



## 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



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

13TH APRIL 2025

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating	Intention
<b>Sunday 13th April</b>	Marnhull	9am Holy Mass	<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b>	Eileen & John Carrivick RiP
	Gillingham	11am Holy Mass		
	Marnhull	6pm Holy Mass		
Monday 14th April	Marnhull	9.30am Holy Mass <i>Followed by Rosary</i>		
Tuesday 15th April		NO MASS		
Wednesday 16th April		NO MASS (CHRISM MASS AT CATHEDRAL)		
<b>Thursday 17th April</b>	Both Churches	8am Morning Prayer	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	
	Marnhull	7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper		
<b>Friday 18th April</b>	Both Churches	8am Morning Prayer	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
	Gillingham	11am Walk of Witness		
	Marnhull	3pm <b>Passion &amp; Veneration of the Cross</b>		
Saturday 19th April	Both Churches Gillingham	8am Morning Prayer 11am Blessing of the Easter Food	Holy Saturday	
<b>Saturday 19th April</b>	<b>Marnhull</b>	<b>9pm EASTER VIGIL HOLY MASS</b>	<b>THE EASTER VIGIL</b>	

### 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: Declan; 11am: Barbara; 6pm: June

### 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.

**Confession is available by appointment -**  
Please ring Fr Cletus

- **Talk to God before Mass**
- **God talks to us during Mass**
- **We talk to one another after Mass**

### Contact Details

**Fr Cletus:** [cletus.ibeka@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:cletus.ibeka@prcdtr.org.uk) 01258 820388  
**Deacon James:** [james.mackain-bremner@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:james.mackain-bremner@prcdtr.org.uk)/07906 599389  
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**Parish Website:** [www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk](http://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)  
**Parish Secretary:** Harriet Cornwall: [marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk)  
01258 820388 or 07432 404358 (during office hours)  
**Parish Treasurer:** Pam Snell: [marnhull-treasurer@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) 01258 820417

### A Reflection on the readings for Palm Sunday Of The Passion Of The Lord by Monsignor Robert Draper

Is 50:4-7; Ps 21; Ph 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56.

The three year cycle of Sunday readings giving us a different synoptic gospel each year means we hear the Lord's Passion through a different perspective each time, and we also get the chance to contrast each of them with the Passion according to John which we hear every Good Friday. Once we begin to explore the focus of each evangelist we are able to deepen our theological understanding of the Lord's Passion. Some aspects of the tone of Luke's whole gospel are clearly apparent in the Passion account – an emphasis on gentleness, healing, reconciliation, the calmness of the Lord and Luke's mildness towards the apostles are all able to be picked out. By recognising what is unique to Luke we can see how he wishes to present the Passion, not as all bleakness as Mark tends to do, not as triumph as John does, but as the great act of reconciliation and healing.

At the arrest there is the struggle and one of the attackers is

struck – as the other gospels record – but only Luke has Jesus heal the injured man. We are not told that the disciples scatter and flee, instead we are told at the end “his friends watch from a distance.” The crowd is not hostile to Jesus – they follow him mourning and lamenting, and after the crucifixion “they went home beating their breasts.”

Luke alone offers us the scene where Herod is involved, but neither he nor Pilate think Jesus guilty, and we are told that after Jesus' presence Herod and Pilate were reconciled. Luke gives us the scene of the women of Jerusalem who follow the Lord weeping: “Weep not for me, but for yourselves”. Luke offers us the famous “good thief” who recognises who Jesus is and who is promised paradise. This is the Passion where Jesus asks for pardon for his killers: “They know not what they do.” And at the end we are told he gives up his life in an act of trust: “Father into your hands I commit my spirit.”

Luke's Passion account reflects his theology of Jesus – the one who comes heal and bind up, who goes willingly to fulfil his role as the one who reconciles the world to the Father, and can be seen as such by anyone of good will – like the centurion, and countless disciples today.

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### **\*\*New\*\* Parish Awareness event at the New Church on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 6.00pm**

the New Church will be open to all parishioners - please come along anytime from 6-8pm for canapes & cake, wine & soft drinks & a presentation on progress & current costs. (It's not essential but if you can, sign up on the lists in both churches for an estimate for catering numbers.)



**Also, there are some seats available on the coach for May 28th Pilgrimage.** As Pilgrims of Hope this will be a great opportunity to pray for blessings on our parish community as we move forward into the next phase of our dear parish with its two churches, beginning with Holy Mass in the beautiful Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Buckfast Abbey.

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**\*\*New\*\* Easter cleaning of the church and brasses** at Our Lady's Marnhull on Wednesday 16th April, from 10.00am. Please come and help.



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**\*\*New\*\* The Parish would like to thank Eileen** for her many years' of conscientious hard work in organising and cleaning for Our Lady's Church. Eileen has decided to step back from this role to take a much deserved rest! **Thank you Eileen!**

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### **\*\*New\*\* Our Lady's Church Door**

Our church door has received a facelift! Brilliant! It looks like new after a good overhaul and paint. Many thanks to Tom for his time and commitment.

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**\*\*New\*\* CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GILLINGHAM WALK OF WITNESS 2025** Please join us on GOOD FRIDAY MORNING 18th April 2025 11.00 a.m. Starts outside The Barn Surgery All welcome.

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**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.

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**MARY & MARTHA GROUP** will be meeting on **Tuesday 15th April 10.30am** at 24 Church View (opp Waitrose). All ladies most welcome. Theme for a short meditation & discussion: the Synod's document on 'Women in the Church' plus bring any ideas for supporting our parish. Speak to Jacintha or Annette for further information.

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**EXTENDED DEADLINE! PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PARISH 50:50 CLUB FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY** Entry forms will be available in both churches, can be downloaded [here](https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter), or from the website: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter>. Pay-

ment 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 Easter Sunday.** The first draw will be at Easter & periodically until Christmas. Winners will receive prize money by cheque. Pam Snell, Treasurer

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### **\*\*New\*\* Jubilee Mass for Married Couples**

We are delighted to invite all married couples to a Special Jubilee Mass on **Sunday May 11th 2025 at 10:30am** at **Holy Trinity Catholic Church Dorchester**.

This Mass will be a beautiful occasion to celebrate the gift of marriage, receive a special blessing, and participate in the renewal of marriage vows. As **Pope Francis** reminds us: *"Marriage is a symbol of life, real life: it is not 'fiction'! It is the Sacrament of the love of Christ and the Church, a love which finds its proof and guarantee in the Cross."* (Pope Francis, General Audience, May 6 2015).

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### **\*\*New\*\* 'Rise to Our Cause' on Ascension Thursday for the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)**

Following the success of our two previous CCSP Ascension Day fundraisers, last year at St Mary's in Poole and the previous year at Buckfast Abbey, this year's 'Rise to Our Cause' event is being held at **St Cuthbert Mayne in Launceston on Thursday, 29 May 2025**. St Cuthbert Mayne Church in Launceston is a sacred site of pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year, and pilgrims can get their pilgrim passport stamped, and venerate the relic of Cuthbert Mayne. (More details to follow)

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### **\*\*New\*\* CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal**

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal. You can donate online at [/cafod.org.uk/myanmar](https://cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

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### **\*\*New\*\* Assisted suicide Bill even worse than before - postcards available.**

Committee Stage of the assisted suicide Bill has ended. It is now weaker and less safe than it was before. 300+ amendments that sought to strengthen safeguards in the Bill and protect vulnerable groups were rejected by Bill supporters, including protection for people with disabilities and domestic abuse victims.

**Please take action now - collect a red and white postcard, fill out your details and post it to your MP today!** Or click on the link 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/asvot>. Further resources on opposing assisted suicide available here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

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### **Easter Egg Donations for Sea-farers**

"While we recognise that there are many calls on charitable support, nevertheless, we wish to continue to support the often lonely and forgotten men and women who work on the ships that provide us with essential goods". *Gregory Hogan, Southampton Regional Port Chaplain (Stella Maris)*. **Please leave donated eggs and any knitted items at the back of the Church.**

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

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**Plymouth Diocese Vacancy** for a Head of Caritas. Further information can be obtained by emailing [recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk). & **Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary in Falmouth** see [website](https://www.plymouthdiocese.org.uk) for details.