



Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

News and Views

The Month of Our Lady of Sorrows

Issue No 704 September
2026

The Church dedicates the month of September to Our Lady of Sorrows. During this month, we are invited to reflect on the suffering endured by the Blessed Virgin Mary as she shared in the mission of her Son, Jesus Christ. Her sorrows were not experienced in despair, but in faith, trust, and loving obedience to God's will.

The devotion reminds us that Mary's life was not free from pain and uncertainty. From the prophecy of Simeon that a sword would pierce her soul, to standing beneath the Cross as Jesus died, Mary experienced profound sorrow while remaining steadfast in faith.

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us. Help us to remain faithful in times of difficulty, to trust in God's loving plan, and to follow your Son with courage and hope. Amen.



**Our Lady of Sorrows
15th September**

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Walking with the Saints in September

September draws us gently towards the changing seasons, reminding us that our Christian journey is one of continual growth and renewal. The saints we celebrate this month reveal many paths to holiness: through learning, service, courage, prayer, and steadfast faith. As we walk with them, may we be inspired to follow Christ more closely in our own daily lives.

We begin with St Gregory the Great (3 September), pope, teacher, and pastor. Gregory guided the Church during challenging times and helped spread the Gospel through missionary work. Walking with Gregory reminds us of the importance of wisdom, leadership, and trust in God's providence.

On 4 September, we honour St Cuthbert, beloved monk, bishop, and missionary of the North. His life united prayer with pastoral care, showing how closeness to God naturally overflows into service of others.

The following day we remember St Teresa of Calcutta (5 September). Her loving service among the poorest and most forgotten reminds us that Christ is found in those most in need. Walking with Mother Teresa encourages us to show compassion through simple acts of kindness and generosity.

On 8 September, we celebrate the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary's birth marked the dawn of salvation's fulfilment, and her life continues to point us towards her Son. We give thanks for her faithful "yes" to God's plan and seek her maternal guidance.

The Church then honours St Peter Claver (9 September), who dedicated his life to serving enslaved people with dignity and compassion. His witness challenges us to uphold the dignity of every human person and to stand alongside those who suffer.

On 10 September, we remember St Ambrose Barlow, one of England's martyrs, whose steadfast faith amid persecution reminds us of the courage required to remain faithful to Christ whatever the circumstances.

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The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14 September) invites us to contemplate the mystery of Christ's saving love. The Cross, once a sign of suffering, has become for Christians the sign of hope, redemption, and victory.

The following day we celebrate Our Lady of Sorrows (15 September). Mary's faithfulness at the foot of the Cross teaches us to trust God even in times of grief and uncertainty, confident that sorrow is never the final word.

On 16 September, we commemorate Sts Cornelius and Cyprian, two leaders of the early Church who remained faithful amid division and persecution. Their lives remind us of the importance of unity, forgiveness, and perseverance.

The next day brings the feast of St Robert Bellarmine (17 September), a gifted teacher and defender of the faith. Walking with Robert encourages us to deepen our understanding of God's truth and to live it with humility and charity.

On 19 September, we remember St Januarius, whose courage in witnessing to Christ continues to inspire believers to remain faithful in the face of trials.

We then celebrate St Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist (21 September). Called from his work as a tax collector, Matthew's life reveals the transforming power of God's mercy. His example reminds us that Christ calls each of us, whatever our past, to follow Him.

On 23 September, we honour St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio). Known for his deep prayer, love of the Eucharist, and devotion to reconciliation, he encourages us to place our trust completely in God.

The following day we celebrate Our Lady of Walsingham (24 September), beloved patroness of England. Her shrine has welcomed pilgrims for centuries, reminding us of Mary's enduring care for this land and her invitation to draw ever closer to Christ.



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On 26 September, we remember Sts Cosmas and Damian, physicians and martyrs who cared for the sick with generosity and faith. Their witness reminds us of Christ's healing presence and of our call to serve others with compassion.

The Church honours St Wenceslaus (28 September), a ruler remembered for his charity, justice, and care for the poor. His example teaches us that true leadership is rooted in service.

On 29 September, we celebrate the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Michael reminds us of God's protection, Gabriel of God's message of hope, and Raphael of God's healing care. Together they encourage us to trust in the Lord's guidance in every aspect of our lives.

Finally, on 30 September, we remember St Jerome, the great scholar who devoted himself to the Scriptures. His famous conviction that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ" challenges us to listen attentively to God's word and allow it to shape our lives.

As we walk with these saints throughout September, may their examples strengthen our faith, deepen our hope, and inspire us to love more generously. May they help us to recognise God's presence in every season of life and to follow Christ with renewed confidence and joy.

Saints of God, walk with us.

CAFOD

This Harvest, CAFOD is supporting communities in northern Zimbabwe. By tackling hunger and thirst, we can help children get back into the classroom.

Zimbabwe is facing an escalating food and water crisis, drought, and climate change impacts. Children are being forced to miss school while they travel long distances to collect water, or because their families can no longer afford school costs.



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With support from parishes like ours, CAFOD and its Caritas partners are finding sustainable solutions. Solar-powered water systems, for example, are allowing communities to grow food throughout the year. With a reliable food source, children are able to stay in school, learn, play, and thrive.

Giving, praying and acting this Family Fast Day (2nd October) will mean more safe water and school meals for children in northern Zimbabwe.

Parish Reflection

September offers us a special opportunity to reflect on Mary under the title Our Lady of Sorrows. Celebrated on 15 September, this feast reminds us that Mary walked closely with her Son throughout His suffering and death. Because she shared so deeply in Christ's sorrow, she remains close to all who suffer today.

In our communities, many carry hidden burdens. Some grieve the loss of loved ones. Others struggle with illness, loneliness, financial worries, family difficulties, or uncertainty about the future. Mary understands these sorrows. Her life was marked not only by joy but also by hardship, sacrifice, and trust.

The Gospel shows Mary standing faithfully at the foot of the Cross. She did not turn away when suffering came. She remained with Jesus in love, courage, and hope. In doing so, she became a model for every Christian disciple.

As autumn begins and the busy rhythms of parish, school, and family life resume, the Church invites us to place our cares in Mary's hands. She teaches us that faith is not the absence of suffering but the confidence that God remains with us through every trial.

This September, may we turn to Mary, Mother of Compassion, asking her to pray for all who are struggling in our parish, our families, and our nation. May her example help us to support one another with kindness, patience, and love, and may her prayers draw us ever closer to Christ, who is the source of all consolation and peace.

Elizabeth Samuel Hampers

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A Prayer for September

Our Lady of Sorrows, Mother of Compassion
Mary, Mother of Sorrows,
you stood beside your Son
through the suffering of the Cross.

You know the pain of grief,
the weight of anxiety,
and the sadness that can touch every human heart.

Our Lady of Sorrows,
pray for us.

Pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Pray for the sick and the elderly.

Pray for those facing financial hardship,
family difficulties, or loneliness.

Pray for young people beginning a new school year,
for teachers, staff, and families.

Pray for all who feel overwhelmed or forgotten,
that they may know the comfort of God's love.

Help us to be attentive to the needs of others,
to offer kindness where there is hurt,
hope where there is despair,
and faith where there is doubt.

Mary, Mother of Compassion,
walk with us each day
and lead us always to your Son.

Our Lady of Sorrows,
pray for us.

Amen.



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A Gentle Man and a Gentleman.

That is truly the heart of the man I want to honour. It describes Michael Cronin perfectly.

Michael passed away on the 19th of July after a short illness. In his own humble way, he explained his diagnosis by saying, “God must have wanted me up there.” Perhaps God did — but we certainly wanted you here with us, Michael.

Michael was a pillar of our parish, serving in countless ways. He was a loyal friend and a steady support to every priest he worked alongside. Over the years he was a parish councillor, a school governor, a reader, and a Eucharistic minister, faithfully bringing communion to the sick.

When Father Joe moved on to lead his own parish, Michael stepped in once again. Alongside Kevin, he helped Fr Mark and Fr Colin by leading Holy Communion services during the week so that our parish would not go without worship. His quiet courage and unwavering faith were an example to us all.

Michael lived as a true disciple of Jesus. He attended Mass daily. He and Margaret travelled to Rome twice last year — just weeks apart — which I fondly call “going to head office.” They loved watching Harry Goes to Rome, and over the years visited many sacred places, including Lourdes and Fatima, experiences that touched them deeply.

Charity was woven into their lives. The food bank and CAFOD were especially close to their hearts. They were ever-present at Brownedge, supporting the coffee mornings. Margaret could often be seen on Sunday mornings handing out envelopes for donations to our overseas friends.

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have time; they just have hearts.” That was Michael — a man with a heart always open.

I am proud to have known you, Michael. We will all grieve you; we will miss you, and we will never forget you.



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I am certain you are at “head office” now — Heaven.

Good night, God bless, Michael... and thank you for being you .

Grace Robinson

Editors Note : If you have memories of Michael that you would like to share it has been suggested that we have a News & Views Special edition. Not many people know but Michael was a great poet and there are hundreds of his poems, some of these with Margaret's permission can be included as well. One of them to Margaret on her 70th Birthday is included on page 19

Castlerigg Manor – A Home for Youth, Faith, and Community in the Lake District

We often advertise Castlerigg Manor in the newsletter but have you ever wondered what it was like?



Castlerigg Manor, is set high above Keswick with sweeping views of the fells, it is the Diocese of Lancaster's dedicated youth retreat centre. For decades it has welcomed young people from parishes and schools

across the North West, offering a place where faith becomes real, friendships deepen, and young people discover the joy of living in Christian community.

At Castlerigg, groups step away from the noise and busyness of everyday life and enter a rhythm of prayer, reflection, shared meals, outdoor adventure, and guided activities. The retreat team—young missionaries who live and serve at the Manor—lead sessions that help young people explore their faith in a way that is honest, engaging, and rooted in the Gospel. Whether through quiet time in the chapel, lively group discussions, or moments of laughter around the dining tables, Castlerigg creates space for young people to encounter God in a fresh and meaningful way.



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The Manor itself is a welcoming Victorian house with dormitory accommodation, cosy meeting rooms, a beautiful chapel, and plenty of outdoor space. Its location, just a short walk from the famous Castlerigg Stone Circle, makes it ideal for walks, reflection time, and outdoor challenges that help groups bond and grow together. Many who visit speak of Castlerigg as a place where they feel safe, valued, and encouraged to be themselves. Castlerigg supports: Parish confirmation groups - Primary and secondary school residentials - Youth weekends - Young adult retreats - Leadership training for youth ministers.

Castlerigg remains a treasured resource—helping young people build confidence, deepen their faith, and experience the wider diocesan family. It is a place of welcome, joy, and spiritual growth, and we are blessed to have it in our area.

If you have had any experience of staying at Castlerigg Manor why not share it with the parish.

Gardening in September

It's been a good year for Raspberries and Blackberries but a hard time for other plants, trees and animals. All 4 of our water butts were empty quickly, but I am so glad we had them. It saved most of my plants and vegetables.

The birds have been moulting and recovering from the rearing season, but they will make a comeback to your feeders. We had a lot of cabbage white butterflies on the Nasturtiums.



As for my beans?? Not one this year and I took great care to pot them out individually.

Just Bean unlucky!

LW

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Martha/Margaret

“Jesus loved Martha” John 11:5

The three knew His heart,
Because He loved them.
Martha above all, perhaps;
Yes, Martha above all.
Martha the apostle.

Certainly she was granted
Revelation by the Teacher:
“I have shared with my friends
everything I have learned from my Father”.
Though, wonder of wonders,
She taught Him too:

Speaking truth to Him,
Unalloyed. Upbraiding
In the public realm
the very Son of God:
“If you had been here...”
Sweeping aside His arguments:
“I know all the words about rising again...”
Challenging Him to his face -
(He, a member of the Most High Trinity):
“Why let me slave away on my own...”
Oh Martha, how he loved that!

And there is another, not unlike her,
Who I can imagine
Talking without restraint to the Lord of Heaven and Earth...
Looking him in the eye,
Not taking as read His assurances
about the way things are;
Purting Him straight, you might say.
And, like Martha,
She is loved very much.

**To Margaret, the second Martha.
With much love and gratitude on your 70th birthday
Michael**

**Parish Clergy: Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest),
Tel: 01772 335168 (Office)
Assistant Priests: Fr Colin Battell OSB. Fr Charles Essien
Tel: 01772 321201 (Monastery)**

The Presbytery
17C Brownedge Road
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Tel: 01772 335387 Mobile 07442 385553 (9am-3pm)

In an Emergency please phone either
St Marys Brownedge 335168
St Mary's Leyland 455955

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 - Monday 6:30 pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 9:15 am
Thursday 6:30 pm

Reconciliation: Confessions - Saturday 5 pm to 5:15 pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Monday 6 to 6:30 pm

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.

Please telephone 335387 to arrange Notification and Preparation.
335387 to arrange Notification and Preparation.

Parish Organisations

CONTACT

Advertising	John Corrigan	07759 722309
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A.P.F. & Sacristan	Christine Flanagan	334723
CAFOD	Margaret Cronin	336475
Catechists & Sacramental Programme		335387
Children's Liturgy Group		335387
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Fund Raising Group		335387
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News & Views, Website,	David Walker	629701
Majella Companions		335387
Marriage Registrars	Margaret Cronin	336475
	Ann Quinlan	467306
Parochial Centre		
Piety Shop	Vivian Page	313910
P.T.A.		335025
Sacred Heart Guild		
Safeguarding	email:safeguarding@saintgerards.org.uk	
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.

www.saintgerards.org.uk

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St Mary's Brownedge

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

3rd	St Gregory the Great	17th	St Robert Bellarmine
4th	St Cuthbert	19th	St Januarius
5th	St Teresa of Calcutta	20th	25th Sunday fo the Year
6th	23rd Sunday of the Year	21st	St Matthew
8th	The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary	23rd	St Pius iof Pietrelcina
9th	St Peter Claver	24th	Our Lady of Walsingham
10th	St Ambrose Barlow	26th	Ss Cosmas & Damian
12th	The Most Holy name of Mary	27th	26th Sunday of the Year
13th	24th Sunday of the Year	28th	St Wenceslaus
14th	The exhaltation of the Cross	29th	Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael
15th	Our Lady fo Sorrows	30th	St Jerome
16th	St Cornelius & St Cyprian	1 st Oct	St Therese of the DChild Jesus
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