



Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

NEWS AND VIEWS

OCTOBER

Issue No 633 October 2020

October is the Month of the Rosary and it is normal during the month for the Blessed Sacrament Guild to visit various houses to say the Rosary. Unfortunately this isn't a normal year and of course this will not happen. However you are encouraged to say the Rosary and/or join the on-line Holy Hour at St Marys Brownedge every evening at 8 pm. The link if you don't already know it is on the parish Diary Page.

St Gerard Majella - Feast Day this year is on Friday 16th October.

More information about St Gerard is on our parish website <https://www.saintgerards.org.uk/st-gerard-majella>. The majority of this information will appear on our Facebook Page on the Feast Day itself.



Our Lady of the Rosary 7th October

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Laudato Si Project: The Journey We Are On

In the Diocese of Salford, responding to Laudato Si and Pope Francis' call for us all to care for our common home has been an important part of our faith journey. To mark the beginning of Lent over the last two years, Bishop John has written Pastoral Letters calling on schools and parishes in our diocese to take the environmental crisis more seriously and to make small changes in their day to day lives.

The Bishop didn't just ask others to make changes he has responded to his own challenge by beginning a major environmental project in the grounds of his residence, Wardley Hall.

Our goal is to make the Diocese of Salford a flagship for effective action on climate change and by launching this initiative, Bishop John is putting his words into action on his own doorstep.

Over the last few years progress has been made with the Laudato Si Project and this continues to be the case. Below you can see just some of the things that have gone on in the grounds of Wardley Hall.

Brick by Brick - Building the Walled Garden

As we approach 2021, we are refocussing our efforts on the walled garden and outdoor classroom as we hope to be able to welcome parish and school groups again. This will involve opportunities to visit but also resources that individuals, parishes and schools can use at home to transform some of their green spaces into a sustainable resource.

A Special Blessing

In May 2019, we welcomed Archbishop Edward Adams, the Apostolic Nuncio, to Wardley Hall for a special blessing of the walled garden, attended by CAFOD representatives from around the diocese.

Archbishop Adams ended the mass with a few words including a greeting from the Holy Father. He said: "The Pope reminds us it is our duty to love our neighbours and to share and protect our common home.

"Today by celebrating this new initiative we promise to do our part to love our neighbours and care for the common home. "

Help From Some Green-Fingered Pupils

In February 2020, more than 60 pupils from 10 Catholic primary schools around our diocese put on their gardening gloves and picked up their spades as they planted 20 fruit trees which will grow into an orchard in the years to come.

Creating A Buzz

One year ago two bee-hives were installed in the Walled Garden at the Laudato Si project, and since then it has been a hive of activity! In just six months, 80 jars of honey were produced by the 20,000 Wardley bees - and the honey has since gone on to win awards at the Manchester and District Bee Keepers' AGM.

Now there are four hives and in July, a honey extractor was bought for the bees at the Laudato Si Centre, funded by Life for a Life.

A Space to Remember

The diocese partnered up with charity Life for a Life to open the Memorial Forest at Wardley Hall, with the hope that it will offer families the space to remember lost loved ones by creating a peaceful space that will flourish for years to come.

Over time, these trees will develop into a beautiful organised forest that everyone, of all faiths and none, can enjoy as well as nourishing the air we breathe for generations to come.

Next Steps

Much has been achieved since the publication of Laudato Si and the launch of our project but there is much more to be done, with urgency, if we are to provide a healthy environment for future generations.

As we refocus our efforts on the walled garden, we hope to be able to invite visitors when it is safe to do so.

We must never under-estimate the importance and power of prayer, asking God to guide us in the right way and for the strength to achieve our goals.

A Message from Bishop John (From September e-news)

My dear brothers and sisters,



There is no doubt that we are becoming much more aware of the damage that we have done, and are continuing to inflict, on the Earth, our common home and the damage that is affecting the people most, in many of the poorest countries of the world, who have done least to cause it.

They are enduring the worst events of seasonal change where crops are ruined and agricultural land turned to desert.

We have done little to begin our work of repair but important progress has been made in understanding the present situation, the causes of the damage and the various means that are available to us to heal and to mend.

It is impossible to exaggerate the task that lies before us and the urgency to make progress before irreparable damage is done. It is clear that every one of us has a role to play, through simple adjustments to our daily lives, to a change in our routines and priorities.

Today, during the Season of Creation, we turn to prayer.

We must ask for the knowledge, the insight and understanding of the dangers we face. And we must ask for the Grace to make progress in uniting the determination of politicians, industry and science in caring for our brothers and sisters and our common home.

Let us pray together, on this Season of Care of Creation, that God will show us the way and give us the strength and determination to achieve all that He is asking of us in caring for our common home.

Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey

+John

Parish Organisations

BOWLING CLUB

Another poem this month for you to enjoy.

“SITTING ON THE SEAT”

I wonder if you notice as you
walk upon the green
How often a candid critic is
already on the scene
No matter whom your friends
may be, or who you chance to
meet
You will find the perfect bowler
there sitting on the seat.

They greet you patronisingly and
then ridicule your stance
And say you need not play your
game; you've lost it in advance
Their vivid reminiscences, so
varied and replete,
Are constantly repeated whilst
sitting on the seat.

Should it be your misfortune, to
tumble down a wide,
Their voice resounds across the
green, sarcastic aside,
They draw intricate diagrams, so
accurate and neat,
Which makes you really wonder
why, they are sitting on the seat.

They often lament the passing of
stalwarts of their time,
You wish them relegated to, a
distant torrid time,
Their instructions flow in torrent,
much too caustic to repeat,

They make themselves a
nuisance when they are
sitting on the seat.

You vilify your conscience with a
deep and fervent curse,
Your only consolation, is that
matters might be worse,
For when your bowling days are
over and your training is
complete,
You'll be qualified to join the
best bowlers sitting on the seat.

W R Hesmondhalgh

Inspirational Quotes for Kids

“You are braver than you
believe, stronger than you
seem, and smarter than you
think.” — Christopher Robin,
Winnie the Pooh

“Remember you're the one who
can fill the world with sunshine.”
**Snow White, Snow White and
the Seven Dwarfs**

“When life gets you down, you
know what you gotta do? Just
keep swimming.”
Dory, Finding Nemo

“Somewhere inside all of us is
the power to change the world.”
Matilda, Roald Dahl

“Happiness is not something
ready made. It comes from your
own actions.”
Dalai Lama XIV

CAFOD

Family fast day this year will take place on Friday 9th October and normally an appeal would be made on the weekend prior to this and envelopes given out to be returned on the weekend of 10th-11th October.

These are not normal times however, and churches in Salford diocese have taken a massive financial hit with some churches remaining closed and those which are opened having much smaller congregations.

This has resulted in second collections having to be severely curtailed. CAFOD of course are struggling to raise funds at a time when the needs of those in the developing world are increasing exponentially with Covid 19. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease so let's come together to help the poorest and the most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal.

We are all aware how tight money is for many families in our diocese but, if you can, please dig deep and make a donation to Cafod online at cafod.org.uk/give. You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Calls cost £10 plus one standard rate message. Please also remember to pray for all those affected;

'God who called you out of darkness into his own marvellous light' (1 Peter 29)

God, you call us out of darkness. May we hear your voice
In the cry of our brothers and sisters in crisis.
As you walk alongside us always, may we walk beside one another,
Listening and responding in love.
Shine the light of your compassion through us,
Dispelling chaos, fear and despair.
Breathe hope and courage into all our hearts
As we work together to rebuild once more.
Strengthen us Lord and keep us steadfast.
Bring healing and comfort to all
And lead us renewed into your marvelous light.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Margaret Cronin

A PRAYER FOR OUR COMMON HOME

All powerful God,
you created all things,
and you are present throughout the universe
and in every creature,
You embrace with your tender love all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
so that we may have the strength and courage
to protect all life and the beauty of our world,
preserving it from pollution and destruction.

Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one,
And caring for the Earth, our common home.

Teach us to discover the worth of every creature on this earth,
Let us protect those at risk and in danger,
Encourage us as we seek justice, love and peace.
Stay with us each day, with the power of your grace.

Through Christ our Lord
Amen

Manchester's Mother Elizabeth Prout Moves Closer to Sainthood



A Nun from Manchester is on course to become Britain's first female non-martyr saint in 800 years after the Vatican ruled she lived a life of 'heroic virtue'.

Mother Elizabeth Prout laboured in the slums of Victorian Manchester and towns of North West England until her death at 43 from tuberculosis.

The so-called "Mother Teresa of Manchester" opened a chain of schools for poor children and homes for destitute women across the industrialised region, and was ahead of her time in teaching women crucial skills to earn their own livings.

Her sainthood cause was submitted to the Vatican in 2008 for scrutiny by theologians who have now concluded that she lived a life of "heroic virtue".

The ruling means not only that there is nothing in her background that would disqualify her from sainthood but also that evidence of her sanctity has been proven. A document on her life is due to be examined by top-ranking cardinals and bishops in Rome who will then ask Pope Francis to declare Mother Elizabeth as "Venerable".

At that point, the search for two miracles will begin in earnest – one to declare her as Blessed and the other as a saint.

Her canonisation could mean she will become the first English female since Pope St Paul VI in 1970 included Ss Margaret Clitheroe, Anne Line and Margaret Ward among 40 canonised martyrs of England and Wales.

But she would be the first non-martyr English female saint since St Margaret of Wessex, an 11th century Anglo-Saxon princess who became Queen of Scotland after the Norman invasion of William the Conqueror, and who was canonised in 1250.

Security

For many years certainly from the 1980's there has been internal CCTV in the church covering the main side entrance and the body of the nave. This was an analogue system recorded on tape which had to be changed every few weeks or be overwritten. This stopped working in the late 90's due to equipment failure but the cameras remained in place as a deterrent.

About 5 years ago during Father Xavier's time we decided to install TV monitors and a new sound system. This was expensive and our insurers advised us to install CCTV to cover externally the entrance door at the front of the church, the rear door externally, the Narthex, the meeting room inside the rear entrance and the sound equipment cabinet in the church itself.

Over the years there have been many issues with youths loitering on the site, leaving litter and empty alcoholic beverage cans and bottles, cigarette ends together with games of football being played against the church walls. We have also had issues with our immediate neighbours parking some private and commercial vehicles in the car park for days and weeks at a time. When challenged Father Xavier's was verbally abused and Father Joe has also experienced this since his arrival with youths entering the Bowling green in the evenings to smoke cannabis.

Early in 2020 it was decided to improve CCTV Coverage around the church by installing additional cameras at the sides of the church covering the graveyard area, the side between the parish centre and the church and an extra camera at the back to partly cover the bowling green and an extra at the front to cover the car park and entrance driveway. All of the cameras can be accessed remotely and are monitored. We are able to take photographs and retrieve footage instantly. Three cameras we added internally to cover the Nave and Sanctuary.

This last year has been particularly bad with people not associated with church using the grounds for drug handovers (riding into the site on motor scooters) using the entrance on Brownedge Road and cutting through to Lourdes avenue on cycles to avoid the corner and the traffic light queue. One adult at the start of the lockdown entered the Presbytery garden to allow their child to ride their bike in safety around the bowling green, when challenged he couldn't see what the

issue was as it was a public place. Youths have been recorded cycling on graves, climbing over the fences into the bowling green, climbing on the roof of the grotto, exchanging drugs, drinking alcohol, playing football. We did have someone sleeping at the side of the grotto and behind a hedge against the Parochial Centre for a while and then dropping his litter into the church cellar.

We put off installing gates on the main entrance when it was muted last year but felt the only way to stop these intrusions onto the church grounds was to go ahead and install gates. These have been in place for several months but not initially locked as the installation had not been completed. However, in August we started to lock them except during and immediately before services.

Although there is still access via Browndge Road there has been a very marked improvement in site security, parking has obviously been stopped, using the church as a thoroughfare instead of the public footpath has stopped. We have had one instance of youths climbing over the front gates but when challenged and informed they had been recorded on CCTV has not been repeated.

A few long standing Parishioners have asked why the gates have been installed and kept locked and although not happy they understood the reasons and accepted the decision.

The Mission Team

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 route Cards at can be obtained via <https://www.southribble.gov.uk/content/walking-route-cards>

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 four local walks you can download and the distances, 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)**

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
Bowling Club	Warwick Hesmondhalgh	339700
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	Irene Crook	611513
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	Colette Kingswood	07769690874
	or Colette.kingswood@virginmedia.com	
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 The last day for submissions is the 20th of each month.

www.saintgerards.org.uk

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St Mary's, Brownedge Live Streaming Times https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge			
Sunday	9:30 am 11:00 am		Mass Mass
Open for Private Prayer on Tuesday & Thursday	5—6 pm		Exposition
Daily	9:30 am		Mass
Saturday	9:30 am	Vigil 7 pm	
Sunday	9:30 am		Mass

Parish Diary July 2020

1st Oct	St Therese of the Child Jesus	2nd	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
2nd	The Holy Guardian Angles	4th	St Charles Borromeo
4th	27th Sunday of the Year	8th	32nd Sunday of the Year
7th	Our Lady of the Rosary	EMAIL ADDRESS	
11th	28th Sunday of the Year	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: newsnview@saintgerards.org.	
15th	St Teresa of Jesus		
17th	St Ignatius of Antioch		
18th	29th Sunday of the Year		
25th	30th Sunday of the Year		
28th	St Simon & St Jude		
1st Nov	ALL SAINTS		



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