



## 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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### 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

25th July 2021



For the next five weeks we take our leave of Saint Mark's Gospel (since it is not long enough to fill the year) and read Chapter Six of Saint John's Gospel. This is the famous "Eucharistic Discourse" and begins with the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. A line of the Psalm gives the meaning of today's readings: "The eyes of all creatures look to you (O God) and you give them their food in due time." Our God is the God who provides for his people; the prosperity and fruitfulness of our earth and the mysterious cycles of nature ensures that all have what they need - and have some left over. The actions of Elisha and Jesus are in a sense prophetic: many would say that there is not enough food in this world to go round, just as the two sets of disciples complain that there is not enough for the hundred or the five thousand. But the prophetic action states that this is not true: God provides what is needed. This might prompt us to think about the unfair and unequal distribution of the fruits of the earth: the miracle is a sign of the Kingdom of God - what God wants the world to be like. Perhaps we should take the message of the miracle to heart this Sunday and think about the multitude that still sits in hunger in our world today.

#### Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:

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

- **Holy Communion will continue to be in the one form**, and you should approach the Priest at the front or Eucharistic Minister at the rear one bench at a time as you have done for the last year and observe the one-way system that we have been using.

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

#### However, on a positive note:

**Covid-19 Update** - As promised last week we have been reviewing the easing of Covid restrictions in line with the document issued by the Bishops of England and Wales. In view of the prevailing conditions both locally and nationally we do not propose to make many changes at this time but will constantly review the situation over the coming weeks.

- **We can resume the Offertory Collections** as previously.
- Although the Holy Water Stoops still cannot be filled in the Porch, you are welcome to bring a bottle to be filled here or bring a bottle of water with you and Father Joe will bless it for you to take home.
- The Priest when handing Holy Communion to you can now say "**The Body of Christ**" and you can now respond "**Amen**"

**The Sunday Mass Obligation is still dispensed, but the Bishops have indicated that they would like to reintroduce the obligation on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (28<sup>th</sup> November)**

At the present time and with the approval of Bishop John the following will still apply in our Church.

- **Parishioners should continue to use the NHS Track & Trace QR Code** as they arrive.
- **Face Masks will continue** to be worn in the Church. (Unless exempted under previous mandatory regulations)
- **Hand Gel should continue** to be used on entry and exit.
- **Social Distancing will continue in Church** and alternate benches remain roped off and Stewards will continue to escort you to a bench. Please consider others who may arrive after you and remain in the seat you have been directed to. This will ensure that we can accommodate as many people as possible within our Covid limited space.

**Vaccinations:** All the authoritative evidence suggests that being vaccinated against Covid 19 is helping to stop serious illness and death. **Bishop John** is asking us to get vaccinated for the sake of the Common Good, even if we ourselves are reticent: we do it to help others. He writes: "**I urge all adults, who are able to do so, to be vaccinated. Pope Francis has reminded people of the duty to be vaccinated if they are able. The Church is clear that all Catholics can take any of the vaccines on offer with a clear conscience. Even if you are at a low risk of becoming seriously ill, being vaccinated will lower the risk of transmitting the virus to somebody else who might then have a severe reaction or even die. It is particularly important that those in our parishes, clergy and lay-people who visit those who are housebound or vulnerable are vaccinated.**"

**World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2021 – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July** - The inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly falls on Sunday 25 July 2021, instituted by Pope Francis. It has been given the theme "I am with you always" from the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 28: 30). Identifying

with the more senior members of our society, he says "The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!"

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. These will need to be returned fully completed by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 - 24th/25th July** - Let us pray, during this week, for the people of the parish of Corpus Christi, Bolton, for Fr. Alfred Rebello, their parish priest, and for their three parish primary schools. May they be ever nourished on the Bread of Life, the Body of Christ.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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?

K	I	C	S	B	C	E	A	D	E
C	R	L	R	U	S	H	B	E	P
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D	N	A	P	O	T	F	E	R	I
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S	A	A	E	I	E	A	A	H	A
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S	A	I	R	E	B	I	T	A	S

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	24th July Vigil	6:00 pm	The Parish
Sun	25th July	10:00 am	<b>17th Sunday of the Year</b> Walter, Muriel & Bernard Adams
Mon	26th July	6:30 pm	Ss Joachim & Anne (M)
Tues	27th July	2:00 pm	Requiem Mass for Patrick Rostron R I P.
Wed	28th July	9:15 am	Father Xavier's Intentions
Thurs	29th July	9:15 am	St Martha Dominic McCrudden (M)
Friday	30th July		<b>NO MASS</b>
Sat	31st July Vigil	6:00 pm	St Ignatius of Loyola (M) Alice Shields (Anniversary)
Sun	1st Aug	10:00 am	<b>18th Sunday of the Year</b> The Parish

St Mary's, Brownedge Live Streaming Times <a href="https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge">https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge</a>		
Sunday	Mass	10:00 am & 6:30 pm
Monday to Friday	Mass	9:30 am
Open for Private Prayer	Tuesday	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
	Thursday	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
	Rosary	8.00 pm
Saturday	Mass	9:30 am 7 pm Vigil
Sunday	Mass	10.00 am & 6:30 pm

**The 9:15 am Mass on Wednesday this week 28th July will be celebrated by Father Xavier who is in the area for a few days.**

- SEA
- TIBERIAS
- HILLSIDE
- FEAST
- PASSOVER
- BREAD
- BOY
- FIVE
- BARLEY
- LOAVES
- FISH
- HAMPERS



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