



# Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

## News and Views

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Issue No 706 November 2026

The Royal British Legion Lostock Hall have confirmed the arrangements are as usual. The Remembrance Parade will take place again this year and are inviting as many people as possible to show respect and support this important day

The Parade will Fall in between 2 and 2:15 pm on 8th November and step off at 2:30 pm. The remembrance Service will take place at 3 pm at the memorial.

#### Lest We Forget

There will be laying of wreaths at the Browndge Memorial on the corner of Duddle Lane / Browndge Lane at 10:30 am on the same day.

Our Church will remember our deceased relatives on Saturday 14th November at the 5:30 pm Mass where relatives are invited to bring up a candle during the service in memory of their loved ones.



*We Remember them*

**Walking with the  
Saints in November**

**Page 3**

**November - Holy  
Souls**

**Page 7**

**Let ther be Light!**

**Page 11**

**Marriage Care - 80 yrs**

**Page 15**

**Diary**

**Page 22**



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## **Walking with the Saints in November**

**November** is a month of remembrance and hope. As the Church reflects on the communion of saints and prays for the faithful departed, we are reminded that our journey of faith is shared with all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. The saints celebrated this month encourage us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ and to trust in the promise of eternal life.

We begin with the great Solemnity of All Saints (1 November). On this day, the Church rejoices in the countless men, women, and children who now share fully in God's presence. Some are known throughout the world, while many are known only to God. Their lives remind us that holiness is the vocation of every Christian.

The following day, All Souls' Day (2 November), invites us to pray for all who have died. In love and hope, we commend them to God's mercy, trusting that Christ, who conquered death, will bring them into the fullness of His kingdom.

On 3 November, we remember St Martin de Porres, whose humility, charity, and care for the poor reflected the compassion of Christ. Walking with Martin encourages us to see Christ in every person and to serve others with kindness and generosity.

The next day we honour St Charles Borromeo (4 November), a bishop devoted to renewing the Church and caring for his people. His example reminds us that leadership is rooted in service, humility, and holiness.

On 7 November, we celebrate St Willibrord, missionary and Apostle of the Netherlands. His courage and dedication to spreading the Gospel encourage us to share our faith with perseverance and joy.

The Church commemorates St Leo the Great (10 November), pope and Doctor of the Church. His wisdom and steadfast defence of the faith remind us of the importance of remaining firmly rooted in Christ and His Church.

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On 11 November, we honour St Martin of Tours, remembered for sharing his cloak with a poor man and for a life marked by charity and simplicity. Walking with Martin reminds us that small acts of generosity can reveal God's love in powerful ways.

The following day brings the feast of St Josaphat (12 November), bishop and martyr. His commitment to unity among Christians challenges us to work for reconciliation and peace within the Church and the wider world.

On 16 November, we remember St Gertrude the Great, whose deep prayer and love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus continue to inspire Christians today. Her life encourages us to grow in trust and intimacy with the Lord.

The next day we celebrate St Elizabeth of Hungary (17 November), renowned for her generosity to the poor and her willingness to place the needs of others before her own. Elizabeth teaches us that true greatness is found in loving service.

On 18 November, we commemorate the Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter and St Paul, giving thanks for the witness of these two great apostles and for the unity and mission of the Church throughout the world.

The Church honours St Clement I (23 November), an early pope and martyr who guided the young Church with wisdom and fidelity. His witness reminds us of the enduring strength that comes from faith in Christ.

On 24 November, we remember St Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions, the martyrs of Vietnam. Their courage in the face of persecution bears powerful witness to the value of faith and the hope of eternal life.

The following day we celebrate St Catherine of Alexandria (25 November), a martyr renowned for her wisdom, learning, and steadfast belief in Christ. Walking with Catherine encourages us to seek truth boldly and to use our gifts in the service of God.



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As November draws towards its close, the Church's prayers continue to lift our hearts towards heaven. Surrounded by the witness of the saints and united in prayer for the faithful departed, we are reminded that Christ has conquered death and opened the way to eternal life.

As we walk with the saints throughout November, may their examples strengthen our hope, deepen our faith, and inspire us to live each day in the light of God's promises. May we draw comfort from their companionship and look forward with confidence to the joy of the heavenly kingdom.

Saints of God, walk with us

### **November – The Month of the Holy Souls**

The Church dedicates the month of November to prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. As the days grow shorter and nature reminds us of the passing of time, we are invited to reflect on the Christian hope of eternal life and to remember in a special way all those who have died.

Far from being a month of sadness alone, November is a month of hope. As Christians, we believe that death is not the end, but a passage to new life in Christ. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has opened the gates of heaven and promised eternal life to those who follow Him.

#### **Remembering Our Faithful Departed**

Many of us carry in our hearts the memories of loved ones who have died. November gives us an opportunity to pray for them, thank God for their lives, and entrust them to His loving mercy.

The Church teaches that our prayers can help the Holy Souls who are being purified before entering the fullness of heaven. This belief reflects the communion that exists between all members of the Church: those on earth, those being purified, and the saints in glory.



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## The Feasts of November

The month begins with two important celebrations:

1 November – All Saints' Day, when we honour all the saints in heaven, known and unknown.

2 November – All Souls' Day, when we pray for all the faithful departed.

Together, these feasts remind us that we are called to holiness and that our journey does not end with death.

## A Time for Prayer and Hope

During November, Catholics are encouraged to:

- Pray for deceased family members and friends
- Visit cemeteries and graves
- Have Masses offered for the dead
- Pray the Rosary and other prayers for the Holy Souls
- Reflect on the hope of the Resurrection

In praying for the dead, we also renew our own faith in God's promise that one day we shall be reunited with those we love.

## Living the Devotion

Devotion to the Holy Souls reminds us to:

- Live each day with faith and gratitude
- Place our trust in God's mercy
- Support those who are grieving
- Remember that our earthly life is a preparation for eternal life

By remembering the dead, we are also reminded of what truly matters: loving God and serving one another.

A Prayer for November  
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.  
Amen.

*Elizabeth Samuel Hampers*

&

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As we journey through November, may we remember all our faithful departed with love and prayer. Strengthened by the hope of Christ's Resurrection, may we look forward to the day when God will gather His people together in the joy and peace of His heavenly kingdom.

### **Let there be light - or maybe not.**

Whilst out dog-walking recently, I met a chap who said he lived in Anglesey and was visiting an old neighbour who had recently moved back to Lostock Hall after many years away.

He had a big interest in trains and we were talking appropriately on the railway bridge at Flag Lane, Penwortham. The subject got onto church when I said I had lived in Lostock Hall all my life. He asked if I attended church and I told him I did at Tardy St. Gerard's in the village.

We talked about church attendances and how all denominations were having to deal with falling numbers. He said he attended an Anglican church back at home and was on the parish council. They met monthly and the subject was always how they were going to survive, basically with growing costs, i.e. power, etc.

He told me that one thing came up recently which everyone had overlooked, why were all the lights switched on in the church at the morning service during the recent heatwave? He added that someone had asked just how many thousands of pounds had been lost due to completely unnecessary illumination of the church.

I suggested that maybe it was a health and safety issue and that if someone had an accident in a church without lighting on but still well sunlit and decided to sue, it was possibly a cheaper option to pay the 'Leccy Bill' than pay out thousands in compo!

I must admit that when I attend church, every light in the church is switched on despite blinding sunlight streaming through the windows during the summer.



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Kirsty Thompson, Director and Solicitor, holds The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) qualification and The Association of Lifetime Lawyers accreditation.

It all seems a far cry from the early 1960s when I served weekday mass at some ungodly hour and the only lights on in the church were on the sanctuary. I had to pick my way to the back of the church in almost total darkness to ring the bell!

**Tony Billington.**

### **Footnote**

A sweater I bought was picking up static electricity. Took it back to shop, they gave me another one free of charge!

## **CAFOD World Gifts: Giving Hope to Others**



CAFOD World Gifts are special charity gifts that help people living in poverty around the world. CAFOD, works to support communities facing challenges such as hunger, poverty and a lack of clean water.

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## **Marriage Care: Eighty years of Care for the Sacrament of Marriage!**

I've just read an article in the 'Tablet' (19/10/26) by Mark Molden the chief executive of Marriage Care which older parishioners will know used to be named the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council (CMAC) It was formed in August 1946 and this year marks its eightieth anniversary.

I've summarised the main points of Mark's article as I think it important that parishioners know why the CMAC was founded and the work Marriage Care continues to do today to support couples both before and after marriage.

As our country was emerging from the Second World War, families were struggling with separation, bereavement and trauma. Rationing continued and the shortage of homes was acute. One million homes were needed. There were however numerous marriages. 385,606 in England and Wales in 1946! Marriages were however breaking down in disturbing numbers. The church was struggling to cope with this and the CMAC was born from the conviction that couples needed somewhere to take their difficulties before they became irreparable. In the first few weeks 287 people approached the small team of counsellors in London with almost every type of matrimonial problem which if left unresolved could lead to complete rupture. A report in 1947 concluded that premarital advice held the key to success.

This still holds true today despite marriage no longer being seen as the near-universal gateway into adult life. In 2023, marriage rates between men and women were 18.1 unmarried men per thousand and 16.4 unmarried women per thousand. Compare this to 68.9 men per thousand and 53.6 women per thousand in 1946! Today cohabitation is the mainstream. Of couples marrying in the church and undergoing marriage prep with Marriage Care 78.3 per cent are living together and 14 percent of these already have children.

Having lived together however doesn't mean couples are familiar with the language of vocation, sacrament, and seeing marriage as a covenant of life giving love.

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Most couples today still have housing issues with insecure renting, and high mortgage costs and this often shapes decisions about marriage and children long before a couple enter a church. Many couples with families need both parents to work to make ends meet. The strain on a relationship comes when paid work, childcare, care of aging parents and financial anxiety leave a couple with little unhurried time for one another.

Added to this is the tyranny of online devices. It is estimated that UK adults spend an average of four and a half hours daily on personal devices mostly on smartphones.

‘A couple may share a sofa while inhabiting separate worlds...

Infidelity may now begin through a screen but the wound it causes is ancient.’

Parenthood brings joy and exhaustion but disagreements are rooted in each partner’s own childhood.

The deeper questions often go unspoken: ‘Do I matter to you.... Can I trust you when I’m vulnerable?’

The problems seen in the 1947 report remain contemporary! Counsellors at the time needed sound judgement, careful attention, a non judgemental and sympathetic approach. All skills vitally needed in today’s counsellors who draw on person-centred and attachment-based practice, alongside regular supervision and safeguarding.

Pope Francis in ‘Amoris Laetitia’ spoke about the Christian vision being brought to lived experience not as an abstract ideal of marriage far removed from the practical possibilities of family life.

The marriage preparation provided by Marriage Care tries to do this and feedback from couples attending courses testifies that almost three quarters of them believe the preparation had significantly enhanced their relationship and that they had valued the chance given them to discuss commitment, communication, conflict resolution faith, sex, money and family expectations before the wedding.

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The same principle applies when a marriage is in distress and professional counselling offered early should be part of the Church's pastoral response, not an emergency service for when separation appears imminent.

Marriage Care's founding insight has endured. 'Couples need practical skills a safe place to tell the truth and companions who do not give up on them.

Mark Molden goes on to say that although marriage has changed, couples continue to choose commitment and still desire to build a lasting life together. The pressures surrounding marriage have changed greatly in the last 80 years but learning to love another person wisely and well remains much the same.

Marriage Care echoes Catholic social teaching and the insights in Pope Francis' 'Amoris Laetitia' and, as such, continues to accompany couples in the reality of their lives, helping them to discover that committed love is both a gift to be nurtured and a contribution to the common good.

## **Margaret Cronin**

### **November Gardening**

1. Make a hedgehog-friendly corner - leave a quiet area with leaves, logs and natural cover. Check piles carefully before moving or burning them, as wildlife may already be sheltering inside.
2. Protect overwintering insects - Resist the temptation to clear every dead stem and seed head. Hollow stems, leaf litter and undisturbed soil can provide valuable shelter for insects.
3. Grow plants with winter berries - Consider planting:
  - Holly
  - Rowan
  - Cotoneaster
  - Hawthorn

Their berries can provide food for birds. Remember that some berries are poisonous to people and pets.

**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  
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Tel: 01772 335387 **Mobile 07442 385553 (9am-3pm)**

In an Emergency please phone either  
St Marys Brownedge 335168  
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**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

|                                         |                                        |              |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
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| News & Views, Website,                  | David Walker                           | 629701       |
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| Marriage Registrars                     | Margaret Cronin                        | 336475       |
|                                         | Ann Quinlan                            | 467306       |
| Parochial Centre                        |                                        |              |
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| 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](mailto:newsviews@saintgerards.org.uk)

The last day for submissions is the 20th of each month.

[www.saintgerards.org.uk](http://www.saintgerards.org.uk)

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# St Mary's Brownedge

## Live Streaming Times

<https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge>

|                         |                               |                              |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>           | <b>Mass</b>                   | <b>9:30 am &amp; 6:30 pm</b> |
| <b>Monday to Friday</b> | <b>Mass</b>                   | <b>9:30 am</b>               |
| <b>Private Prayer</b>   | <b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b> | <b>3 pm to 4 pm</b>          |
| <b>Saturday</b>         | <b>Mass</b>                   | <b>7 pm Vigil</b>            |

|             |                                           |             |                                                |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1st</b>  | <b>ALL SAINTS</b>                         | 18th        | Dedication of the Basilica of Ss Peteer & Paul |
| 2nd         | ALL SOULS                                 | 21st        | Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary        |
| 3rd         | St Martin de Porres                       | <b>22nd</b> | <b>CHRIST THE KING</b>                         |
| 4th         | St Charles Borromeo                       | 23rd        | St Clement                                     |
| 7th         | St Willibrord                             | 24th        | St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions                |
| <b>8th</b>  | <b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year</b> | 25th        | St Catherine of Alexandria                     |
| 9th         | Dedication of the Lateran Cathedral       | <b>29th</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>         |
| 10th        | St Leo the Great                          | 30th        | St Andrew                                      |
| 11th        | St Martin of Tours                        | 3rd         | St Francis Xavier                              |
| 12th        | St Josaphat                               | 4th         | St John Damascene                              |
| <b>15th</b> | <b>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year</b> | <b>6th</b>  | <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>                    |
| 16th        | St Gertrude                               | 7th         | St Ambrose                                     |
| 17th        | St Elizabeth of Hungary                   |             |                                                |

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