



Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

Linstock Hall - Preston - PR5 5AA

Parish Team Fr Joseph Gee & Sister Louise Shields RNDM

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15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

18th July 2021



“Sheep without a shepherd.” This is the simple theme of today's readings. It is interesting that Jesus' reaction to the crowd is one of pity – as he sees their great thirst for his teachings. This is, in a sense, a clear fulfilment of the prophecy we hear in the first reading, where God promises a true shepherd who will care for the people of Israel. Shepherding is a particularly suitable image of God's love and care. The dependency of the sheep on their shepherd, their wandering and drifting without someone to guide them, is also a suitable image of the people God loves. Our own age also displays sheep without shepherds - a great wandering crowd, seeking something, but not knowing what they are seeking. It is to this flock that the present day followers of Jesus are sent as shepherds.

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:

**Patrick Rostron, John Seabrook,
David Galloway, Margaret Porter,
Dominic McCrudden, Rita Rossall,
Sister Mary Higney.**

Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England

“On 19 July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the Covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship. **Sunday Obligation** - We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God. **It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021.** In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church. **Further guidance has also been issued which we will study in the coming week to see if there is anything we can or need to change locally.**

Congratulations to the Children in the **Sacramental Programme** who made their First Holy Communion last weekend and to those making it this weekend. Please continue to pray for them.

Our Lady's and St Gerard's Parish Sacramental Programme 2021-2022

- Any child (aged 7 or over, or who is in year 3 from September) and is **BAPTISED ROMAN CATHOLIC** will be eligible for the Parish Sacramental programme for 2021-22 to be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. If you want to enrol your child on the Sacramental programme, please collect an application pack from the parish office from September 1st 2021. These will need to be returned fully completed by Friday 17th September 2021 to the PARISH OFFICE. Please refer to the parish newsletter and parish website for any information regarding the programme.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer - 17th/18th July

- Let us pray, this week, for the parish of Christ the Redeemer, Bolton, its parishioners and Fr. Morrough O'Brien, their parish priest and Rural Dean. We pray for their three parish primary schools. May the Lord raise up shepherds from amongst them to serve the People of God, as priests, deacons and lay disciples.

Online Christian Retreats via Zoom

- Created and Led by Donna Worthington, all retreats are an invitation to be rejuvenated and affirmed in faith, to know Christ better and to open up sacred space in order to listen to the Holy Spirit and experience a living spirituality that consoles, challenges and inspires. Varied methods enable Christians to deepen their own discipleship and travel on in their faith journeys (presentation, theological discussion, stillness, prayer, creative sessions, images, music etc). **All retreats cost £20, unless otherwise stated.** For bookings, please see the website or contact Donna Worthington: drworthington@live.co.uk www.christianretreats.live

THE HANDLESS WOMAN | Through the depths of an ancient story 'The Handless Woman', we will explore the wisdom which speaks to our heroic journeying. **Sat 24th July 10am-1pm**

Christian Heritage Centre Event - Faith & Reason: A Catholic Integration A short, residential summer course exploring the relationship of faith with philosophy, science and culture. Particularly helpful for catechists and teachers fielding commonly-asked questions around Catholicism, besides anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of the Faith. **Runs 5th – 8th August.** For more info and registration, <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/faith-and-reason/>

ECO THOUGHT OF THE WEEK - In today's Gospel, Jesus took the apostles to a lonely place to rest for a while. *Might we find time and space in these weeks to rest for a while and enjoy the beauty of God's gift of creation?*

CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT REMINDER - The diocesan safeguarding office have asked that parents be reminded of the need for them to supervise their children and young people at parish activities and events. It is important that children are not simply dropped off for activities unaccompanied, as there are robust guidelines re: the supervision ratios for all church activities and events. Furthermore there are legal requirements regarding activities for children and young people that we cannot meet unless a parent, or carer is present with the child or young person.

TRACK & TRACE - Following another easing of Lockdown we have been asked to encourage Smartphone Users to use the Track & Trace **QR Code** displayed in the Narthex on your arrival.

Online Retreat for Married Couples - The organisers of the online prayer resource Pray As You Go, in partnership with the Westminster Diocese's Marriage and Family Life Team, offer an Audio Retreat for Married Couples. It uses as its base ingredients scripture, the Ignatian tradition and other Christian insights to provide a simple recipe,

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	17th July Vigil	6:00 pm	Monica Sharples
Sun	18th July	10:00 am	16th Sunday of the Year The Parish
Mon	19th July	1:30 pm	School Leavers Mass Yr 6 School Children ONLY
Tues	20th July	9:15 am	James Maher
Wed	21st July	9:15 am	Eilish Walsh
Thurs	22nd July	9:15 am	St Mary Magdalen (F)
23rd	16th July		St Bridge of Sweden (F) NO MASS
Sat	24th July Vigil	6:00 pm	The Parish
Sun	25th July	10:00 am	17th Sunday of the Year Walter, Muriel & Bernard Adams

St Mary's, Brownedge Live Streaming Times https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge		
Sunday	Mass	9:30 am 11:00 & 6:30 pm
Monday to Friday	Mass	9:30 am
Open for Private Prayer	Tuesday Thursday	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
	Rosary	8.00 pm
Saturday	Mass	9:30 am 7 pm Vigil
Sunday	Mass	9:30 am 11:00 & 6:30 pm

which you can then enjoy blending together to make a tasty, exciting and balanced meal to feed your marriage. Further information can be found here [Where two are gathered - a marriage retreat | Pathways to God](#)

R	E	T	S	T	S	E	R	A	W
A	N	Y	A	W	A	H	A	D	Y
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H	A	L	T	P	R	E	R	H	P
M	C	O	T	R	P	O	R	P	E
A	W	A	U	S	H	E	L	E	H
N	A	H	E	S	O	A	T	H	S
Y	W	A	A	T	C	P	W	S	S
A	Y	W	A	E	G	R	A	L	E

APOSTLES	PLACE	BOAT
MANY	TOWN	ASHORE
LARGE	REST 	CROWD
SHEEP	SHEPHERD	TEACH



Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound and for those who have asked for your Prayers.