



# Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### First Holy Communion

The Children in the Sacramental programme will have their First Holy Communion during July. Due to current restrictions the two masses will be for their families only.

Thanks are due to the parents and Catechists who this year have been having classes over zoom and a limited number of face to face meetings in church.

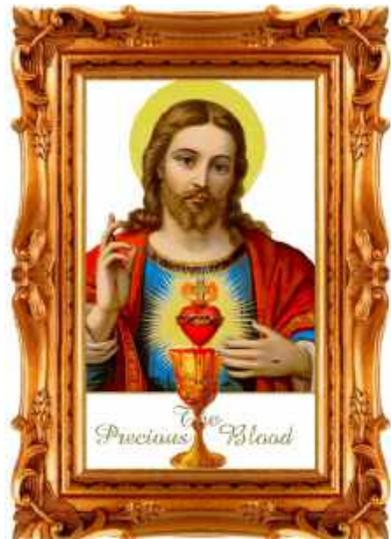
Please pray for the children as they make this next step in their Sacramental journey.

**Pope Francis to altar servers:  
"Offer your hands, thoughts and  
time to Jesus"**

Pope Francis sends a message for the 25th National Pilgrimage of the altar servers of Portugal, urging them to "put the enthusiasm of their age into the encounter of Jesus" and to "be original" as they bring forth the gifts and the unique personal talents the Lord has given them.

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## EULOGY FOR JOHN SEABROOK

John, also known as Jack, was born on March 6<sup>th</sup> 1938 at 259, Miller Road, Preston. His parents were Stafford and Alice Seabrook.



Edmund, John's son, writes, 'I have many fond memories of the good times he loved to share with us about playing in the woods called the 'Dingle' with his friends and enjoying the wide-open countryside which, at that time, wasn't far from their homes. I also recall stories of dad and his friends building very large snowballs so big that they blocked the road so that cars and buses, couldn't get through. Then there was a game called 'knock a door run' when a black cotton string was tied to a

door knocker, then pulled as those who did the pulling scrambled into hiding in the nearby graveyard.

Other special times he shared with us were being taken fishing by his dad, early on a Sunday morning on the banks of the Ribble, hoping to catch Chub and eels or when he would go with his father to Preston North End, John being passed over the turnstiles, to watch Tom Finney on the cinders at the side of the pitch while huge crowds cheered, roared and swayed. Dad was a true 'Lilley White' - a keen Preston fan himself often taking me to the grounds as a child as well.

John had four sisters and one brother Jean, Margaret, Trudy, Joan and Stafford. Stafford unfortunately died at a young age as a result of an accident in the army.

Dad loved the countryside so much that this resulted in his family giving him the nickname of the 'North Countryman'! He loved going to Blackpool, riding on the trains and trips to the Lake District.

In Sept 58 Dad did his National Service in the army with the Royal Pioneer Corps and although he had many happy memories, he openly admitted to me that he couldn't wait for it to end in order to get back home to his family.

Dad enjoyed a real ale pint and spent many good times with a gang of friends he knew, socialising with them in Preston. He then met his wife Mary, and the gang went their separate ways. John and Mary were married on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1966 at St. Gerard's – the year that England won the world cup!

Dad was a devoted family man, working at Leyland motors for the greater part of his working life and bringing up his 3 children Rachel, Edmund and Hannah. When he retired he enjoyed looking after his 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He also helped at the church. John was sacristan at St. Gerard's for many years and I recall one occasion at the Easter Vigil when dad and I prepared the Easter Fire for Fr. Gordon to bless and light using an old BBQ. Dad and I who loved building fires got a bit over enthusiastic with the amount of wood we piled on. The weather that day was bad so Fr. asked us to put the fire on the church steps. When Fr. Lit the fire it very soon became an inferno which almost set the church doors alight. As dad tried to move the fire into the car park the parishioners tried to make their way into the church which was, by now full of smoke. How Fr. Gordon's Vestments didn't catch fire that day we will never know.

John was also a Member of the Blessed Sacrament Guild for many years, a role that he took very seriously. And I recall him on many occasions during Lent carrying the cross at the Stations of the Cross after which I would take him for a fish and chip supper!

Although our hearts are broken, when Fr Joe mentioned that Dad had died on June 19<sup>th</sup> the memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, this became a source of strength for all the family and eased our sadness and grief at his passing.

John was a very honest and humble man with a strong faith who would do anything for anyone. May the Lord now reward him with Eternal life when he will be reunited with his wife Mary, no doubt, both of them interceding for all of us still here on earth. May John rest in peace.

Written by Edmund on behalf of all the Seabrook Family, with love.

## **Pre Marriage Preparation**

It is mandatory for couples wishing to be married in a Catholic church in Salford Diocese to attend a marriage preparation course.

Several years ago marriage preparation at St Gerard's took place over several evenings at the back of church but more recently it became standardised throughout the diocese and, with bishop John's support, marriage care offered several Saturday courses a year at various venues. The nearest one to Lostock Hall was in Blackburn and Ann Quinlan, Mick and I presented this course.

Feedback suggests that couples found the day useful and informative. Issues explored centred on values and expectations, fears, individual differences, communication, conflict resolution and spirituality.

For couples the day provided a chance to focus solely on their relationship and was often seen as a welcome relief from the hype and hectic arrangements which we know can take over and detract from the celebration of the sacrament of marriage!

Since Covid, face-to-face courses haven't been allowed but hopefully these will be resuming later this year. Meanwhile Marriage Care has been offering zoom courses with no more than 5 couples. These take place one evening a week for three weeks and last about an hour and a half. The same topics are discussed but these courses have the advantage of giving couples a few days break to explore issues together and then to bring them back the following week for further discussion.

For information on any of these courses and how to book on them please see the Marriage Care website at [marriagecare.org.uk](http://marriagecare.org.uk) or speak to Ann, Michael, myself or Fr Joe.

Many thanks.

**Margaret (Cronin)**



## **CAFOD ZOOM MEETING WITH OUR MP**

On Cafod's behalf I would like to thank the 15 parishioners from Our Lady and St Gerard's and St Mary's BM er Bridge who attended the zoom meeting with our MP Nigel Evans to discuss issues relating to CAFOD's latest project around climate change and international development prior to the G7 meeting in Cornwall and the November COP 26 meeting in Glasgow.

Questions centred around climate change and the cancellation of debt to the world's poorest countries so that they can divert the huge interest payments they are currently paying to fund their vaccination programme and their response to the pandemic. We also questioned the £4billion shortfall in funds that the UK is sending this year to the worlds poorest countries as a result of cutting the aid budget from 0.7 per cent to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income.

Mr Evans responded carefully to each of our questions and was broadly sympathetic to our aims. It was helpful that he had formerly been an international development minister. He discussed some of the ways the government is attempting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and agreed that the November COP 26 meeting in Glasgow is going to be a vital factor in the world's richest nations agreeing ambitious targets to bring about a huge reduction in emissions as soon as possible.

We all agreed that debt cancellation is a complex issue especially given the huge debts incurred by the pandemic in our own country but Nigel agreed that renegotiation of debt has to be a priority for the world's poorest economies as they are already on their knees trying to crawl out of the pandemic. Pope Francis has been very clear in his call for debt cancellation and has recently sent letters to the IMF and world leaders to this effect.

Regarding spending on aid, Nigel agreed that as soon as possible the commitment, enshrined in law, that the UK would send 0.7 per cent of GDP to projects in the developing world needs to be reinstated. It is estimated that we have already spent £372 billion on our Covid response in the UK and CAFOD feels that to reduce our help to countries in desperate need by £4 billion pounds is mean-spirited to say the least. This reduction in aid is also seen as a retrograde step by many back benchers across the parliamentary

divide. Indeed only last week this issue was debated hotly in parliament!

So far 32 parishes across the UK have hosted zoom meetings with their MPs to highlight these issues and CAFOD were grateful for our attempts at St Gerard's to highlight them by using our voice to put pressure on those in power to effect real change.

There is lots of information on the CAFOD website about their latest campaigns and they are asking as many people as possible to sign the online petition to the prime minister, as host to COP 26, urging him to put pressure on other world leaders to bring about real change to end the climate emergency. There are green cards at the back of church for those unable to sign online. These can be sent directly to CAFOD or given to either Michael or myself to send off in bulk.

Thank you again!

Margaret and Michael

## **THANK YOU**

A huge thank you to the family of Jean Brennand who gave us £135 to forward to CAFOD. This was collected at her funeral in her memory. Jean was St Gerard's CAFOD representative for many years. What a lovely way to ensure her work continues! Rest in Peace Jean.

### **Pope Francis to altar servers: "Offer your hands, thoughts and time to Jesus"**

The Holy Father said that Our Lady will be happy to see the altar servers around her and that she will whisper to them in the same manner as she did the servants at the first miracle of Jesus at Cana: "Do whatever He tells you." "Be holy" "Here is the first thing Jesus says to each one of you: be holy," Pope Francis said to the altar servers. He reminded them of the good fortune they have to approach the altar where the host and wine are consecrated to become the Body and Blood of Our Lord, adding that though their eyes do not see Jesus, their lips and hearts adore Him. The Pope urged them to behave as befits the service of holy things, conforming their interior and exterior attitudes to be in accordance with what they do, especially when they are near the altar, or when they make the sign of the cross, sit or participate in prayers and hymns in common.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE  
ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**

*To Her Excellency Mrs. Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director  
and to His Excellency Mr. Qu Dongyu, FAO Director-General*

*Your Excellencies,*

Tomorrow (4th June 2021) we will celebrate World Environment Day. This annual commemoration encourages us to remember that everything is interconnected. A true «concern for the environment needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society.

Tomorrow's celebration, however, will have a special significance, as it will take place in the year in which the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration begins. This decade invites us to make ten-year commitments aimed at caring for our common home by «supporting and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration.

In the Bible we read that: The heavens declare the glory of God; / the skies proclaim the work of his hands. / Day after day they pour forth speech; / night after night they reveal knowledge. / They have no speech, they use no words; / no sound is heard from them.

We are all part of this gift of creation. We are a part of nature, not separated from it. This is what the Bible tells us.

The current environmental situation calls us to act now with urgency to become ever more responsible stewards of creation and to restore the nature that we have been damaging and exploiting for too long. Otherwise, we risk destroying the very basis on which we depend. We risk floods, and hunger and severe consequences for ourselves and for future generations. This is what many scientists tell us.

We need to take care of each other, and of the weakest among us. Continuing down this path of exploitation and destruction – of humans, and of nature – is unjust and unwise. This is what a responsible conscience would tell us.

We have a responsibility to leave a habitable common home for our children and for future generations.

However, when we look around ourselves, what do we see? We see crisis leading to crisis. We see the destruction of nature, as well as a global pandemic leading to the death of millions of people. We see the unjust consequences of some aspects of our current economic systems and numerous catastrophic climate crises that produce grave effects on human societies and even mass extinction of species.

And yet there is hope. We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology; we can put it at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral.

We are witnessing new engagement and commitment by several States and non-Governmental actors: local authorities, the private sector, civil society, youth ... efforts aimed at promoting what we can call “integral ecology”, which is a complex and multidimensional concept: it calls for long-term vision; it highlights the inseparability of «concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace; it is aimed at restoring the various levels of ecological equilibrium, establishing harmony within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God. It makes each of us aware of our responsibility as human beings, towards ourselves, towards our neighbour, towards creation and towards the Creator.

However, we are warned that we have little time left – scientists say the next ten years, the span of this UN Decade – to restore the ecosystem, which will mean the integral restoration of our relation with nature.

The many “warnings” we are experiencing, among which we can see Covid-19 and global warming, are pushing us to take urgent action. I hope that the COP26 on climate change, to be held in Glasgow next November, will help to give us the right answers to restore ecosystems both through a strengthened climate action and a spread of awareness and consciousness.

We are also impelled to rethink our economies. We require a «further and deeper reflection on the meaning of the economy and its

goals, as well as a profound and far-sighted revision of the current model of development, so as to correct its dysfunctions and deviations. Ecosystem degradation is a clear outcome of economic dysfunction.

Restoring the nature we have damaged means, in the first place, restoring ourselves. As we welcome this United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, let us be compassionate, creative and courageous. May we take our proper place as a “Restoration Generation”.

## **SHRINE CHURCH OF ST. WALBURGE'S**

As part of the concerted fundraising efforts, alongside a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding, towards the costs of restoring the iconic St Walburge's Church, Preston, an organ recital will be held in the church on the evening of Saturday 21 August between 6.30pm and approximately 8.30pm.

The programme will be a colourful collection of baroque and early classical works from Germany and Austria, featuring legendary composers, Johann Sebastian Bach and Joseph Haydn.

The recital will be by accomplished organist, Sean Maxwell, an American currently based in Austria and the church will be a magnificent backdrop to enjoy the compositions of such wonderful musicians - this event will be the only one of its kind in the North West.

Tickets will sell out fast so book early to avoid disappointment

Tickets: Adults £15, Senior £12, Student £10, Friends £8,  
Children £5

Please share this with your family, friends, parishes, and contacts and help support the restoration of this Grade 1 listed gem, a symbol of Preston, Lancashire and the North West.

Thank you for your support.

Best Wishes,

St Walburge's Restoration Fundraising Group

## Walking Route Cards

We usually publish monthly a list of Health Walks & Rambles in and around the Borough, but for the last few months these have not been happening. The walks of course are still there and the Walking route Cards are available via the South Ribble Website at <https://www.southribble.gov.uk/content/walking-route-cards>

Why not put your best foot forward and download one of these free Walking Route Guides?

The walks range in distance from 1.5 miles to almost 8 miles, with starting points to be found all over the borough.

Listed below are the walks you can download and the distances, the first four are very local and you probably know them

- 01. Farington Lodges Walk (1.5 miles)**
- 02. Farington Lodges Walk (3.5 miles)**
- 03. Hope Terrace Walk (5.5 miles)**
- 04. Tardy Gate Walk (1.5 miles)**
05. New Longton & Whitestake Walk (2.5 miles)
06. Longton Coastal Walk (5.0 miles)
07. Longton Brickcroft Walk (1.5 miles)
08. Hutton & Longton Coastal Walk (7.0 miles)
09. Penwortham Heritage Trail 1 (2.0 Miles)
10. Penwortham Heritage Trail 2 (2.5 miles)
11. Penwortham Heritage Trail 3 (4.3 miles)
12. Penwortham Heritage Trail - Howick & Hutton Circular (3 miles)
13. Penwortham & Howick Riverside Walk (4.1 miles)
- 14. Old Tram Road & Walton-le-Dale Walk (5 miles)**
- 15. Bamber Bridge & Walton Park Walk (5.5 miles)**
16. Gregson Lane & Coupe Green Walk (3.6 miles)
17. Nabs Head Samlesbury Walk (5 miles)
- 18. Lostock Hall Heritage Trail (3.5 miles)**
- 19. Lostock Hall and Farington Railway Heritage Trail (3.5 miles)**
- 20. St Mary's Parish Boundary Walk (7.7 miles)**
21. St Leonard's Parish Boundary Walk (5 miles)

# Jump Back Up July 2021



## ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

## Happier · Kinder · Together



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 <p>5 Get the basics right: eat well, exercise and go to bed on time</p>	 <p>6 Pause, breathe and feel your feet firmly on the ground</p>	 <p>7 Shift your mood by doing something you really enjoy</p>	<p>1 Take a small step to help overcome a problem or worry</p>	 <p>2 Adopt a growth mindset. Change "I can't...yet" to "I can't...yet!"</p>	<p>3 Be willing to ask for help when you need it.</p>	 <p>4 Find something to look forward to today</p>
<p>19 If you can't change it, change the way you think about it</p>	<p>20 When things go wrong, pause and be kind to yourself</p>	<p>13 Challenge negative thoughts: Find an alternative interpretation</p>	<p>15 Set yourself an achievable goal and take the first step</p>	<p>16 Find fun ways to distract yourself from unhelpful thoughts</p>	<p>17 Use one of your strengths to overcome a challenge today</p>	<p>18 Let go of the small stuff and focus on the things that matter</p>
<p>26 Catch yourself over-reacting and take a deep breath</p>	<p>27 Write down 3 things you're grateful for today (even if today was hard)</p>	<p>14 Get outside and move to help clear your head</p>	<p>22 Find 3 things you feel hopeful about and write them down</p>	<p>23 Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time</p>	<p>24 Choose to see something good about what has gone wrong</p>	<p>25 Notice when you are feeling judgmental and be kind instead</p>
<p>28 Think about what you can learn from a recent problem</p>	<p>29 Be a realistic optimist. Focus on what could go right</p>	<p>21 Identify what helped you get through a tough time in your life</p>	<p>31 Reach out to a friend, family member or colleague for support</p>	<p>30 Reach out to a friend, family member or colleague for support</p>	<p>31 Remember we all struggle at times - it's part of being human</p>	

You should consult your Doctor or other health care professional before starting this or any other fitness program to determine if it is right for your needs.

# Parish Directory

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

In an Emergency please phone  
either

St Marys Brownedge 335168  
St Mary's Leyland 455955  
St Catherine's Farrington  
421174

St Patricks W-L-Dale 253709 or  
St Teresa's Penwortham on

## Contacts

743337  
The Primary School 335025

# Weekly Services

## Sundays:

Saturday Vigil 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday 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 6:30 p.m.  
Day 9:15 a.m.

Reconciliation: Confessions  
before Weekend Masses.

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 18:00 to 18:30

## 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.

## Marriages

At least six months notification of Marriage is required. Pre-marriage instruction is mandatory and organised by the Diocese. Please tele-

## Parish Organisations

### CONTACT

Advertising	John Corrigan	316295
Altar Servers	David Walker	629701
A.P.F. & Sacristan	Christine Flanagan	334723
Blessed Sacrament Guild		335387
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	Carole Hesmondhalgh	339700
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 Redfearn	338285
Piety Shop	Vivian Page	313910
P.T.A.	Ross Free	339691
Sacred Heart Guild	Mary Hardman	468311
Safeguarding Officer	email: <a href="mailto:safeguarding@saintgerards.org.uk">safeguarding@saintgerards.org.uk</a>	
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](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)

**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](mailto: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.

**St Mary's, Brownedge**  
**Live Streaming Times**  
<https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge>

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9:30 am 11:00 & 6:30 pm
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9:30 am
<b>Private Prayer</b>	<b>Tuesday Thursday</b>	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
	<b>Rosary</b>	8.00 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9:30 am 7 pm Vigil
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9:30 am 11:00 & 6:30 pm

## Parish Diary

<b>4th</b>	<b>14th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>St Ignatius of Loyola</b>
<b>11th</b>	<b>15th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>1st Aug</b>	<b>18th Sunday of the Year</b>
15th	St Bonaventure	4th	St John Mary Vianney
16th	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	6th	The Transfiguration of the Lord
<b>18th</b>	<b>16th Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>8th</b>	<b>19th Sunday of the Year</b>
22nd	St Mary Magdalen		
23rd	St Bridget of Sweden		
<b>25th</b>	<b>17th Sunday of the Year</b>		
26th	Ss Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
29th	St Martha		

### EMAIL ADDRESS

**We have changed our parish email address and are introducing a few more contacts in the near future. The main email is now :**  
**office@saintgerards.org.uk**  
**&**  
**News and Views email is now:**  
**newsview@saintgerards.org.**



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Lancashire PR1 7XS  
**01772 254 936**

#### **KENYONS**

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[www.themillatstcatherinespark.co.uk](http://www.themillatstcatherinespark.co.uk) | 01772 695277

The Mill, St Catherine's Park, Lostock Lane,  
Lostock Hall, Preston, Lancashire, PR5 5XU

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