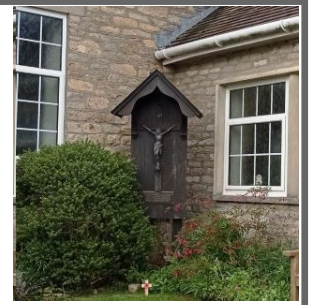




# OUR LADY'S, MARNHULL AND ST BENEDICT'S, GILLINGHAM WELCOME

PARISH PRIEST: FATHER JOSEPH NWIBOKO



## SECOND WEEK IN ADVENT

10TH DECEMBER 2023

### Please contact us:

The Presbytery  
Old Mill Lane  
Marnhull  
Dorset  
DT10 1JX

Tel: 01258 820388  
[marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk)

**Fr Joseph**  
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Parish Secretary  
Harriet Cornwall  
[marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk)  
Office hours: Mon/Weds/Fri 9am-1pm

**Parish Website**  
[www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk](http://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**  
Barbara Turnbull  
01747 822779/07971 338339

The Catholic Safeguarding Resources  
<https://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/parish-resources>

Our Lady's Church  
Old Mill Lane,  
Marnhull  
Dorset DT10 1JX

St Benedict's Church  
Cemetery Rd,  
Gillingham SP8 4AZ

**Parish School**  
St Mary's Primary School,  
Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, Dorset  
DT10 1JX

[www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)  
[office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)

If anyone knows anyone who is sick or housebound and would like a visit, please let Fr Joseph or the Deacons know.

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating
Sun 10th Dec	Marnhull	<b>9am</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
	Gillingham	11pm	
	Marnhull	6pm	
Mon 11th Dec	Marnhull	9.30am <i>followed by Rosary</i>	
Tues 12th Dec		<b>NO MASS</b>	
Weds 13th Dec	Gillingham	10am, followed by <i>Rosary</i>	St Lucy - Mem
Thurs 14th Dec	Marnhull	<b>9.30am Mass followed by Adoration</b>	St John of the Cross - Mem
Fri 15th Dec	Gillingham	<i>Adoration, Evening Prayer &amp; opportunity for confession. 5.00 – 5.45 p.m</i> 6pm Mass	
Sat 16th Dec	Marnhull	10am <i>Followed by Confession</i>	

### Sunday Readers

Our Lady's 9am: Charles; St Benedict's: Annette; Our Lady's 6pm: Jacintha

### Please pray for those who are ill

David Paris, Coral Harrow, Betty Walford, Joyce West, Barbara Frost, Tony White, Bob Horton, Hilary & Clive Drake, Jeremy Cusden, Jan Carson, Nigel & Sarah Mackay, Pippa Turnbull

**MASS INTENTIONS this week**  
Sunday 10th December: Jane & Robin

**Please note that there will Adoration every Thursday after Mass at our Lady's, Marnhull**

### CONFESSION

Please ring Fr Joseph on 01258 820388 to arrange an appointment outside of the times listed above.

### Second Sunday in Advent Reflection (Monsignor Robert Draper)

'*Comfort, o comfort my people says your God*'. Is 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 84 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8

John the Baptist has been designated as patron saint of motorways on the strength of today's readings. For Isaiah and for John it is important that there is nothing to stand in the way of the Lord's coming. No obstacle can get in the way, for the Lord's advent is certain. The declaration from Isaiah is majestic and exudes God's power, but it is not a rough power – the image of gathering lambs in his arms and holding them against his breast speaks of utmost tenderness. This is not a God who rides roughshod over his people. That is why John calls for repentance – he calls for the people to turn to God and receive the one who comes. For Christians the only obstacle that stands in the way of the Lord is the obstacle of sin and human resistance – that is why Peter calls on his readers to live lives that will mean they are at peace with the Lord – lives that will welcome the one who comes. Much of the liturgy of Advent is focussed on the Lord's coming, but partly that is to help us carry out the preparation needed to receive the Lord.

(Advent Reflection Contd.) The Lord does indeed come in might, but also in love, that is why fear is not the most appropriate response to the challenge of the last days promised by the reading from Peter. As the gospel tells us John comes to prepare the way and he does that by calling on the people to change their ways – repentance is literally a call to think differently. The image that will fill our minds in two weeks will be that of the child in the manger – to hold on to these very different images: one of God coming in power, and the other of a baby in a manger, will require very ‘different thinking’.

## Advent & Christmas Programme Clarification

The first MASS OF CHRISTMAS is on 24th Dec at 6pm at Our Lady’s; AND WILL BE PRECEDED BY CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT 5.30pm

## New Church Update

It is expected that the diocese will have bought the new church by 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023, when they will hand it



over to the parish. It will close for 6 months whilst renewal is carried out. We have appointed an architect and project manager and are rapidly moving from ‘concept’ to ‘design’. Thanks to the work of many parishioners we have a clear idea of design for the church, narthex, hall, sacristy/vestry, parish office and priest’s house. We plan to reopen in Summer 2024 with basic reordering of the church complete. A stone font and

altar, a beautiful sanctuary, a confessional and artwork will have been installed. As we develop ideas for ‘better’ and ‘best’ reordering we will publish a vision early next year, and how we may all contribute to delivery. The dedication of the church (and name) will be decided by the bishop in due course. **We will hold an open day for parishioners to visit the building and to speak with the team on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00am to Noon.**

## The Jesse tree at Our Lady’s



*“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, and the spirit of wisdom and understanding” (Isaiah 11:1-2 (RSV))*

Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas Tradition which began in medieval times. The first Jesse trees were large carvings, tapestries or occasionally stained glass windows placed in Churches to help people to learn about the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story. But now Jesse Trees are used as a kind of Advent Calendar. Fr Joseph invites you to write a prayer and hang it on the Jesse tree at Our Lady’s.



## Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope - a Year of preparation begins this Advent

In the Catholic Church, the concept of Jubilee or ‘Holy Year’ was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation. The first Jubilee was declared by Pope Boniface VIII on 22nd February 1300 (Feast of the Chair of St. Peter), to mark the beginning of that century. More recently a Great Jubilee was declared in 2000 by Pope Saint John Paul II to celebrate the new millennium. That Jubilee year brought the total number of universal Jubilee years to 28 that so far had been celebrated by the Church. **The 2025 Jubilee, which has the theme of “Pilgrims of Hope” will be a year of hope and trust for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threats to the climate.**

Intended as a time of conversion and emphasis on God’s mercy and forgiveness of sins, Jubilees begin with the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica. Holy Doors at each of the four papal basilicas in Rome are destination points for pilgrims, who pass through seeking special graces. The Holy Father has asked us to focus on two things: the **Our Father**, and the four **Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council**. The Our Father as a means to focus our prayer, and the Constitutions as a means to renew the catechesis in the Church. For more information on the Vatican’s Jubilee Year go to: [www.giubileo-2025.it/en](http://www.giubileo-2025.it/en)

To view the trailer for the Jubilee:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBi5SCO2J88&list=PLKM6wyWJKrxdmZo5EPxDc1VbW4MOqzljm>

## Thursday 14th December at 7pm

**Carol Service (joint) at the Methodist Church, Gillingham**

All are welcome to join the **Carols by Candlelight** service at **7pm on Thursday 14th December** at the Methodist Church. There will be the traditional Carols and Lessons along with some lovely organ and piano music and there will be music to please everyone. Admission is free and the service will be followed by mince pies and refreshments.

## Saturday 16th December at 5pm

Singing Practice at St Benedict’s. Come and practice hymns for Advent - All Welcome! (Deacon Mike)

## Brass Cleaning at Our Lady’s Church on Thursday 21st December after 9.30am Mass

Here is a lovely opportunity to contribute to the beauty of Our Lady’s Church and shine the brass ready for Christmas. **All are welcome** - if you have any queries, please contact Eileen O’Hare on: [e.ohare29@btinternet.com](mailto:e.ohare29@btinternet.com)

## General Cleaning of Our Lady’s 22nd December from 9.30am

**Again all are welcome** and this is an opportunity for those not on the weekly rota to make a contribution. Contact [e.ohare29@btinternet.com](mailto:e.ohare29@btinternet.com) if you need further details.

## Christmas Stamps Appeal for Catholic Children’s Society

Please save your Christmas stamps - if possible tear off leaving an inch of envelope around the stamp. There are collection points in the porch of both churches.