



Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella

Lostock Hall - Preston - PR5 5AA

Parish Team Fr Joseph Gee & Sister Louise Shields RNDM

Parish Tel: (01772) 335387

Parish e-mail: office@saintgerards.org.uk

Facebook : @stgerardslostockhall Twitter : @stgerardslostoc Instagram : @stgerardslostock

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Year B

27th December 2020

As an example for us to follow, the Holy Family can seem a little too perfect: when we consider the more dramatic events of the Christmas and Easter story, it can seem so far removed from us. And yet, as today's Gospel reminds us (especially in the shorter version), there were also the so-called 'hidden years' - the many years of family life in Nazareth, spent in ordinary things. During that time, we hear how Jesus grew and matured, and in the glimpse of that family life we see our example. The family is a basic unit of our Christian society, despite coming under threat nowadays. Our celebration of this feast, and the Word of God we proclaim, announces that there is a lasting value in the ideals of family life, and the relationship between husband, wife, parents and children. Whatever the changing details of each age, honour, understanding and love always remain the recipe for the perfect, and holy, human family. It is love that we put on over all the other clothes of changing cultures and places, to guarantee the life of the family in imitation of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

W/C 20/12/2020 This Weeks Intentions

St Joseph	For an end to the Pandemic
-----------	----------------------------

**Please Pray for the Recently Deceased:
Jean Willis, Edward Clayton, Mary Josephine
Crook & John Walne R.I.P.**

Thank You - To everyone who worked so hard to prepare the Church for Christmas and to clean and sanitise it between the Masses.

Pope Francis Christmas Message - "At this moment in history, marked by the ecological crisis and grave economic and social imbalances only worsened by the coronavirus pandemic, it is all the more important for us to acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters," he said in his "Urbi et Orbi" ("to the city and the world") message. Pope Francis said this call for solidarity was especially aimed at "people who are the most fragile, the sick and all who at this period find themselves without work or in grave difficulty due to the economic consequences of the pandemic and to women who have been subjected to domestic violence during these months of confinement." The pontiff also touched on the plight of children caught up by war, singling out victims in Syria, Yemen and Iraq in his Christmas message. "On this day, when the word of God became a child, let us turn our gaze to the many, all too many, children worldwide, especially in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, who still pay the high price of war," he said. "May their faces touch the consciences of all men and women of good will, so that the causes of conflicts can be addressed and courageous efforts can be made to build a future of peace," he said.

From Bishop John

I'd like to wish you all a happy Christmas, different and difficult though it may be this year. If you have

a crib at home this Christmas, or even just a picture on a Christmas card of Mary and Joseph, the baby in the Manger. There may be shepherds around, or the ox and the ass, but the important thing is that there's silence. No-one is saying anything, they're just rejoicing in the birth of Jesus. There's no need for words. It's just a simple prayer being there. I wonder what your Christmas is like this year. It's probably quite different to the one you would normally have planned. You may be with some of your family, or may have decided that this year you simply can't be together. But we are together. We are together in hope.

I wonder what Mary must have been thinking as she gazed on that child. The angel Gabriel had made great promise to her that this was all part of God's plan, but she must have been a little bit confused, pondering all of these things in her heart.

What is God's plan, allowing me to be here 70 miles from home, giving birth to this baby - God's son - here in a stable. He's got some plan, but I'm not quite sure what it is. You and I have got to live with that sense of hope, that in all the brokenness and the sadness of our world, particularly in this last year of the pandemic. Let's see how our priorities may change, how our faith may be strengthened as we look again at how we can be Ambassadors for Jesus, how we may be Missionary Disciples and proclaim the love of God in our actions of everyday.

I hope that this Christmas, even though it is different and for some rather disappointing, that it can still be an important moment of prayer and a reminder to us all that Jesus is here among us, and that he'll guide us.

God bless you, as we celebrate Christmas together, and may the Lord stay with us always on our journey.

Year of St Joseph - Pope Francis has announced a Year of St Joseph in a new Apostolic Letter entitled **Patris corde** ("With a Father's Heart") He describes St Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an abedient father, an accepting father, a father who is courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. He gives us this new prayer to St Joseph. *"Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil."* Amen

CHURCHES OPENING AGAIN - Lancashire has been placed back into Tier 3 restrictions from Wednesday 2nd December which means we can open again for Public Masses. Please remember to maintain social distancing and follow the instructions from the stewards when attending. There is also the opportunity to attend St Mary's at Brownedge for Private Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm until 4pm. The live streaming of Holy Mass from St Mary's, and other churches, will continue via www.churchservices.tv



Altar Servers Online Retreat
- 'Serving God and our neighbour in the everyday'
Saturday 27th February 2021
 - 10am-12pm (Ages 8-11) and 1pm-3pm (Ages 12-17) - Servers aged 18 and over please email the address below. The day includes a

keynote from Bishop John on the ministry of serving during this time and in the future, times of prayer, a recommissioning service and workshops on 'Challenges & Opportunities', 'Prayer - A Friendship with Jesus', and 'Called to Serve'. To register your place or for more information email formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk An under 18's videoconferencing consent form must be downloaded, completed by parents/carers and returned to the above email address. Download from <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/altar-server-retreat/>, The retreat will take place on Zoom.

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall			
Sat	26th Dec Vigil	18:00	St Stephen Winifred Ward R.I.P. (F)
Sun	27th Dec	10:00	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph The Parish
Mon	28th Dec		The Holy Innocents (F) NO MASS
Tues	29th Dec	9:15 am	St Thomas Becket (F) Intentions of Father Xavier Teresa Florence Porter R.I.P.
Wed	30th Dec	9:15 am	Elizabeth Townsend R.I.P.
Thurs	31st Dec	09:15 am	Intentions of Sister Louise
Fri	1st Jan	10:00	Holy Mary, Mother of God (S)
Sat	2nd Jan Vigil	18:00	St Basil & St Gregory (M)
Sun	3rd Jan	10:00	2nd Sunday of Christmas The Parish

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	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	9:30 am 11:00 & 6:30 pm

Altar Candle & Mass Intentions - If you would like to have a Mass intention or Candle intention please leave a note at the Presbytery clearly stating the Mass Intention or Location for your Candle. For the Candles we are suggesting a minimum donation of £5 per candle.

Fr Cassian Dickie OSB: Please pray for Fr Cassian, formerly at St Mary's Brownedge. He is seriously ill and in need of our prayers. He is in residence with Fr Jonathan and Fr Bernard at St Mary's, Leyland.

T	H	E	R	A	Z	A	N	E	R
E	E	L	I	L	A	G	N	A	A
M	H	P	E	S	O	J	E	R	L
E	A	E	R	D	R	O	L	C	E
H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N	H	G
E	D	H	D	L	E	F	E	E	N
R	R	R	E	U	S	R	G	L	A
D	E	H	E	R	J	A	Y	A	T
O	H	S	S	A	O	I	P	U	S
R	E	H	T	O	M	D	T	S	E

ANGEL	JOSEPH	DREAM
EGYPT	HEROD	MOTHER
ISRAEL	ARCHELAUS	JUDEA
AFRAID	GALILEE	NAZARETH



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