



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 WEEK OF LENT

30TH MARCH 2025

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating	Intention
Sunday 30th March	Marnhull	9am Holy Mass	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT LAETARE SUNDAY	Penny & Cherry Thomas
	Gillingham	11am Holy Mass		
	Marnhull	6pm Holy Mass		
Monday 31st March	Marnhull	9.30am Holy Mass <i>Followed by Rosary</i>		
Tuesday 1st April		NO MASS		
Wednesday 2nd April	Gillingham	10am Holy Mass <i>Followed by Rosary</i>	St Francis of Paola - Comm	
Thursday 3rd April	Marnhull	9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Holy Mass		
Friday 4th April	Gillingham	5pm Stations of the Cross, Evening Prayer 6pm Holy Mass	St Isadore Comm	
Saturday 5th April	Marnhull	10am Holy Mass, <i>Followed by Confession</i>	St Vincent Ferrer	

Please pray for those who are ill

David Paris, Coral Harrow, Betty Walford, Joyce West, Barbara Frost, Tony White, Bob Horton, Hilary Drake, Sarah Mackay, Brian White, John Graham, Jane Raw, Rory Herbert, Norma Wilcox.

Sunday Readers: 9am: Ken; 11am: Barbara; 6pm: Christophe.

Confession is available by appointment - Please ring Fr Cletus on 01258 820388

LENTEN TASK - Called to Call Others

As a missionary church, we start our 40 days' journey with Our Lord in this period of Lent. As we know, Lent is a time of conversion, a turning back to God through the practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving; whilst still maintaining these practices, I would also encourage you to embrace the task of talking to people about your faith - please make an effort to bring at least one person to the church as part of your Lenten practice. Fr Cletus.

Contact Details

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

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

Parish Website: www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

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

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara Turnbull 07910 663392

<https://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/parish-resources>

St Mary's RC Primary School, Marnhull:

office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk 01258 820417

A Reflection on the readings for the fourth Sunday of Lent by Monsignor Robert Draper

Josh 5:9-12; Ps 33; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32.

Although its now a few years ago, I suspect that one of the many things that people – like me - really missed during the pandemic, due to regulations and guidelines, was the experience of gathering as family and friends and sharing a meal – especially a celebratory meal, when normally there would have been many gathered at the table. Meals and eating are not just occasions where we take in energy for our physical life, but they are also opportunities to express essential human truths such as belonging, rejoicing, sharing and much more. When the Hebrews arrive in the promised land of Canaan at the time of Passover- the time when they left Egypt - they eat the produce of the land, and so the promise made to them more than forty years earlier, is fulfilled, and it is the eating of food that expresses that fulfilment. After the trials and tribulations of the Exodus and the wandering in the desert, their liberation is finally realised by the arrival in the land, and it is signified by eating.

The parable of the 'prodigal son' is very familiar, and rightly so, as a parable of God's mercy and love, but it is significant how the return of the errant younger son is celebrated by his prodigal father: "we are going to have a feast because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life". It is also significant that the

(Cont.) elder – dutiful – son is the one who misses out on the celebratory meal because he is not able to share the merciful stance of his father. Every day Christians gather for a celebratory meal to express the fulfilment of God’s promise of liberation to his people – liberation from sin and death; and that same meal is also a celebration of the prodigal mercy of God, and the only ones who are excluded are those who refuse to share in the mercy of God.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE - Wednesday 28th May 2025 Come on a one-day journey with us to the Holy Doors in our diocese. We will be visiting Buckfast Abbey, Plymouth Cathedral, Launceston and Crediton. A time of prayer, joy and companionship will start at 8.00am and finish in the evening. Coach travel from Marnhull and from Gillingham, Mass at Buckfast - bring a packed lunch. It’s not too late to sign up - please see Annette or Heather. Price per person will depend on numbers but support is available where needed. We are hoping to plan a pilgrimage to Holy Trinity, Dorchester in the Summer - details to be shared later on. Pick up your Pilgrim passport or download from the website: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter>

Daily Missals are available to pre-order now and will be available on 30th April. You can order through the office for a 10 percent discount & free postage. There are two Daily Missals: The Weekday Missal that contains all the prayers and readings for all week-day Masses, from Monday to Saturday for £55 or The Daily Missal containing the complete Sunday, daily and sanctoral cycles in a single volume for £69.99. You can see the choices in more detail by clicking the link: <https://www.ctsbooks.org/?s=Missals> Please email the office by Friday 4th April on marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk if you’d like me to pre-order for you. Harriet

Gift Aid Envelopes The Gift Aid envelopes for the financial year 2025/26 are now available for collection at the back of the church. If you have any queries please contact Paul Bowe at marnhull-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk

RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - Please pray for Beth who will be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass in our parish.

New Average Weekly Collections for FEBRUARY 2025			
Collections in church		Other/Online	Standing Orders
Loose Plate	Gift Aid		Gift Aid
301.46	66.25	86.25	524.50
TOTAL		£978.46	

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PARISH 50:50 CLUB FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY (formerly Sweepstake). Entry forms will be available in both churches, can be downloaded [here](#), or from the website: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter>. Payment methods for entries are explained on the application. The more entries we get, the bigger the prizes may be, hence the ‘50:50’ title. Tickets cost £25 for one entry for the whole year, with a Special Offer of £40 for two entries! Please join in this annual fundraiser towards the maintenance of our parish buildings. It would be great to achieve 100+ entries this year and make this a worthwhile project for all concerned. **Please send your entries in by 7th APRIL.** The first draw will be at Easter & periodically until Christmas. Winners will receive prize money by cheque. Pam Snell, Treasurer

Catholic Herald Magazine for Lent available at each Church - cost £5. Please place cash in the jar provided.

****New** Film Club: Wednesday April 9th at 6.30pm (tbc) Jesus of Nazareth (Part 2)** Portraying the events

leading up to the Passion of the Lord (it doesn’t matter if you haven’t seen Part 1)

****New** NEW VOLUNTEERS**
Please could new volunteers return their forms to either Barbara Turnbull (safeguarding Rep) or Harriet Cornwall in the Parish Office. Thank you.

****New** Assisted Suicide**
The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, is likely to take place on 25th April. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>. A range of further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

Transformative Lenten Retreat: “Pilgrims of Hope” - April 9th-11th. Join us for a Transformative Lenten Retreat led by Fr. Jon Bielawski at Holy Trinity, Dorchester. **Schedule: 6:30 PM** – Arrival, Silent Prayer, and Reflection; **7:00 pm**– Talk by Fr. Jon Bielawski; **8:00 PM** – Holy Mass “Let this Retreat be a time of grace and deepening faith as we prepare our hearts for Easter. **All are welcome!**”. Fr. Babu 01305 251976.

Lent Zoom Talks organised by Fr Mark Skelton . Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84052447850?pwd=MmPzcp911dTsgJWDXR0vH5H9zYS4e6.1> Meeting ID: 840 5244 7850; Passcode: 043004 3rd April:- Peace; 10th April:- Jesus's last Pilgrimage.

Plymouth diocesan newsletter, which includes a Lenten video message from Canon Paul, stories of hope and a list of upcoming events : <https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-1E001CAA7917960D2540EF23F30FEDED>

****New** CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY PLYMOUTH**
“It’s that time of year when we start to look forward to the longer evenings and look to dust off the cobwebs of the Winter months by having a good old-fashioned Spring Clean. Did you know that you can donate your unwanted items through the Catholic Children’s Society (Plymouth)’s Orange Box recycling scheme and turn clutter into cash for a very good cause? In 2024, our Orange Boxes raised an amazing **£5,970.51** compared to the previous year’s record-breaking total of **£5,534.23** and we would love to set another record again in 2025. Thank you to all parishes who maintain an Orange Box and to every generous donator who has contributed to this amazing amount of money raised for CCSP! Items that can be popped into your parish Orange Box include: **Stamp collections**, first day covers or old envelopes and postcards pre 1950; **Coins and banknotes** – any and all, old and new, from all over the world, obsolete or otherwise; **Precious metals** including broken jewellery, old trophies, gold, silver etc; **Metals including ornaments**, metal toys, keys and locks, metal cutlery – any age and any condition; **Costume jewellery; Medals; Small antiques and collectibles; Watches** – digital, quartz or manual wind – working or not; **Any Catholic religious memorabilia** such as rosaries, crucifixes, medals etc **And don’t forget you can recycle your old ink cartridges** through our ink cartridge recycling boxes which also raised a fantastic **£532.50** last year. In 2024 alone, we have kept 42kg of cartridges from going to landfill. Thank you to every individual, parish and school who continues to support these recycling schemes” . Vicki Dunstone, CCS

Plymouth Diocese Vacancy: Head of Caritas - see posters or website: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter>