to the crowds - what he teaches them is that life comes after death, as it did for Lazarus, and for Christ himself.

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 24th March: Practice the ceremonies of Reconciliation / Baptism / Reception / Confirmation / First Holy Communion

Tues 31st March 7pm: Reconciliation Service at St Gerard's; (1st Reconciliation for those to be received). 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 this 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.

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.

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 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 thinking 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 from 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. This will be on Tuesday 24th March at 7pm. 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

The Lord will lead us back together - Ezekiel's words apply to us when we are going through tough times in our relationship, when intimacy, physical or otherwise, seems impossible. At such times, Jesus weeps for us as He did for Lazarus. He will bring us back together if we ask Him and are willing to be vulnerable enough to explore together the changes we need to make.

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

S.V.P. - 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.

SVP: - Camino Pilgrimage - Tuesday 7th April – Barbara Hall will be leaving for the SVP Camino Pilgrimage – Please join her & the other Pilgrims with your prayers – Donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/page/barbara-hall-1 or any donations can be put in the donations basket in Church in an envelope marked Camino.

Solemnity of the Annunciation: 25th March:

Today is disclosed the myst'ry before the ages; and the Son of God shall become the Son of Man, that by his adoption of the lowest he may grant us the highest. Of old Adam failed to become a God as he desired, so God became Man that Adam might become as God. Wherefore, let creation rejoice, and nature exchange greetings, for the archangel did stand reverently before the Virgin and offered her joy instead of sorrow. Wherefore, O our God, who by thy compassion became man, glory be to thee.

- From the Byzantine Matins for the Feast of the Annunciation.

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, Eileen McLaughlin, Marie Davis, Christina Hall, Anne May.

All those who have died recently:

Patricia Long, Marie Baron, Sheila Allsop, Magdalena Denby, Valerie Jeffrey, Anne Barnes.

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.

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 - 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

Recently Deceased: Please pray for the soul of Valerie Jeffrey whose Requiem Mass is on Thursday 9th April 2026 at 12 noon. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Piety Shop - Last week we had the Solemnity of St Joseph. If anyone is especially devoted to him we have a few Sleeping St Joseph Statues available, call in and have a look!

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 22/03/26	This Weeks Intentions
Sanctuary	Yvonne Jeffrey
St Gerard Majella	Norbert Hardacre—Birthday Memories

Offertory 14th / 15th March 2026

Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance
£277.41	£159.50	169

Bingo Jackpots for 25/03/2026

£36	£32	£55	£29
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St Mary's Brownedge Notices

Offertory Procession: Next Sunday 29th March 9:30 am Mass: Farbon 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>

Cafod Family Fast Day - Thank you for your generous donations of £700 for Cafod's Family Fast Day Appeal this Lent, with Gift Aid the final total is £786. This will help families who either have too much water or not enough hence their crops fail and they are unable to feed their children. In God's eyes, we are one global family, called to be neighbours to stand in love and solidarity. Thank you for your support

Easter Egg Appeal: Thank you so much to the Parishioners for all the donations of Easter Eggs for the Women's Refuge – We have been overwhelmed with donations – Thank you very much for your support & generosity – They will be distributed to the Women's Refuge & local Charities this week.

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.

Recently Deceased: Please pray for the souls of Magdalena Denby whose Requiem Mass is on Monday 30th March 2026 at 1:00pm. And for Ann Barnes whose Funeral Service is on 13th April at 11:30 am. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Sanctuary Lamps Week 22/03/26

1	For Stephen Colligan
2	Deceased Members of the Lees & Spencer Families

Mass Attendance: Our Attendance last weekend

7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
61	302	56	422