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Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

News and Views

Volunteers Afternoon 8th September 2019

We are extremely lucky to have so many enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. Last year as part of the Hope in the Future we had an afternoon buffet in the Parochial Centre as a thank you.

We are going to do the same this year on **8th September**. This will be your chance to meet and discuss Parish Life in the last 12 months and to learn what has been happening in that time. A great deal of time has been spent on re-structuring the administration of the Parish in-line with Salford Diocese practices and procedures.

It will also be an opportunity to find out what is going to happen in the future and discuss issues that may arise.

If you are a volunteer and can attend please add your name to the list in the porch so that we can cater for the right number.



Issue No 620 September 2019



Our Lady of Walsingham
24th September

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Senior Citizens Diary
2019/2020

Day	Date	Event
Monday	09/09/19	Get-Together
Monday	07/10/19	Get-Together
Monday	11/11/19	Get-Together
Monday	09/12/19	Christmas Party
Monday	13/01/20	Get-Together
Monday	10/02/20	Get-Together
Monday	09/03/20	Get-Together
Monday	20/04/20	Get-Together
Monday	11/05/20	Get-Together

**The Holy Land -
Insight evenings.**

Starting on **18th September** and then every month for the following 6 months we will be holding information evenings for those going on the Pilgrimage or anyone else who would like to learn more about the Holy Land.

Faith Formation Group - The meetings will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the each Month with the **next meeting being on 11th September.**

Parish Diary

September 2019

1st Sept	22nd Sunday of the Year B.S.G. Mass 10 am
3rd	St Gregory the great
6th	Cafod Coffee Morning—St Marys Brownedge 10 am to 11 am
8th	23rd Sunday of the Year
10th	St Ambrose Barlow
11th	Faith Formation Group meeting 7:30 pm
12th	Sacred Heart Guild Meeting 7 pm
13th	St John Chrysostom
14th	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
15th	24th Sunday of the Year 2nd Collection for Home Missions
16th	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian
18th	Holy Land—Insight Evening
20th	Ss Andrew Kim Ta0-gon & Paul Chong Ha-sang
21st	St Matthew
22nd	25th Sunday of the Year
23rd	St Pius of Pietrelcina
24th	Our Lady of Walsingham
27th	St Vincent de Paul
29th	26th Sunday of the Year
30th	St Jerome
1st Oct	St Therese of the child Jesus
2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels
4th	St Francis of Assisi
6th	27th Sunday of the Year B.S.G.Mass 10am

Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Gerard Majella
Salford Diocese - Registered Charity No. 250037

Pope Benedict on St John of the Cross

On 16th February 2011, during his general audience in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI focussed on St. John of the Cross during the third in a series of catecheses on the Doctors of the Church.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Two weeks ago I presented the figure of the great Spanish mystic Teresa of Jesus. Today I would like to speak about another important saint of that land, a spiritual friend of St. Teresa, a reformer, and like St. Teresa, a member of the Carmelite religious family: St. John of the Cross, proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI in 1926, and who is traditionally referred to as *Doctor Mysticus*, the “Mystical Doctor”.

John of the Cross was born in 1542 in the small village of Fontiveros, near Avila, in Castilla la Vieja, son of Gonzalo de Yepes and Catalina Álvarez. The family was very poor because the father, of noble birth from Toledo, was expelled from his home and disinherited for having married Catalina, a humble silk weaver. John’s father died when the youth was very young, and at nine years old John went with his mother and brother Francisco to Medina del Campo, near Valladolid, a commercial and cultural centre. Here he attended the ‘Colegio de los Doctrinos’, also carrying out humble works for the nuns of the church-convent of Magdalen.

Subsequently, given his human qualities and the results of his studies, he was admitted first as nurse in the Hospital of the Conception and later in the College of the Jesuits, just founded in Medina del Campo. John entered it at 18 and studied social sciences, rhetoric and classical languages for three years. At the end of his formation, his vocation was very clear to him: the religious life and, among the many orders present in Medina, he felt called to the Carmel.

In the summer of 1563 he began his novitiate among the Carmelites of the city, taking the religious name of Matthew. The following year he was sent to the prestigious University of Salamanca, where he studied



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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.

Parish Organisations

	CONTACT	
Advertising	John Corrigan	316295
Altar Servers	David Walker	629701
A.P.F. & Sacristan	Christine Flanagan	334723
Blessed Sacrament Guild		335387
Bowling Club	Warwick Hesmondhalgh	339700
CAFOD	Margaret Cronin	336475
Catechists & Sacramental Programme		335387
Children's Liturgy Group	Bridget Nisbet	324740
Choir	Jim Stokes	316574
Organist	Neil Coupe	322976
Drama Group	Grace Robinson	337844
Eucharistic Ministers & Readers	Michael Quinlan	467306
Flowers	Irene Crook	933407
Football Club	Phil Tinsley	07775890667
Fund Raising Group		335387
Gift Aid	John Robinson	335387
News & Views, Website, Printers	David Walker	629701
Majella Companions	Sister Louise	335387
Marriage Registrars	Margaret Cronin	336475
	Ann Quinlan	467306
Parochial Centre	Frank Redfean	338285
Piety Shop	Vivian Page	313910
P.T.A.	Ross Free	339691
Sacred Heart Guild	Mary Hardman	468311
Safeguarding Officer	Colette Kingswood	07769690874
	or Colette.kingswood@virginmedia.com	
School (Staff, Ancillaries & Governors)	Jackie McNally	335025
Senior Citizens Organisers	Linda Walsh	311654
	Gloria Duffell	339966
Youth Representative	Lee McNulty	07478703414

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

G.D.P.R. Privacy Notice. In order to withdraw your consent for us publish your details above or within this magazine, please contact Father Joe at (office@saintgerards.org.uk). All processing of personal data can cease upon request, with exception of legal obligations or instances where personal data is required to protect public safety.

Parish Directory

Father Joseph Gee
Sister Louise Shields RNDM
The Presbytery
17C Browndedge Road
Lostock Hall
Preston
PR5 5AA
Tel: 01772 335387

In an Emergency please phone
either
St Marys Browndedge 335168
St Mary's Leyland 455955
St Catherine's Farrington 421174
St Patricks W-L-Dale 253709 or
St Teresa's Penwortham on
743337

Contacts

The Primary School 335025
The Parochial Centre 339459

Baptisms

Are normally conducted on the first and third Sunday of each month at 12:00 noon. Baptism Preparations currently take place every few months on two successive Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. Please telephone the Parish Priest or Sister on 335387 for details.

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. There may be occasions when the 8.30am Mass on a Sunday is cancelled, but the Saturday 6pm and Sunday 10am Masses will be as usual.

Weekly Services

Sundays:

Saturday Vigil 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

Weekdays:

Monday 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday 9:15 a.m.
Thursday 9:15 p.m.
Friday NO MASS.

Holydays:

Eve 7:00 p.m.
Day 9:15 a.m.
7:00 p.m.

Reconciliation:

Confession + Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament
Saturday: 11:00 am to
12:00 noon

Philosophy and Arts for three years. In 1567, he was ordained priest and returned to Medina del Campo to celebrate his first Mass surrounded by the affection of his family.

It was precisely here that the first meeting took place between John and Teresa of Jesus. The meeting was decisive for both: Teresa set forth her plan for the reform of Carmel also in the masculine branch, and suggested that John adhere to it "for the greater glory of God". The young priest was fascinated by Teresa's ideas, to the point of becoming a great supporter of the project. They both worked together for some months, sharing ideals and proposals to open as soon as possible the first house of Discalced Carmelites. The opening took place on 28th December 1568, in Duruelo, a solitary place in the province of Avila.

With John, the first masculine community was formed with three other companions. On renewing their religious profession according to the Primitive Rule, the four adopted new names: John then called himself "of the Cross," the name with which he would later be known universally. At the end of 1572, at the request of St. Teresa, he became confessor and vicar of the Monastery of the Incarnation in Avila, where the saint was prioress. They were years of close collaboration and spiritual friendship, which enriched them both. During that period were written the most important Teresian works and John's first writings.

Adherence to the Carmelite reform was not easy, and it even resulted in grave suffering for John. The most dramatic incident was his seizure and imprisonment in 1577 in the convent of the Carmelites of the Ancient Observance of Toledo, which was the result of an unjust accusation. The saint remained in prison for six months, subjected to privations and physical and moral constraints. Here he composed, along with other poems, the famous *Spiritual Canticle*. Finally, on the night of 16th-17th August 1578, he was able to escape in a hazardous way, taking refuge in the monastery of the Discalced Carmelites of the city. St. Teresa and his companions celebrated his liberation with great joy and, after a brief time to regain his strength, John was sent to Andalucia, where he spent 10 years in several convents, especially in Granada. He took on increasingly important posts in the order, eventually becoming provincial vicar, and completed the writing of his spiritual treatises.

To be continued.....

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BOB-IN Café

Friday 20th September 2019
at 1 pm

Lostock Hall Library, Watkin Lane, Lostock Hall
Why not join us in an environment that is warm, safe and welcoming for all.
We Welcome:

- * Individuals or groups
- * Anyone who feels lonely or isolated
- * People living with dementia or suffering from memory loss & their carers *

You will have a chance to meet others in a friendly environment who you can chat with. The sessions runs alongside the library games afternoon and there will be activities and games on offer for all to enjoy.

Free Refreshments will be provided at this dementia friendly drop-in café.

To find out more please call Tony Stirland on 01772 625354
or
via e-mail

The **PARISH OFFICE** is open Monday (9.00-1pm) & Tuesday to Friday (09.00—12.00) but please check in advance if you intend to call in.

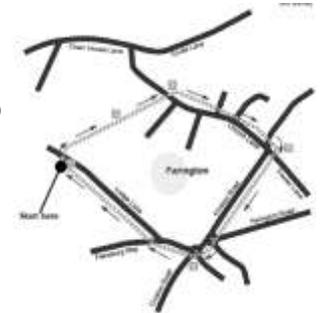
Father Joe is not available on Fridays: in an emergency please contact St Marys Brownedge or another neighbouring parish.

HEALTH WALKS & RAMBLES IN SOUTH RIBBLE IN SEPTEMBER

Farington Lodges – Health Walk approx 1.5 miles

This is a flat walk on a mix of tarmac pavement and toptrec path. The walk passes through two kissing gates and should take approx 45 minutes.

- Start from the car park at Farington Lodges.
- Facing the railway track, turn right, go through the kissing gate and take the right hand path.
- Follow the footpath through the lodges to the end.
- Exit through the kissing gate onto Church lane, turn right and staying on the footpath, walk all the way down to Croston road.
- Turn right and again staying on the footpath walk along past the double roundabouts.
- Turn right onto Flensburgh Way. Follow the footpath along to Lodge Lane and turn right. Continue to the bottom of Lodge Lane back to the car park.





CREATION MASS

Pope Francis has called for a World Day of Prayer on 1st September for the protection of creation and the greater promotion of sustainable lifestyles. This is the start of an ecumenical season of prayer which runs until 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

In June, more than 12,000 people gathered in Westminster from all over the country to lobby against carbon emissions (St Wilfrid's in Preston sent a coach). This was the biggest lobby of MPs in our parliamentary history. The UK has committed to cutting these emissions to zero by 2050. This is to be welcomed, but our praying, our lobbying and our petitions must not stop and we must continue to show our politicians that we support the hard choices which will be necessary to reach this target.

We are hoping to organise a celebration around harvest time, involving a Creation Mass followed by a Jacob's Join at the back of church, when members of our two parishes can bring along a small vegetarian contribution, have a chat about practical ways we can reduce our carbon footprint and sign a petition to the Prime Minister.

For more information on reducing our carbon footprint please look at the website: cafod.org.uk/climate

Margaret Cronin



The Parish Church of Mellieha in NE Malta is dedicated to the **Birth of Our Lady**, and was built between 1881 and 1898. All the stone was cut from a nearby quarry at I-Ahrax tal-Mellieha and transported up to Mellieha by the local peasants, who worked laboriously to see their wish of having a new church come true.

Once the church's building was completed, the Parish Priests Dun Frangisk Magri, Dun Carlo Cortis and Dun Indri Fenech endeavoured to embellish the interior. The church contains Saints relics, memorabilia of a visit by Pope Paul II and a History of the knights of Malta.

With thanks to Tony Billington for submission.

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BOWLING CLUB

The season is now drawing to a close most teams are in a safe position in their various leagues and in no danger of relegation at the time of writing this. Tuesday afternoon Vets A team are 5th in Division two, the Vets B team are top of Division four, the Thursday night team are in 5th place in Division four, and our Ladies are top of division two.

Leyland Presidents Day which is always held on the current Presidents green who is Alan Pemberton, so this was on the Victoria in South Meadow Lane Preston, we had a bowler Frank Kay reach the final day but was beaten in the first round.

Our final competition of the season is the Geoff McGahey Ladies v Men cup and will be on Sunday the 8th of September start at 1pm.

LOOKING BACK 2012

Bill Heyworth resigned as captain of the Preston team pre-season and Wally Kimmins took over the role, also Pauline Dobinson resigned from the Leyland Vets A and was replaced by Christine Flanagan.

Harry Wilson one of our long standing bowler and supporter

had his 90th birthday and decided to sponsor a competition during the season.

The bad weather we have been having is hampering the running of our competitions with some being cancelled.

The Father Forbes was won by Warwick Hesmondhalgh who beat Frank Alston in the final, and our Presidents Day was won by Jenny Connolly runner up was Eric Richardson.

W R Hesmondhalgh



The Altar at the Chapel of St Anne on Gozo at Dwejra Bay, Malta.

Thanks again to Tony Billington for sharing this with us.

Unfortunately, someone else opened the door. Jerry asked, "I thought Thomas was living here:'. The person said, "No! He left here and moved somewhere else:'. Jerry was disappointed. He started to walk along the street and the neighbours asked Jerry, "Are you looking for Thomas?" Jerry responded by nodding his head. The neighbours gave him his sons home and office address. Jerry thanked them and started towards the path which would lead to his son. Jerry went to the office and asked at the reception counter, "Could you please tell me the location of Thomas, in this office?" The receptionist asked, "May I know how you are related to him?" Jerry responded politely by saying, "I'm his father:'. The receptionist asked Jerry to wait for a moment and rang up Thomas. Thomas was shocked and told the receptionist to send his father to his office immediately.

Jerry entered the office and when he saw Thomas, his eyes were filled with tears. Thomas was happy to see his father. They had a simple conversation for a while and then Jerry asked Thomas, "Son! Your Mum wants to see you. Can you Come home with me?" Thomas responded, "No father. I can't come. I am very busy working at the moment and it's hard to manage leave to visit as my hands are full with loads of stressful work:'. Jerry gave a simple smile and said, "Okay! I'll be going back to our village this evening:'. Thomas asked, "You can stay for few days with me. Please:'. Jerry responded after a moment of silence, "Son. You are busy with your tasks. I don't want to make you uncomfortable or become a burden for you:."

After a few weeks, Thomas wondered why his father had come alone after such a long time, he felt bad for treating his father in a weird manner. He felt guilty for it and took leave for few days and went to his village to meet his father.

When he got to the house where he was born and grew up, he saw that his parents were not there. He was shocked and asked the neighbours, "What happened here? My parents lived here. Where are they now?" The neighbours gave the address of the place where his parents were staying.

Thomas rushed to the place and noticed that it was like a graveyard. Thomas eyes were filled with tears and he started to walk slowly towards the place. His father Jerry noticed Thomas in the distance and waved his hand to draw his attention. Thomas saw his father and started to run and hugged him.

Jerry asked, "How are you?" and continued, "What a surprise to see you here. I didn't expect you would be coming:'. Thomas felt ashamed and kept his head down. Jerry said, "Why are you feeling bad. Has anything wrong happened?" Thomas responded, "No father, It's just I didn't think that I would be seeing you in this position in our village:'. Jerry smiled and said, "I took out a loan when you moved to the city to pay for your college education, then again when you wanted a new car, but due to a loss in farming, I couldn't repay the loan. So I thought of approaching you for a help, but you were very busy and stressed out with your work. I just didn't want to burden you with our problem and kept silent and I had to let go of our home to repay the loan:'

Thomas whispered, "You could have told me. I'm not an outsider:'. Jerry turned around and said, "You were very busy and stressed with your work which made me remain silent. All we wanted was your happiness. So I kept quiet:'

Thomas started to cry and hugged his father again. He apologized to his father and asked to forgive him for his mistake. Jerry smiled and said, "No need for that. I'm happy with what I've got now. All I want is that you spare some time for us, we love you very much and at this old age it's hard to travel to see you often:'

Moral: *Parents will always be there and give everything they could just to make you happy. We take them for granted, we don't appreciate all they do for us until it's too late. When you find a path of success in your life, carry on but don't leave your parents behind as they are the true reason of your success.*



The Chapel of St Anne on Gozo at Dwejra bay, Malta.

The Chapel stands close to where the World Famous 'Azure Window' (AKA Tiegja Tad Dwejra) stood until a violent Storm destroyed it on 9th march 2017.

Thanks again to Tony Billington for sharing this photo with us.