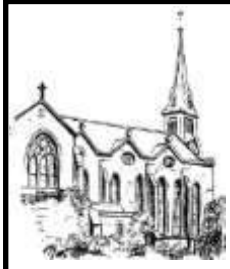
DIOCESE OF SALFORD



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 (Office)
email: pp@stmarysbrownedge.org.uk
Assistant Priests: Fr Colin Battell OSB. Fr Charles Essien Tel: 01772 321201 (Monastery)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT -Year B 29th November 2026

St Mary's, Brownedge

Sat	**28th Nov**		Mass in Monastery Chapel
		9:30 am	Holy Souls
	Vigil		**First Sunday of Advent**
		7:00 pm	Lesley & Jim Morris
Sun	**29th Nov**		**First Sunday of Advent**
		9:30 am	Barry Jackson
		6:30 pm	The Parish
Mon	**30th Nov**		**St Ralph Sherwin & the Martyrs of the Venerable English College** (F)
		12 noon	Kieran Glynn
Tues	**1st Dec**	**9:30 am**	Ann & Charles Sergeant
Wed	**2nd Dec**	**9:30 am**	Richard Whalley (Birthday)
Thurs	**3rd Dec**		St Frances Xavier
		9:30 am	Livesey & Sheehan Families
Fri	**4th Dec**	**9:30 am**	Winifred Livesey
Sat	**5th Dec**	**9:30 am**	Ellen Bradley
	Vigil		**Second Sunday of Advent**
		7:00 pm	Lesley & Jim Morrison
Sun	**6th Dec**		**Second Sunday of Advent**
		9:30 am	Ramsdale & Swindlehurst Families
		6:30 pm	Richard Whalley (Birthday)

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall

Sat	**28th Nov**		**First Sunday of Advent**
	Vigil	**5:30 pm**	Sacred Heart Guild
Sun	**29th Nov**		**First Sunday of Advent**
		10:30 am	James Wright (Anniversary)
Mon	**30th Nov**		**St Andrew** (F)
		6:00 pm	Exposition
		6:30 pm	Michael Cronin R.I.P.
Tues	**1st Dec**	**9:15 am**	Maria Ho Thi Xuan
Wed	**2nd Dec**	**9:15 am**	Holy Souls
Thurs	**3rd Dec**	**6:30 pm**	Michael Cronin R.I.P.
Fri	**4th Dec**	**11:30am**	**Funeral Service for Monica Clayton R.I.P.**
Sat	**5th Dec**		**Second Sunday of Advent**
	Vigil	**:30 pm**	Nellie Smith (Anniversary)
Sun	**6th Dec**		**Second Sunday of Advent**
		10:30 am	The Parish

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.

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: Online at 8pm each evening from St Mary's.

Prayers For Salford Diocese

We pray for the people of St Mary's parish, Horwich, for Fr. Richard Howard, their parish priest, for the parish primary school and for St. Joseph's High School.

Joint Notices

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent opens with a great cry and a great promise: *"Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!"* is the cry of a people who need God. *"...The master is coming"* is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins not with thoughts of the past and the coming of the Lord at Christmas, but with the future and the promise that He is coming again. We are encouraged to treat every day as the day the Lord will come, not out of fear of a Master who beats His servants, but out of love for a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless, we must remain watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, putting off prayer, confession or changes in the way we live until tomorrow. As we look forward to the Lord's coming, we must remember that tomorrow might be today!

Saturday 28th 9:30 am Mass at St Mary's will be held in the Monastery Chapel whilst rehearsals and Church preparation are taking place for the Preston Cecilian Choral performance.

PRESTON CECILIAN CHORAL SOCIETY - 100th Season 2026-2027 - Handel's MESSIAH With orchestra, professional soloists and augmented choir - **Saturday 28 November** at 3pm **-** ST MARY'S BROWNEDGE - Tickets £16 **-** Online: http://www.trybooking.co.uk/GBVH **-** On the door (cash / card)

On Monday 30 November, Mass at St Mary's Brownedge will be at 12 noon. It will be to celebrate the feast of the Martyrs of the Venerable English College in Rome which is celebrated in different parts of the country by alumni of the college. The actual Feast falls December 1st, the date of the execution of the 1st College Martyr, St Ralph Sherwin; In the North West we have moved it to the Monday to facilitate the attendance of clergy, on what is the their most common day off. We will welcome approximately 20 former students from Salford, Lancaster, Liverpool, Shrewsbury, Leeds and Middlesbrough. It promises to be a beautiful celebration including the singing of the very moving hymn, "Te Deum Laudamus". All are welcome.

Sycamore Course - The course for anyone wishing to become a Catholic or learn more about the faith will continue on **Tuesday 1st December at 7pm at St Mary's Church in the Narthex.** Please consider inviting family or friends to come along. Come with them—it can help somebody to respond if they have some friendly support and we can all learn a little bit more our faith.

Joint Schools Carol Service - Children from both of our Junior Schools are joining together on **Wednesday 9th December** for a Carol Service at St Mary's Brownedge Church at 6 pm. All families, parishioners and friends are welcome to this service of prayer, readings and Christmas Carols.

Fr Xavier will be passing through Lostock Hall on Monday 30th November and will be celebrating Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6.00pm and the Mass at 6.30pm.

Supporting our Parish Finances: It is important that we are aware of the financial costs of running our parishes and take some responsibility to help provide the necessary support. Are you able to:

- ***Give a little more each week to help with the cost of inflation;***
- ***Create a Standing Order or use offertory envelopes;***
- ***Gift Aid any money you give to the Church if you pay tax;***
- ***Give via contactless card machine;***
- ***Leave a legacy in your will;***
- ***Consider acting as a benefactor with a large donation if you find you are in a position to do so;***
- ***Help raise £32,000 for our Spire repairs.***

Spire Fundraising: Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the appeal; there has been an excellent response: We have launched a **"Crowdfunder"** page where people can donate directly and add gift aid; we have currently raised over £3500. Please encourage your family and friends to contribute—we want to reach all the community, including those who may not be Catholic but value the presence of our Church in the town. There is video message from Fr Mark to encourage people: Scan the QR Code or Visit: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/qr/YlbBQBkl *If we raise funds over £32,000, anything extra will be used for towards other church maintenance.*

Grant: We are most grateful to the **Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund** who have approved a grant of **£5000** towards the work.

Congratulations; a parishioner has completed a sponsored walk of 300 miles in the month of Sept to raise money for the Spire Fund. She raised an amazing £1000. Many thanks and well done!

Thank you for the anonymous Spire Donation of £500 in memory of Trevor Robinson A Missionary of Africa, Recently Deceased.

Date for the Diary - Sunday 20th December – Brass Band Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church 3pm – Proceeds go to KSC Charities

Homelessness – Write to Your MP – Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, is asking parishioners to support its campaign to tackle homelessness by writing to their MP. They are calling for Local Housing Allowance rates to be unfrozen and increased in line with local rents, as current rates contribute significantly to homelessness. Your letter could help bring change and support vulnerable local families and adults. Find a free template letter and more information at www.caritassalford.org.uk/EndHomelessness.

Joint Notices

Advent Talks 2026 - During Advent, we are pleased to be joined by Mgr Paul Smith and Sr Joan Kerley for a series of talks on an exploration of Pope Leo's recent Encyclical Letter "Magnifica Humanitas" Join us every Tuesday until 15 December as we consider Exploring Human Dignity with Pope Leo in the age of AI. The venue for this year's talks will be Our Lady and Lancashire Martyrs Church Hall, M38 0DL, and the talks will take place from 10:30am - 12:30pm. Please email joankfmsj@gmail.com or phone 07934 816796 to register your interest. For more information please click use this link to visit the Diocesan 'What's On' page https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/

Caritas Advent Appeal 2026 - The Caritas Salford #BeeThere bees are retelling the Nativity story and inviting us to **change the script** for local people facing hunger or homelessness. This Advent, could you #BeeThere for someone in need? Watch the animation, featuring local children's voices, at www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere.

SVP - The next meeting will be on Tuesdays 14th December at 6:30 pm in the Priory and the next monthly collection is on the weekend of 19th/20th December.

AFFORDABLE CATHOLIC FAMILY RETREATS IN THE LAKES - Castlerigg Manor is the youth retreat centre of Lancaster Diocese, located in Keswick in the Lake District. Every year, they offer a couple of retreats to families with children under 18. These are a great opportunity for families to enjoy the lakes and for people of all ages to spend some time reflecting, praying, and doing creative activities. There are streams for all ages, including adults. The next one is December 11th to 13th, followed by March 12th to 14th. Prices start at £175 En-suite for a family of four. To find out more, email director@castleriggmanor.co.uk or check out castleriggmanor.com/events.

Call for research participants - Caritas Salford is researching how the cost of living and financial difficulties affect people connected to our parishes and schools. The findings will help shape future campaigning. If you're willing to share your experiences in a confidential interview, please contact Annabeth Taylor all information will be anonymised a.taylor@caritassalford.org.uk.

Donations: Make an online Donation to support our parishes by scanning the QR Codes Here:

St Mary's, Brownedge

Our Lady & St Gerards

Child Poverty in our School Communities Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, is calling for urgent action after carrying out research with our diocesan schools that have shown a staggering increase in child poverty in our area in recent years. This was the second time our schools have contributed to the survey, and shows a stark picture with many families in our parishes in need of urgent support. You can read more about the findings and discover what changes Caritas is calling for from local and national government too, at: www.caritassalford.org.uk/SchoolPovertySurvey2026

Schools Singing Programme's Advent Carol Concerts - The Salford Schools Singing programme is hosting a series of Advent Carol Concerts next month, with one-hour services performed by school-children from around the diocese. Please see below for dates and locations, and for more information please visit the diocesan website here: https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/

- Thursday 3 December - **Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church, Middleton**
- Tuesday 8 December - **St Mary's RC Church, Burnley**
- Thursday 10 December - **Salford Cathedral**
- Tuesday 15 December - **St Alban's RC Church, Blackburn**
- Wednesday 16 December - **Sacred Heart RC Church, Colne**

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The sick, and those who care for them:
Sister Louise, Joseph O'Grady, Brian Morley, Jean Doran, Maureen Calderbank, Joseph Finch, Peter Clough, Eileen Lucas, Eileen McLaughlin, Marie Davis, Anne Gill, Iolanda Walsh. Mary Lofthouse, Fr John Marsh. Joan & Allan Swindlehurst, Fred Davies. Theresa Hargreaves, Brian Worcester

All those who have died recently:
David Cotton, Pauline Roberts, Beryl Carter, Michael Barton, Glenis Allen, Nicky Mylnyckyj, Barry Jackson, Claire Hilton, John Dawson, Canon Harry Doyle, Justin Halpin, Monica Clayton, Paul Woodcock.

MARRIAGE MATTERS

"*Thanking God for each other"*

"*Stay awake for you never know when the time will come…!*" Today's Gospel reminds us to remember that our lives together will not go on for ever. It is therefore so important to thank God every day for the wonderful gift that we are to each other, indeed one of the greatest gifts that the Father has given us.

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 keep submissions as short as possible at the moment as space is at a premium and it isn't always possible to include everything that is submitted. At times article will have to be made shorter and not be exactly as submitted.

Our Lady & St Gerard's Notices

Christmas Fair – Join us at the Parochial Centre on **Sunday 6th December**, 11:30am–1:30pm for festive family fun! Enjoy Santa's Grotto, a raffle with great prizes, tombola, games, cakes, refreshments and gifts. If you are able to help run a stall on the day or provide fancy goods, Christmas items and of course cakes (on the day) would be much appreciated. **Items for the Tombola especially Bottles** would be appreciated.

****Raffle Tickets now on Sale****

Father Xavier - has asked us to publish his address & email if anyone wants to write to him or send greetings at Christmas and to save postage. It is Ampleforth Abbey, York, YO62 4EN. Email: xavier@ampleforthabbey.org.uk

Admission Consultation - Our Lady & St Gerard's RC Primary School

The Governing Body of Our Lady & St Gerard's RC Primary School is consulting on a proposal to reduce the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 50 to 30 places from September 2028. This reflects the significant decline in local birth rates and the lower number of Reception applications received in recent years. The proposal relates only to the number of places available and does not change the admissions criteria.

Parishioners are invited to review the proposal and share their views as part of the consultation process, which closes on **1 December 2026**.

Further information is available via the Lancashire County Council consultation page and the school's admissions page. https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-and-plans/education-and-childrens-services/school-admissions/proposed-2028-29-admission-policies-for-consultation/

Thank you for your continued support of our Catholic school community.

Recently Deceased - Please pray for the soul of Monica Clayton and Michael Worden who have died recently. Monica's Funeral will be on **Friday 4th December** at 11:30 am. Michael's funeral will be on Thursday 10th December at 11 am. May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

St Gerard's Parish Lottery No. 213 25/11/26			
1st	£100	32	Mr K Bowman
2nd	£40	80	Miss E Brierley
3rd	£20	61	Mr M J Cullen

Offertory 21st/ 22ndNovember 2026		
Loose	Envelopes	Total Attendance
£162.25	£272.52	141

Bingo Jackpots for 02/12/2026			
£39	£62	£85	£27

St Mary's Brownedge Notices

Offertory Procession: Next Sunday 6th December 9:30 am Mass: Pangalinan Family

Sacramental Programme: meeting for parents and children on Weds 2nd Dec at 6.30pm and a **Service of First Reconciliation** will be held on Saturday 5th Dec at 11am.

Spire Works: on Tuesday 1st December there will be a pre-works inspection. The inspection of the tower will begin at 8am. Mass at 9.30 will not be affected but parishioners coming for Mass are asked not to park in the area close to the church to facilitate the movement of a high level inspection platform.

Cafod Coffee Morning – Friday 4th December after morning Mass – School children in attendance for the Blessing of the Crib and to help at Coffee morning

Cafod World Gifts - Love your neighbour this Christmas - Share the joy of Christmas with a CAFOD WORLD GIFT, a meaningful way to give to loved ones while putting your faith into action in solidarity with families around the world. Collect a World Gift Book from the Narthex and have a browse through it. On behalf of the parish we are buying 6 World Gifts this year - 2 School meals that matter, 2 Rebuild a home, 3 Cheerful Children's Stockings. Total cost of these gifts is £1890 and we are grateful for an anonymous donation of £500 towards these gifts. Thank you for your support.

Giving Tree 2026 - Our Christmas Giving tree is now at the back of the church and will remain till Sunday 13th December. Gift tags if needed will be on a table next to the tree (or use your own if you are able to contribute) All presents with tag attached need to be returned by 13th Dec as we will be delivering them to the charities we support on Monday 14th. Thank you so much for continuing to support this amazing parish initiative to support those less fortunate.

St Mary's 200 Club - September 2026			
1st	£200	286	Allan Hunt
2nd	£100	102	Sheila Green
3rd	£50	326	Barbera & Michael Davies

St Mary's 200 Club - October 2026			
1st	£200	316	Mary Sergeant
2nd	£100	327	Margot Ashe
3rd	£50	38	Ted Ryles

Sanctuary Lamps Week 29/11/26	
1	Memories of Mary Patricia Hewitt

Mass Attendance: Or Attendance last weekend			
7 pm Vigil	9:30 am	6:30 pm	Total
55			