



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

WELCOME

PARISH PRIEST: FATHER JOSEPH NWIBOKO
Deacons: Rev. Deacon James Mackain-Bremner
Rev. Deacon Michael Turnbull

Marnhull RC Parish is part of Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocese – Registered Charity No. 21322



FOURTH WEEK IN ADVENT

24TH DECEMBER 2023

Please contact us:

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Parish Secretary

Harriet Cornwall

marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk

Office hours: Mon/Weds/Fri 9am-1pm

Parish Website

www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep

Barbara Turnbull

01747 822779/07971 338339

The Catholic Safeguarding Resources

<https://>

www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/parish-resources

[-resources](http://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

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 24th Dec	Marnhull	9am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	Gillingham	11pm	
Sun 24th Dec	Marnhull	5.30pm Christmas Carols 6pm (Christmas Mid-night Mass)	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Obligatory Solemnity
Sun 24th Dec	Gillingham	7.30pm Christmas Carols 8pm (Christmas Mid-night Mass)	
Mon 25th Dec	Marnhull	9am Christmas Day Mass	
Mon 25th Dec	Gillingham	11am Christmas Day Mass	
Tues 26th Dec	Marnhull	9.30am	St Stephen - Feast
Weds 27th Dec	Gillingham	10am <i>followed by Rosary</i>	St John the Apostle - Feast
Thurs 28th Dec	Marnhull	9.30am Mass	The Holy Innocents - Feast
Fri 29th Dec		NO MASS	St Thomas Becket - Feast
Sat 23rd Dec		NO MASS	Sixth day of the Octave of Christmas - Feast

Sunday Readers for 4th Sunday of Advent

Our Lady's 9am: Tony; St Benedict's: Barbara

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, Brian Extance, Graham Ross

MASS INTENTIONS Wednesday 27th December:

Annual Foundation Mass for Francis & Diana Porteous

Beloved Friends

In the past few weeks, I have received many Christmas gifts and wishes and I have been overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. As many of you have wished to remain anonymous, I take this opportunity to thank you from the bottom on my heart - I have not experienced such generosity since arriving in England. Meanwhile may I wish you all a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas and may God bless you all. *Fr Joseph*

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
 We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,
 who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Here is the link to the Plymouth Diocese final Advent offering on the theme of LOVE:

<https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-2D9E4575C1E1A8302540EF23F30FEDED>

"I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord"



On Friday 15 December 2023, His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Canon Christopher Whitehead as the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth.

He replaces the former Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Reverend Mark O'Toole who

moved to Wales in June 2022 when he was appointed by His Holiness Pope Francis as Archbishop of Cardiff and Bishop of Menevia. On hearing the news of his appointment Bishop-elect Christopher said: "With complete trust in the gentle, guiding hands of the Lord, I take up the appointment that our Holy Father Pope Francis has entrusted to me. This is not something I could have ever imagined and willingly give myself to where the Lord has called me to serve and with all I have to offer.

"Like my own diocese of Clifton, Plymouth is such a beautiful part of this country and I am truly happy to have the opportunity to make my home among its great people. Clifton has been my home for the 54 years of my life, and it is where I learned to walk in the ways of faith and where my priestly vocation was born and nurtured. For that I will be eternally thankful. So too for the teachers and guides who have shown me the way, the priests and religious who have inspired me, and all who have supported me with their love and prayers. I am where I am because of their love, their witness, their example and their kindness.

"As I begin this challenging and exciting journey in the service of God's Church and the People of the Diocese of Plymouth, I ask for the prayers of the children, women and men of my new diocese. I need these and the prayers of my brother priests, and the religious communities, and all people of good will. Please pray that I may have the gifts of courage, wisdom, prudence and discernment, as your servant. Naturally I feel apprehensive about the ministry now entrusted to me, and so I place myself in the loving hands of our God, knowing he is always faithful. I thank God for his merciful love and pray that God's most Holy Spirit may enable me to be faithful in all I do, remaining ever attentive to the Gospel and his love. I pray that I be a gentle shepherd to God's people and a loving father to those I have been called to serve - wanting to ensure that the Church in the Diocese of Plymouth continues to be a safe and welcoming space for all."T

The Diocesan Administrator of Plymouth Diocese, Canon Paul Cummins, who has been looking after the diocese since Archbishop Mark O'Toole's appointment to Cardiff and Menevia in June 2022 said: "I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Bishop-elect Christopher Whitehead as the news of his nomination by the

Holy Father as the Bishop of Plymouth is announced. We welcome him with open arms to this beautiful diocese in the south-west of England. May St Boniface and St Cuthbert Mayne and all the saints and martyrs of the Diocese of Plymouth pray for him. I assure him of my full support and prayers as he prepares to join us here."

Thank you!

The whole parish is grateful for the efforts of all those who have prepared our churches and our liturgy to welcome fittingly our infant Saviour: Advent wreaths, the cribs, cleaners, sacristans, flower arrangers, choir, organists, altar servers and Deacons. God bless you all!

The New Church

The church will now be closed for six months whilst we adapt it to our needs. **Parishioners are invited to see inside the building on Saturday 6th Jan 2024 from 10.00 to 12.00**

Christmas Offerings

Our treasurer, Pamela writes "Those of us who give to our parish using a standing order, offertory envelopes and loose plate donations contribute to the upkeep of our Church buildings themselves throughout the year. We make provision for Fr. Joseph in a different way. When we attend church at Christmas and Easter, the offertory money goes directly to the Parish Priest - this is his Christmas or Easter Offering, his gift from us, for his pastoral care, leadership and hard work throughout the year. Should you choose to give to Fr. Joseph's Christmas offering in this way, envelopes will be available in the PORCH of both Churches soon. I have already prepared envelopes complete with GAD Numbers and am distributing to those of the parish who have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration and regularly send income by standing order. Alternatively, you may like to give to Fr Joseph's Christmas offering by using an **online banking** method and if so, here are the required details:

Our Bank: NatWest Blandford Forum
Sort code, 55-61-09 : Account Number 07388381
A/C Name - PRC DTR Marnhull R.C. Parish
Payment reference, **Christmas Offering**
Thank you very much

Thank you to the children of St. Mary's School

who have very kindly made Christmas cards for the parishioners. There are a number in each of the churches, so please take one for yourself and for anyone you know who would be glad of an extra card this year.

The Reconciliation Service on Wednesday evening was very disappointing for Our Ladies Church - Fr. Joseph prepared for us ALL a most beautiful Reconciliation Service but only FOUR parishioners attended. We need to show more support for everything that our church offers. As the saying goes 'use it or lose it!' Please try and attend something extra in the New Year. We are all busy people but we are called to be more than just Sunday Catholics. (Heather Johnson)

December Sweepstake WINNERS

1st Prize - Linda Walters; 2nd Prize - David Minto
3rd Prize - Patrick Roche

8 Bonus Numbers for Christmas

June Watkins; Mary-Clare Fearn; Liz O'Toole