



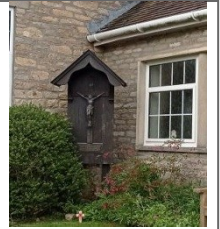
OUR LADY'S, MARNHULL & ST BENEDICT'S, GILLINGHAM

PARISH PRIEST: FATHER ONYEBUCHI CLETUS IBEKA

Deacons: Rev. Deacon James Mackain-Bremner

Rev. Deacon Michael Turnbull

Marnhull RC Parish is part of Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocese, Registered Charity No. 213227



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

21ST DECEMBER 2025

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating	Intention
Sunday 21st Dec	Marnhull	9am Holy Mass	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	The Repose of the Souls of the Mowbray, Coleman and Winner families
	Gillingham	11am Holy Mass		Yvonne Barlow, RiP
	Marnhull	6pm Holy Mass		
Monday 22nd Dec	Marnhull	9.30am Holy Mass <i>followed by Rosary</i> 11am Funeral Service for Maureen Mott		
Tuesday 23rd Dec		NO MASS		
Weds 24th Dec	Marnhull	5.30pm Carols 6.00pm Holy Mass	VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
	Gillingham	7.30pm Carols 8pm Holy Mass		
Thurs 25th Dec	Marnhull	9am Holy Mass	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
	Gillingham	11am Holy Mass		
Friday 26th Dec	Gillingham	6pm Holy Mass	St Stephen - Protomartyr FEAST	Cyril Bastable, RiP
Saturday 27th Dec	Marnhull	10am Holy Mass	St John the Apostle and Evangelist FEAST	Francis & Diana Porteous

Please pray for those who are ill

David Paris, Joyce West, Tony White, Hilary Drake, Sarah Mackay, Brian White, John Graham, Jane Raw, Rory Herbert, Kay White, Frances Mowbray, Rui Rui Gassmann.

Our Lady's Marnhull, Old Mill Lane, DT10 1JX
St Benedict's RC Church High Street, Gillingham SP8 4AG

Fr Cletus: cletus.ibeka@prcdtr.org.uk 01258 820388
Presbytery, St Benedict's, High Street, Gillingham, SP8 4AG

Deacon James: james.mackain-bremner@prcdtr.org.uk
07906 599389

Deacon Michael: michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk
07504 821558

Parish Secretary: Harriet Cornwall: marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk
01258 820388 or 07432 404358 (during office hours)

Parish Treasurer: Pam Snell: marnhull-treasurer@prcdtr.org.uk

Gift Aid Organiser: Paul Bowe marnhull-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara Turnbull 07910 663392 <https://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/parish-resources>

Marnhull Parish Website: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/>

St Mary's RC Primary School, Marnhull:

Sunday Readers: 9am: Mary; 11am: Susie; 6pm: Michael

In this 4th Sunday in Advent, we light the candle for Love.



****New** O Antiphons of Advent 17th-23rd December**

The "O Antiphons" are the antiphons preceding the Magnificat read at Vespers (Evening Prayer) and are said for seven days in preparation for the celebration of Christ's nativity: Based on Isaiah's prophecies, they reveal the different titles given to the expected Messiah. Each begins with the exclamation "O" and ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes increasingly urgent. O Sapientia (O Wisdom) *Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29* O Adonai (O Lord) *Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22*; O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) *Isaiah 1:1; 11:10*; O Clavis David (O Key of David) *Isaiah 9:6; 22:22*; O Oriens (O Rising Sun) *Isaiah 9:1*; O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) *Isaiah 9:5; 2:4*; O Emmanuel (God with us) *Isaiah 7:14*.

When read backwards, the first letter of Sapientia, Adonai, Radix, Clavis, Oriens, Rex, and Emmanuel form the Latin words: ERO CRAS. These can be understood as the words of Christ, responding to his people's plea, "Tomorrow I will be there."

****New** Christmas Offering**

Our Treasurer writes ...

Those of us who give to our parish using a standing order, offertory envelopes and our card machine, contribute to the upkeep of our Church building itself throughout the year. Thank you very much for this.

We make provision for Fr. Cletus in a different way. When we attend church at Christmas and Easter, money collected in the basket at the offertory time, goes directly to Fr. Cletus. This is his Christmas or Easter Offering. His gift from us, if you like, for his pastoral care, leadership, and hard work throughout the year.

Should you choose to give to Fr Cletus' Christmas offering in this way, some envelopes are available in the Narthex or porch of the Church. If you would like to give to Fr Cletus' Christmas offering by using an online banking method or writing a cheque please see the details below. Thank you all very much, Pam.



NatWest, Sort code, 55-61-09. Account Number, 07388381

Account Name, PRCDTR Marnhull R C Parish

Payment reference, CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Please note that there is also a cashless card machine in use at the back of St Benedict's Church. Just click on "Christmas Offering" and follow the instructions for paying by card.

****New** Confirmation & Holy Communion Classes 2026**

Holy Communion classes will begin again on Thursday 8th January at 4pm in the Parish Hall, St Benedict's Church. Confirmation classes will begin on Saturday 10th January at 12.00 Noon in the Parish Hall, St Benedict's.

****Today** Gillingham Civic Carol Service 21st December at 2.30pm**

There will be a Christmas Carol Service at St Mary the Virgin Church, SP8 4AW on Sunday 21st December. It would be nice to have a Catholic presence at the service.

****New** Cashless Card Machine in St Benedict's**

Please note that there is now a cashless card machine in St Benedict's Church which is very simple to use. Using the Tablet touch screen, select which category you wish to donate to; 2. Select the amount you wish to give (or you have the option to "choose your own amount"); 3. Once the Donate button is selected, the white Sum Up box screen will indicate that you can make a contactless payment with your Credit/Debit card or Smart Device; 5. If your donation qualifies for Gift Aid, a new screen appears asking you if you want to fill out the Gift Aid info now or later (if you choose later you will get an email). If you wish to give the Gift Aid info straightaway, type in your email address, select Add Gift Aid, and complete the additional information using the key pad shown on the screen. **This is only necessary on the first use of the credit or debit card.** We will be installing a cashless card machine in Our Lady's Church in the New Year.

****New** Reminder regarding Holy Mass times in January**

Please remember that from 4th January until 1st February 2026, there will no 6pm Holy Mass at Our Lady's Marnhull. 6pm Evening Mass will recommence on Sunday 8th February. There will be no weekday Masses from Wednesday 31st December until 9th February 2026.

Catholic Children's Society, Plymouth PUTTING ALL CHILDREN FIRST - ESPECIALLY AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Please take time to visit our nativity over the Christmas period. The collection will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth) as it works across the Diocese spreading God's love and giving families hope in times of crisis. We continue to ask you for a combination of concern, prayer and action. **May God bless all our supporters and donors.**

****New** Teens residential, 23rd - 25th January 2026, Est Shallowford Farm, Dartmoor**

The 2026 teens residential (those aged 13-17) are invited to explore lives of people holding the a refugee and asylum seekers status in the UK. There is time to question refugees and asylum seekers to hear why they left their homes to seek asylum. Once listening to the stories there is a chance for young people to form their own opinion and decide what action they would like to do. This event cost £50pp. To book: [Booking form for 13-17 year olds Residential Jan 26 - Fill in form](https://www.youth@prcdtr.org.uk) For further information: youth@prcdtr.org.uk. Bless Youth Ministr, Saskia

****New** Evangelisation Newsletter Link**

The link is as follows: <https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-3D7B158DDC8192832540EF23F30FEDED>

The Dedication of St Benedict's RC Church, High Street, Gillingham

Photos from the event are now on the Parish website, so please take a look: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/dedication> &The Dedication ceremony is featured on the Plymouth Diocese website: <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/bishop-of-plymouth-opens-church-in-gillingham-dorset-to-serve-growing-catholic-communities/> Bishop's homily: [Dedication-Gillingham-Homily.pdf](https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/dedication-gillingham-homily.pdf)



Scan the QR code for Cashless Donations - Thank you for your support! **ST BENEDICT'S Fundraising Appeal:** <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/new-church-in-gillingham>