


# MASSES AND SERVICES: CHRISTMAS SEASON



## St Mary's Brownedge

Founded c1780

St Mary's Priory, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6SP

www.stmarysbrownedge.org.uk @stmarysbrownedge   
Live Streaming via website (churchservices.tv)

**Parish team:** Fr Mark Harold (Rural Dean & Parish Priest),  
Fr Colin Battell OSB, & Sister Mary Higney RNDM

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**Linked Parish:**  
**Our Lady & St Gerard's**  
**Lostock Hall**  
www.saintgerards.org.uk  
Parish Team: Fr Joseph Gee  
& Sr Louise Shields  
Parish Tel: (01772) 335387  
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<b>Thu</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	<b>24 Dec</b>
5.30	<b>Christmas Mass</b> <i>Miles Thompson</i>	
7.00	<b>Christmas Mass</b> <i>Michael Jones</i>	
11.30	<b>Midnight Mass</b> <i>Peter Haythornthwaite</i>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>24 Dec</b>
10.00	<b>Christmas Mass</b> <i>The Parish</i>	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>ST STEPHEN</b>	<b>26 Dec</b>
10.00	<i>Harold &amp; Ellen Dixon</i>	
<b>Vigil</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY</b>	<b>26 Dec</b>
7.00	<i>Maurice Cookson</i>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY</b>	<b>27 Dec</b>
9.30	<i>John Taylor</i>	
11.00	<i>The Parish</i>	
6.30	<i>Rita Donbavand LD</i>	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>HOLY INNOCENTS</b>	<b>28 Dec</b>
10.00	<i>Ella &amp; the Patterson Family</i>	
<b>Tues</b>	<b>ST THOMAS BECKET</b>	<b>29 Dec</b>
10.00	<i>Jimmy Parkinson</i>	
<b>Wed</b>	<b>6th Day within Octave</b>	<b>30 Dec</b>
10.00	<i>Mary, Jim &amp; the Gormley Family</i>	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>7th Day within Octave</b>	<b>31 Dec</b>
10.00	<i>Christopher Nibill</i>	
<b>Fri</b>	<b>HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>	<b>01 Jan</b>
12.00	<i>Kathleen Haggerty &amp; Family</i>	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen</b>	<b>02 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>Ken, Kathleen &amp; the Robertson Family</i>	

<b>Vigil</b>	<b>2ND OF CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>02 Jan</b>
7.00	<i>Michael &amp; Catherine Carty and Mary &amp; Michael McNamara</i>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2ND OF CHRISTMAS</b>	<b>03 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>The Parish</i>	
11.00	<i>Mamie LeHane LD</i>	
6.30	<i>Jane &amp; Fred Cooper (sick)</i>	
<b>Mon</b>		<b>04 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>Keany &amp; Cullivan Families</i>	
<b>Tues</b>		<b>05 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>Family of Jim Ramsdale</i>	
<b>Wed</b>	<b>THE EPIPHANY</b>	<b>06 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>Peter Bassets (sick)</i>	
4.30	<i>The Parish</i>	
7.00	<i>Patrick Maguire LD</i>	
<b>Thu</b>		<b>07 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>Thomas Roberts</i>	
<b>Fri</b>		<b>08 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>Margaret &amp; the Donnelly &amp; Christy Families</i>	
<b>Sat</b>		<b>09 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>Robert, Nellie &amp; Joseph Delaney</i>	
<b>Vigil</b>	<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	<b>09 Jan</b>
7.00	<i>Mary Carmody</i>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	<b>10 Jan</b>
9.30	<i>Richard &amp; Mary Lloyd</i>	
11.00	<i>The Parish</i>	
6.30	<i>Evelyn Toney LD</i>	

### Christmas Octave 26th– 31st December:

All Masses during the Christmas Octave are "Christmas Masses". If you do not feel able to attend on Christmas Day why not come on one of these days when it will be less busy? From 26-31 Dec the weekday 10am Masses will include Morning Prayer of the Church.

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Resumes on Tues 5 and Thurs 7 Jan: 3pm to 4pm.

### Online Holy Rosary:

Each Day 8pm. (not on 24—27 Dec)

**Confession: Sat: 10am** outside by the back door of the sacristy, (weather permitting) or by appointment.

### Sanctuary Lamps :

**Christmas Wk: 1:** 1. Mary Teresa Taylor 2. Taylor Family  
**Christmas Wk 2:** 1. Campbell Family 2. Richard & Margaret Proctor And James & Teresa Lawson



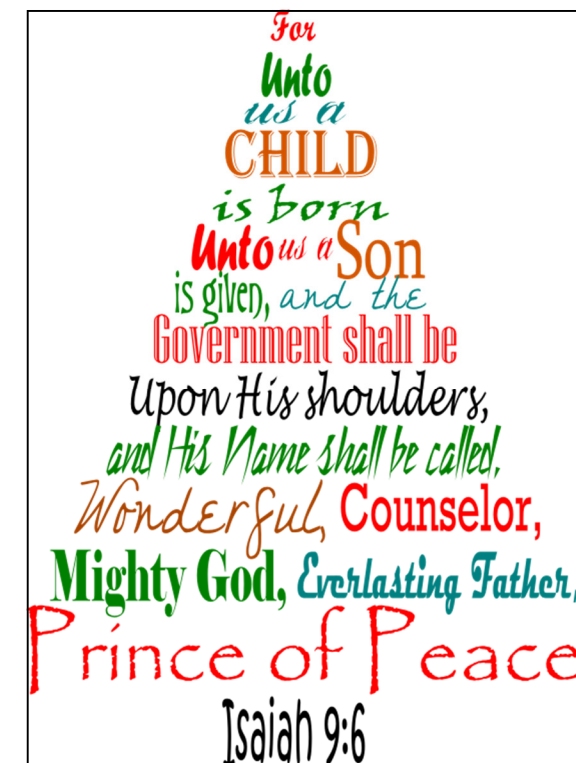
All Services can be viewed live or on playback at any time on [www.stmarysbrownedge.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbrownedge.org.uk) or [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

If you need help to set it up ask friends or family. You can usually plug a PC into your TV to watch it on the big screen. On a "Smart TV" save the site in the TV web browser.

Please help any relatives or friends who cannot access the internet to be able to do so. It is a great source of spiritual support for those who cannot go to Church.

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



The Blessings of this Christmas Season be upon you, your loved ones and our world.  
**"A light that the darkness cannot overcome!"** John 1:5

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER 2020  
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (B) 27 DECEMBER 2020  
2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS(B) 3 JANUARY 2021

## Christmas Reflection from Fr Mark

### A Happy and Holy Christmas!!

Contrary to some headlines this week, Christmas is not cancelled! In fact this year our world needs to celebrate this Feast of the Birth of Saviour more than ever. We must celebrate in a different way but that maybe that can help us to reflect more deeply on what is truly important in our lives. At the beginning of Advent I was asked by the diocese to prepare a reflection on the first candle of the Advent wreath and much of it applies to whole meaning of Christmas. I reproduce it here that it might help someone in these challenging times. In the words of Tiny Tim at the end of "A Christmas Carol", "God bless us all everyone! :



The first candle on the Advent Wreath represents Hope; it is sometimes called "the Prophet's Candle". The prophet we hear from repeatedly in Advent is Isaiah. We will hear the climax of his Advent voice at Midnight Mass: "The people that walked in the darkness have seen a great light". The hope which Isaiah speaks of is not a vain spark of optimism but a profound truth of destiny: God will fulfil His covenant. Spiritual hope is much deeper than the secular understanding of hope. In the secular sense, hope is related to my desire or aspiration, whereas spiritual hope is my response to the covenant which God has promised.

The battle of light versus the darkness is a very real one in our human existence. It is right that we recognise the darkness of pain and suffering which can seem to pervade our lives; it has done just that in these days of pandemic in so many ways: death, illness, suffering, isolation, unemployment, debt, anxiety, depression. The first stage of hope is to recognise the darkness; to sympathise and to empathise with those it affects the most, and then to challenge it. Sister Helen Prejean is well known for her ministry to those who are sentenced to death by execution. She uses this quote to speak of her ministry: "I light a candle at midnight to say to the darkness, I beg to differ". This Advent, can we join in with the cry of Isaiah, as Sr Helen does, and say to the darkness, "I beg to differ"? Recognise it for what it is and face it up from the deep wellspring within: the profound truth of hope.

History often shows us insights into how people have encountered the darkness with hope; one such episode was the "velvet revolution" in the former Czechoslovakia which spanned the season of Advent in 1989.

Vaclav Havel, who emerged as the new President, lit the Prophet's Candle once more: "Hope is an orientation of the spirit, an orientation of the heart. It transcends the world that is immediately experienced and is anchored somewhere beyond its horizon ... hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism ... hope tells us that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out. Hope, above all gives the strength to live". Where is the anchor of our hope? We find it when we respond to God's covenant by engaging in a hope-filled encounter with Him; by lighting the Prophet's Candle and living in the light which it shines in our darkness.

### Notices

**Covid19 Restrictions:** We can come to church with our own household or bubble if we feel able to and maintain social distance while we are there. Services will remain available online; we can bring the church into our homes in a very special way: *we are the church*. We can make a true and spiritual communion although we are not physically present. The Sunday Mass obligation is dispensed, but, if you are not attending in person, do try to watch a Mass online or pray with the sheet "The Lord's Day at Home".

**Offertory Donations:** We are not holding offertory collections during Mass but please do try to remember to put your offertory money in the bags on the way in or out of Church. You can also post your donations and any Mass intentions through the Letterbox of the Priory which is locked inside. Also, it is possible to make online donations. [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/supporting-your-parish-financially/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/supporting-your-parish-financially/) There is a link to this on our website and on the live stream.



**Contactless Payments!** Our parish is one 15 across the diocese doing a trial with machines where people can make contactless donations. This is a simple way to make your contribution to the Church: sanitise your hands; tap the screen for the amount you wish to give; you can tap "other amount" and enter your own amount; hold your contactless debit or credit card over the top of the machine and wait for a "beep". You will be asked if you want to "gift aid" your donation; to do this you enter your name, the first line of address and postcode. You only have to do this once if you use the same card. Please move on as soon as you as you have made your transaction to help avoid congestion.

**Christmas Videos:** Our High School have prepared a wonderful video as their Advent Service which they all watched from their classes. It would be a great thing to watch this for Christmas. Find the link on our Facebook Page.

**Reconciliation:** If you do not have the opportunity to get to confession this Advent, the Parish Reconciliation Service from last Wednesday is available on the recording section of our Church Services TV page. Again, this would be an excellent spiritual preparation for Christmas.



**Crib Scenes:** Many thanks for all the photos of your home crib scenes. "The Browndedge Posada" is publishing one each day of the Advent and Christmas season on Facebook so email your photo to

bamberbridgeoffice@gmail.com or send on messenger to the Parish Facebook Page. It is great to see these images of the Christmas Nativity scene, some of them family treasures, in the midst of so many homes. Thank you for sharing them

**Parish Website:** Visit our website. This newsletter, announcements, live streaming and other resources can be found here:

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

**Facebook:** Please "like" our parish Facebook page and share with family and friends some of the things on it. Also, when you share suggest to friends that they follow our page. This is a really effective and simple way to do your bit of evangelisation. It can help to build up a real interest locally in our parish and the work of the Church. We all know how a virus can reach to places we think we have had no contact with—let's spread the good news instead.

**200 Club: November Draw:** 1st £200 No 200 Mary Lofthouse : 2nd £60 No 347 Dorothy Livesey : 3rd £40 No 56 Pauline Wilkinson. Sincere thanks for a donation to the 200 club from a recent winner.

**Christmas Hamper Draw:** 1st No 342 Freda Bibby; 2nd No 1 Dorothy Livesey; 3rd No 447 Barbara Dixon. Runners up: No 172 Dorothy Whittle; No 354 Anne Ward; No 9 Helen & Roger Hardacre. Numbers drawn by Fr Mark after Mass last Sunday.

**The 200 Club** has been a great way to support the parish during Covid19. It has raised £10K for Church funds over the past 12 months. Many thanks to Sandra Laverick and Kathryn Haythornthwaite for their great work in organising it.

**Covid19 Memorial Mass:** On 31st December at 2pm, Bishop John Arnold will celebrate a Memorial Mass at Salford Cathedral for all those who have died throughout this year as a result of COVID-19. It will be livestreamed and can be found at this link: [www.churchservices.tv/salfordcathedral](http://www.churchservices.tv/salfordcathedral) (also available afterwards as a recording on the same page).

**Salford Diocesan Almanac 2021** is now available from the back of church price £3.50

**Syrian Refugee Project:** We have received a couple of wonderful Christmas gifts: A donation of £4500 has been promised as well as donation of £500 handed in at the Priory. We have now raised the £9,000 which is our commitment to support the project. We hope to move forward with the project in the New Year and facilitate the arrival of a refugee family.

**Fr Cassian Dickie OSB:** Please pray for Fr Cassian, formerly here in the parish. 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. They all send their Christmas greetings to parishioners at St Mary's Browndedge and sincere thanks for the many cards they have received.

**Catholic Papers:** From the New Year, we will not be stocking copies of The Universe. If you wish to order a copy you can do so either as a regular printed copy or as a digital copy: [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) or phone 0161 820 5722. **There is a FREE digital trial:** [www.thecatholicuniverse.com/subscription-trial](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com/subscription-trial)

**Fr Mark, Fr Colin and Sister Mary** wish you all the joys and blessings of the Christmas season. We pray that you will all be blessed in the coming year, through the Lord Jesus. We thank everyone for their cards, good wishes and gifts.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

#### The sick, and those who care for them:

Rev Cassian Dickie, OSB, John Prescott, Andre Jacobs, Lorna Bentley, Chris Ashton, Amy Lloyd, Elsie Smith, Barbara Davis, Margaret Roxburgh, Eddie Gough, Joyce Crook, Teddy Howes, Brenda Towers, Margaret Riley, Ryan Womack, Tony Wilkinson, June Gent, Emma Garth

#### Those who have Recently Died

Lee Morgan, Harry Burns, Rita Donbavand. Patrick Maguire

### Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis has announced a Year of St Joseph in a new Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"). 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.*

