

# Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

Lostock Hall - Preston - PR5 5AA

Parish Team Fr Joseph Gee & Sister Louise Shields RNDM

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## The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Year A

16th August 2020

This great feast is a twin to the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Then, if you recall, the preface of the Mass contained these words: Christ is the beginning, the head of the Church; where he has gone, we hope to follow. Today we celebrate the first of us to do just that, as we remember Mary following our Lord into heaven. She is the first to follow him - but not the last: this feast should help open our eyes to our final destination, heaven. So this feast pushes us right back to Easter, to thoughts of death and resurrection: it is the second reading which underlines all this. It talks of the gradual resurrection of the dead: Christ first, then those who belong to him. Of these, the first is Mary, she who was without stain of original sin, she who was most blessed of all women. In her, today, we see the fulfilment of the vision of the first reading: the end of death and the victory of life in Christ.



**Advanced Notice** - The only Mass for the next two Sundays 23rd & 30th August at St Gerard's will be at 11 am. There will be **NO Saturday VIGIL Mass** on these weekends. There are also **NO WEEKDAY Masses until 1st September**. All the Masses at St Mary's Brownedge are available via the Streaming Service,

member of the Syrian Group, Kaye Hodgson from St. Mary's Brownedge, is cycling 214km to raise funds for our Syrian refugee project. If you'd like to help with this very important project please donate either with an envelope marked 'Syrian Group' or online via [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kayecyclingforrefugees](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kayecyclingforrefugees)

**FACE COVERINGS** - From 8th August face-coverings will be mandatory in church. People with respiratory issues, children under 11 years of age and some other people are exempt. Face-coverings can be removed by readers as they read the scriptures. The Priest needs only wear a face-covering when off the sanctuary and distributing Communion.

**CHURCHES RE-OPENING SAFELY** - The Church wants to ensure that the safety of people is paramount so we will proceed with small steps and will require some trial and error. **Thus, there is no rush to return to Mass; the Sunday Mass obligation is still dispensed while we try to implement a safe way for us to celebrate.** Every church building must have a risk assessment and a calculation made as to how many people it can hold observing 2 metre social distancing. Saint Gerard's can accommodate approx 70 individual people with 2 metre safe distancing (3 single, two doubles (either end) or family bubble in each alternate row, stewards will direct).

**The God who speaks through Creation - Online Talk** - The Department for Formation is delighted to welcome Sr. Margaret Atkins, CRSA, to present a Talk on The God who speaks through creation on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm. This talk will be delivered via Zoom as part of the series The God who speaks which was to be hosted at the Hidden Gem but postponed due to the pandemic. We hope this will lead to a resumption of some of the other planned evenings. Sister Margaret Atkins is a Canoness of St Augustine in the community at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria. She is a lecturer and author in Theology with special interest, amongst other things, in the ethics of the environment. If you wish to hear Sr. Margaret please email [formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) and mark it 'God who speaks' in the subject line. You will receive a link for the zoom meeting on the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> August. Please, for security reasons, do not pass this link on to anyone else.

**WE REMIND YOU THAT THERE IS NO OBLIGATION FOR SUNDAY MASS AT THE MOMENT.** If you are able to come to weekday Mass that might spread the numbers so that everyone could get to Mass once a week at some point leaving Sunday Mass for people who work during the week.

**Syrian Group:** Due to the current pandemic some fundraising activities planned by the Syrian Group have had to be postponed. However, a key

- Do not enter the church if you have any of the Covid-19 symptoms.
- The Church will be OPEN 30 minutes before Mass times to avoid congestion or queuing.
- Sanitize hands at the hand stations on entry and exit.
- Please indicate to the stewards at the door how many you are and they will show you where to sit.

- Consider a **weekday Mass** rather than a Sunday Mass if you can. (after 1st September)
- You are asked **not to kneel down and to touch as few surfaces as possible.**
- The priest or minister will sanitize their hands immediately before and after distributing Holy Communion.
- You will be guided to Holy Communion section by section and receive only in the hand with arms outstretched across a table; you will be asked to return to your place by a circuitous route.
- Offertory boxes will be in the porch to put any envelopes or collection offerings in as you enter or leave the Church.
- The Church **WILL NOT** be Open for Private Prayer during the week.
- The TOILETS are **NOT IN USE** at the present time.
- You may want to bring your own missal or tablet with you.

**NOTE:** The diocese have recently issued directions that churches not adhering to all the guidelines as directed may be closed and have to undergo another health and safety inspection before being allowed to reopen. Please follow the direction of the stewards at all times. Please sit where you are directed, do not move up or along the benches and touch as few surfaces as possible, do not gather in the Porch on entering and leaving and keep to the 2 metre rule both inside the Church and outside within the Church grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES** — If you haven't received this years envelopes please speak to one of the Stewards and they will locate them for you.

Average Attendance at Mass	
Weekday	15
Saturday Vigil	33
Sunday 8:30 am	23
Sunday 10:00 am	32

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Z	I	M	E	A	E	D	S	F	P
T	O	S	R	H	Z	L	S	R	I
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## St Mary's, Brownedge

### Live Streaming Times

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9:30 am 6:30 pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9:30 am
	<b>Rosary</b>	8:00 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9.30 am
	<b>Private Prayer</b>	5.00—6.00 pm
	<b>Rosary</b>	8:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9:30 am
	<b>Rosary</b>	8:00 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9.30 am
	<b>Private Prayer</b>	5.00—6.00 pm
	<b>Rosary</b>	8:00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Mass</b>	9:30 am
	<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 6:30 pm

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
<b>Sunday</b>	16th Aug	11:00	The Parish
	23rd Aug	11:00	The Parish
	30th Aug	11:00	The Parish

### PAROCHIAL CENTRE

The Parochial Centre is open again for members and for PRIVATE FUNCTIONS, including Baptism and Funeral gatherings.

Please contact the Steward during opening hours to discuss arrangements and restrictions on number at the present time.

#### For the Children

MARY	JUDAH	ZECHARIAH
ELIZABETH	CHILD	WOMB
HOLY	SPIRIT	CRY
BLESSED	FRUIT	LEAPT

