



# Our Lady and St Gerard's Lostock Hall

## NEWS AND VIEWS

**September**

**Issue No 632 September 2020**

During the month of September there are a number Feast Days or Memoria devoted to Our Lady.

8th The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12th The Most Holy Name of Mary

15th Our Lady of Sorrows

24th Our Lady of Walsingham

This Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows grew in popularity in the 12th century, although under various titles. Some writings would place its roots in the eleventh century, especially among the Benedictine monks.

By the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the feast and devotion were widespread throughout the Church. In 1482, the feast was officially placed in the Roman Missal under the title of Our Lady of Compassion, highlighting the great love our Blessed Mother displayed in suffering with her Son.



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## CHURCH

Pope Francis 23.04.13 Acts 11: 19-26, John 10: 22-30

This reading makes me think that, at the very moment when persecution broke out, the Church's missionary nature also "broke out". These Christians went all the way to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, and proclaimed the Word (cf. *Acts 11:19*). They had this apostolic fervor in their hearts; and so the faith spread! Some people from Cyprus and Cyrene, not these but others who had become Christians, came to Antioch and began to speak also to the Greeks (cf. *Acts 11:20*). This is yet another step. And so the Church moves forward. Who took this initiative of speaking to the Greeks, something unheard of, since they were preaching only to Jews? It was the Holy Spirit, the one who was pushing them on, on and on, unceasingly.

But back in Jerusalem, when somebody heard about this, he got a little nervous and they sent a *Apostolic Visitation*: they sent Barnabas (cf. *Acts 11:22*). Perhaps, with a touch of humor, we can say that this was the theological origin of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: this *Apostolic Visitation* of Barnabas. He took a look and saw that things were going well (cf. *Acts 11:23*). And in this way the Church is increasingly a Mother, a Mother of many, many children: she becomes a Mother, ever more fully a

Mother, a Mother who gives us faith, a Mother who gives us our identity. But Christian identity is not an identity card. Christian identity means being a member of the Church, since all these people belonged to the Church, to Mother Church, for apart from the Church it is not possible to find Jesus. The great Paul VI said: it is an absurd dichotomy to wish to live with Jesus but without the Church, to follow Jesus but without the Church, to love Jesus but without the Church (cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 16). And that Mother Church who gives us Jesus also gives us an identity which is not simply a rubber stamp: it is membership. Identity means membership, belonging. Belonging to the Church: this is beautiful!



The third idea which comes to my mind – the first was the outbreak

of the Church's missionary nature, and second, the Church as Mother – is that, when Barnabas saw that crowd – the text says: "and a great many people were brought to the Lord" (*Acts* 11:24) – when he saw that crowd, he rejoiced. "When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced" (*Acts* 11:23). It is the special joy of the evangelizer. It is, as Paul VI said, "the delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing" (cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 80). This joy begins with persecution, with great sadness, and ends in joy. And so the Church moves forward, as a Saint tells us, amid the persecutions of the world and the consolations of the Lord (cf. Saint Augustine, *De Civitate Dei*, 18:51,2: PL 41, 614). This is the life of the Church. If we want to take the path of worldliness, bargaining with the world – as the Maccabeans were tempted to do back then – we will never have the consolation of the Lord. And if we seek consolation alone, it will be a superficial consolation, not the Lord's consolation, but a human consolation. The Church always advances between the cross and the resurrection, between persecutions and the consolations of the Lord. This is the path: those who take this path do not go wrong.

Today let us think about the missionary nature of the Church: these disciples who took the initiative to go forth, and those who had the courage to proclaim Jesus to the Greeks, something which at that time was almost scandalous (cf. *Acts* 11:19-20). Let us think of Mother Church, who is increasing, growing with new children to whom she gives the identity of faith, for one cannot believe in Jesus without the Church. Jesus himself says so in the Gospel: but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep (cf. *Jn* 10:26). Unless we are "Jesus' sheep", faith does not come; it is a faith which is watered down, insubstantial. And let us think of the consolation which Barnabas experienced, which was precisely the "delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing". Let us ask the Lord for this *parrhesia*, this apostolic fervour which impels us to move forward, as brothers and sisters, all of us: forward! Forward, bearing the name of Jesus in the bosom of holy Mother Church, as Saint Ignatius said, hierarchical and Catholic. Amen.

### **A Message from Bishop John (From August e-news)**

I rather like the title that Pope Francis reintroduced when he came to be the Pope. *Mary, the Untier of Knots*. I think we have quite a lot of knots to untie at the moment. We are asking Mary to help us sort out the mess that we are in and the mess that we, in particular in this part of Greater Manchester and parts of East Lancashire, face in

these days of additional directives we have got to look after one another and keep each other safe.



I think that, if we had been able to gather in the Grotto in Lourdes this year, Mary might say just one word to us. Care.

Care for one another, care in this time when we are all so vulnerable. Care for our brothers and sisters around the world, because we've learnt haven't we that we are so connected, so many people are suffering so much more than we are. In poorer countries there is a lack of healthcare, because in so many places there is crowded living, in squalid slums and in refugee camps around the world. We are leaving our brothers and sisters so much more vulnerable in so many ways.

Are we prepared to take the challenge? To say the world has not got the right priorities, and we need Our Lady's help to guide us and to get those priorities right so that we do care for our common home. And as Pope Francis so often insists, everything is connected.

We have a lot to place in Mary's hands, and she will guide us I'm sure. But we need to take responsibility too and in this pandemic things start with us in the way that we care for one another and the way that we're looking after one another and looking to the future and the challenges of making our world a better place.

Let's pray for our world and let's pray for the care for one another in all that we do so that we may make our world a better place. Let's remember from that wonderful reading, from St Paul's letter to the Romans, nothing separates us from the love of God.

St Paul states so clearly, nothing separates us and then lists a lot of things that we might think could possibly separate us from the love of God – but they don't matter. His love is constant. And therefore His help and care for us and His being with us is constant too.

Stay with us Lord, on our Journey.

+John

## Parish Organisations

### **BOWLING CLUB**

As there is very little happening on the bowling front at the moment I am using a poem that I was given years ago. Hope you like it.

#### **BOWLING LESSON**

I met him on a sunny day but I  
forgot his name  
As I recall he was quite small as  
on the green he came  
My heart went out in sympathy  
as soon as he limped on  
He had a stoop, his hand it  
shook he said his eyes had gone  
"I've been in hospital: he  
gaspd I've not been very well  
And I'm afraid, I have not played  
this year, the truth to tell."  
I ran back to my marker and  
whispered to him, "Joe  
I had better beat this fellow quick  
he's not got long to go"  
Oh. What a dance he led me he  
played me off the green  
He took me apart, he broke my  
heart oh my that man was mean  
There's some that keep you  
waiting until your nerves are  
frayed  
There's some will chat and tell  
you that the Waterloo they've  
played  
But beware of veterans, who are  
not all that they seem  
To stop you trying they say  
they're dying then kill you  
on the green.

We've all played them at one  
time or another

### **Warwick Hesmondhalgh**

#### **Inspirational Quotes**

If everything was perfect, you  
would never learn and you would  
never grow. **The best** thing to  
hold onto in **life** is each other.  
**Life** is like riding a bicycle. To  
keep your balance, you must  
keep moving.

Optimism is the faith that leads  
to achievement. Nothing can be  
done without hope and  
confidence.

**Helen Keller**

Keep your eyes on the stars,  
and your feet on the ground.

**Theodore Roosevelt**

The joy of life comes from our  
encounters with new  
experiences, and hence there is  
no greater joy than to have an  
endlessly changing horizon, for  
each day to have a new and  
different sun.

**Christopher McCandless**

I always like to look on the  
optimistic side of life, but I am  
realistic enough to know that life  
is a complex matter.

**Walt Disney**

## CAFOD Covid 19 Petition

Please make sure you have signed the Covid 19 petition calling on our PM to ensure that the most vulnerable people are given priority in the UK's international efforts. The link is: [cafod.org.uk/coronaviruscampaign](https://cafod.org.uk/coronaviruscampaign)

### Climate Summit

The COP26 climate summit in Glasgow has been rescheduled to November 2021. We must keep up the pressure on the Government to reset the economy to place at its heart people's welfare and the survival of the planet.

### Cancel the Debt

Like all nations the UK is facing very serious economic consequences resulting from Covid 19, including growing regional inequalities. As Christians however we must try to consider the global picture and those poorer countries who are experiencing unimaginable health and financial hardships. Many of these also face spiralling debt payments to the World Bank and the IMF. If those payments were cancelled, money could be diverted to fund vital healthcare projects. Cafod is asking us to call upon the World Bank and the IMF to cancel these debts. A simple way of doing this is to share with social media a photo of you/your children/grandchildren/friends with a sign "CANCEL THE DEBT" Use the hashtag #cancelthedebt. Be sure to tag @cafod. Find more details at [cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt](https://cafod.org.uk/cancelthedebt). To the right is one we did earlier!

### Red Wednesday – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Save this date! You may have attended the moving concelebrated Mass at Brownedge St Mary's last year when the church was lit up in red to draw attention to the human rights tragedy of

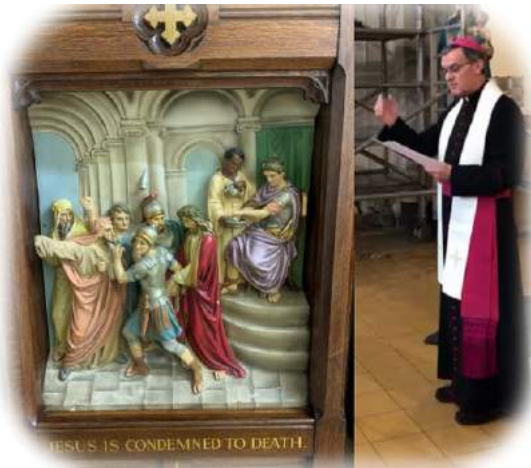


Christian and other religious persecution. For example in 2018 over 2400 Christians were killed in Nigeria by Boko Haram. Nearer the time we will give suggestions as to how we can all get involved with this international initiative from Aid to the Church in Need. God bless you all

**Margaret Cronin**

### **Bishop Blesses Cathedral's Stations of the Cross**

A Renovation Fund which seeks to restore the Cathedral's Stations of the Cross has recently been launched and this month, at its installation, Bishop John gave his blessing of the first Station.



***'The Stations of the Cross Renovation Fund,'*** has been set up to enable this piece of work to take place and to improve the beauty of the Mother Church of the diocese.

Bishop John blessed the Stations with a small gathering of socially distanced clergy and parishioners, which was conducted in accordance with guidelines.

The proposed Stations are from St Gregory's church in Farnworth, which closed in the 1990s and donations will fund their restoration to a traditional oak framed and plaster relief set which is in keeping with the design of the rest of the Cathedral.

It is hoped that the Stations of the Cross being renovated will add to the beauty, heritage and sense of devotion at the Cathedral.

Stations of the Cross are an essential part of the fabric of any Catholic church and a decorative feature that allow our parish to take part in the most common act of devotion, the Way of the Cross.

## The Season of Creation - 1st September to 4th October

As the Laudato Si' Anniversary Year progresses, Pope Francis encourages Catholics everywhere to get involved with the Season of Creation - a period of prayer and action to protect our common home - which takes place from 1 September - 4 October. Over the next month the Diocese will be sharing reflections and resources.

### LOCAL INFORMATION

#### LIBRARIES RE-OPENING - 22nd July

Libraries are starting to re-open and but only 12 for the county area, one per district, in the first phase to make sure there is a good geographical spread of libraries across Lancashire.

The following libraries will open Monday to Friday between 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm:

- Lostock Hall—South Ribble
- Chorley – Chorley district
- Fulwood – Preston district
- Leyland – South Ribble district   Leyland also open on Saturdays  
10am to 2pm

**The full list can be viewed via this link. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/libraries/#opening>**

You Must book an appointment at any of the above libraries, even if you don't normally use them.

If you only want to return books, you can drop them into a returned books container during the revised library opening hours, without an appointment or entering the library building.

They are offering two book borrowing services **by appointment only** at our reopened libraries:

The Harris library has re-opened and you can find more details on the Harris library website.



## 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 walks of course are still there and the Walking route Cards are available via the South Ribble Website at <https://www.southribble.gov.uk/content/walking-route-cards>

Why not put your best foot forward and download one of these free Walking Route Guides?

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 the walks you can download and the distances, the first four are very local and 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)**
05. New Longton & Whitestake Walk (2.5 miles)
  
06. Longton Coastal Walk (5.0 miles)
07. Longton Brickcroft Walk (1.5 miles)
08. Hutton & Longton Coastal Walk (7.0 miles)
09. Penwortham Heritage Trail 1 (2.0 Miles)
10. Penwortham Heritage Trail 2 (2.5 miles)
11. Penwortham Heritage Trail 3 (4.3 miles)
12. Penwortham Heritage Trail - Howick & Hutton Circular (3 miles)
13. Penwortham & Howick Riverside Walk (4.1 miles)
- 14. Old Tram Road & Walton-le-Dale Walk (5 miles)**
- 15. Bamber Bridge & Walton Park Walk (5.5 miles)**
16. Gregson Lane & Coupe Green Walk (3.6 miles)
17. Nabs Head Samlesbury Walk (5 miles)
- 18. Lostock Hall Heritage Trail (3.5 miles)**
- 19. Lostock Hall and Farington Railway Heritage Trail (3.5 miles)**
- 20. St Mary's Parish Boundary Walk (7.7 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 8:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.

### Weekdays:

Monday 9:15 a.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](mailto:newsviews@saintgerards.org.uk) The last day for submissions is the 20th of each month.

[www.saintgerards.org.uk](http://www.saintgerards.org.uk)

**G.D.P.R. Privacy Notice.** In order to withdraw your consent for us publish your details above or within this magazine, please contact Father Joe at ([office@saintgerards.org.uk](mailto:office@saintgerards.org.uk)). All processing of personal data can cease upon request, with exception of legal obligations or instances where personal data is required to protect public safety.

<b>St Mary's, Brownedge</b> <b>Live Streaming Times</b> <a href="https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge">https://www.churchservices.tv/bamberbridge</a>			
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 am 11:00 am		Mass Mass
<b>Open for Private Prayer on Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>	5—6 pm		Exposition
<b>Daily</b>	8:00 pm		Holy Rosary
<b>Saturday</b>	9:30 am	Vigil 7 pm	
<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 am 11:00 am		Mass Mass

## Parish Diary

3rd	St Gregory the Great	24th	Our Lady of Walsingham
<b>6th</b>	<b>23rd Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>26th Sunday of the Year</b>
8th	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	29th	St Michael, St Gabriel and St Raphael
10th	St Ambrose Barlow	30th	St Jerome
<b>13th</b>	<b>24th Sunday of the Year</b>	1st Oct	St Therese of the Child Jesus
14th	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	2nd	The Holy Guardian Angles
15th	Our Lady of Sorrows	<b>4th</b>	<b>27th Sunday of the Year</b>
16th	St Cornelius & St Cyprian		
<b>20th</b>	<b>25th Sunday of the Year</b>		
21st	St Matthew		
23rd	St Pius of Pietrelcina		



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