

OUR LADY'S MARNHULL AND ST BENEDICT'S GILLINGHAM

Marnhull RC Parish is part of Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocese – Registered Charity No. 213227 www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk
Safeguarding: Barbara Turnbull 01747 822779/07971 338339. The Catholic Safeguarding Folder located at <http://www.csas.uk.net/resource-area>

2ND WEEK IN CHRISTMASTIDE. 2ND JANUARY, 2022

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| Parish website: www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk admin@marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk | St Mary's Primary School, Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, Dorset. DT10 1JX www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk |
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| Day | Place | Time | Celebrating | Intention |
|-----------------------|------------|---|--|---|
| Sunday Masses: | | | | |
| | Marnhull | 9.30 a.m. | 2nd Sunday after Christmas | <i>The people of the parish</i> |
| | Gillingham | 11.00 a.m. | | |
| | Marnhull | 6 p.m. | | |
| Monday | Marnhull | 9.30 a.m. <i>followed by Rosary</i> | Christmastide | <i>Madeline de Ruyter RIP</i> |
| Tuesday | | No Mass | | |
| Wednesday | Gillingham | 10.00 a.m. <i>followed by Rosary</i> | Christmastide | <i>Marion Tobin RIP</i> |
| Thursday | Marnhull | 9.30 a.m. With the School | Epiphany of the Lord | <i>St. Mary's School</i> |
| Friday | Gillingham | <i>Adoration & opportunity for confession. 5.00 – 5.45 p.m. Mass 6 p.m.</i> | Christmastide | <i>The Johnson Family</i> |
| Saturday | Marnhull | 10 a.m. Mass <i>followed by confessions</i> | Christmastide | <i>Edward & Clara Kendall & Lily Margaret Short RIP</i> |

Please pray for those who are ill: Ellen and David Paris, Brendan Colohan, Coral & Johnny Harrow, Betty Walford, Joyce West, Sarah Mackay, Barbara Frost, Tony Timoney-White, Bob Horton, Robert Carson, Hilary & Clive Drake, Eileen Chimes, Jeremy Cusden.

Epiphany is also Twelfth Night and takes its name from the Greek *epiphania*, a manifestation or revelation. Jesus, born quietly in Bethlehem's stable, is revealed, or made manifest, as the Son of God. The Magi, coming from lands far away from Israel, represent the whole of humanity who, through Jesus Christ, are able to become sons and daughters of the one true God.



The Feast Day is associated with three events in the life of Christ when His divinity shines through His humanity: the adoration of the Magi; the baptism of Christ in the Jordan (Mt 3); and the first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana, (Jn 2)
In many Catholic countries the tradition of chalking the door on this feast is popular:

People write on their doors with chalk in a pattern such as 21 ☩ C ☩ M ☩ B ☩ 22, with the numbers referring to the calendar year (21 and 20, for instance, for this year, 2022); the crosses stand for Christ; and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M and B are the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar), but they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, May Christ bless this house."

In many European countries presents are given on this day, rather than on Christmas Day. In Italy, there is the story of an old lady called Befana (perhaps a corruption of the word Epiphany). The story goes that, the Magi, following the Star and on their way to find the Christ Child, stayed one night at the home of a hard-working elderly woman, Befana. She took wonderful care of the travelers. Her house was so clean, and she cooked them a marvelous meal. They told her where they were going, to find the Divine Child, to pay Him homage and give Him their gifts. They invited Befana to accompany them to the Christ, but she was busy sweeping the house and carrying out the chores and explained that she had too many other things to do. After the Wise Men left, Befana began to regret her decision. The legend says that she gathered many gifts and she left her house, still with her broom in hand. She would spend all her life searching for this special Child. On Epiphany, Befana gives gifts to children, always hoping that one of the children she sees, and to whom she gives a gift, will be the Christ Child. Often Befana – an old woman with a broom – is represented as a witch or a comical character. It's better to think of her as a good, hard-working woman, who, like us all at times, got too absorbed in her work. She missed her opportunity to follow after the Incarnate Lord, but now serves God in generous charity, by giving what she has to those she encounters, knowing that in so doing, she honors Jesus Christ Himself.

PARISH SWEEPSTAKE 2022 To continue with this fun method of raising parish funds the **SWEEPSTAKE 2022** applications will be available shortly in both of our churches, to download from the bottom of Parish Website Newsletter, or email by contacting Pam Snell on marnhull-treasurer@prcdtr.org.uk

For a small outlay of £20 for the whole year there will be chances to win prizes from £10 - £40 from each draw

Welcome newcomers and visitors. You can find out more about our parish on our website – address at top of this page.

OUR LADY'S MARNHULL AND ST BENEDICT'S GILLINGHAM

News from our parish school

Open Morning: 9.30 a.m. on 10th January. Please come along, or encourage any parents you know to do so. Thank you for helping us to help as many children as possible to benefit from the wonderful learning experience we offer.

Are you:

- Anxious about your marriage relationship?
- Alone or distant from your partner?
- Disillusioned or bored in your marriage?
- Without the time or desire to communicate?
- Experiencing coldness or conflict?
- Frustrated, hurt or angry with your partner?
- Unable to see how to change your situation?

Call us on 07887 296983 or visit our website:

<http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/>



Very sadly, the

CREATIVE ARTS DAY

planned to take place at the Catholic Church in Weymouth on 8th January 2022 has been **CANCELLED** due to COVID. It is likely to take place in April instead.

Welcome the Stranger

An Online Event on Tuesday 8 February from 5-6pm to reflect on the challenges facing migrants and refugees.

All are invited to join Caritas Plymouth for an hour of prayer, reflection and discussion. This free online event from 5-6pm on Tuesday 8th February 2022 will discuss the issues facing refugees, migrants and those affected by modern slavery.

We look forward to welcoming guest speakers from the Jesuit Refugee Service and Brigid McEleney-Smith from Companions, Sidmouth who will



highlight the amazing opportunities that can be achieved through community sponsorship.

The event will take place via Zoom and you can register to attend by following this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/K3uz5LLY2X> or emailing caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

If you have a stay in hospital and would like a priest to visit you, it is worth making a point of saying so to the nurse who admits you or getting someone to tell your Parish Priest.



Otherwise data protection rules may prevent the word getting through.

Plymouth Diocesan Youth Ministry is offering a residential experience on Dartmoor, 18th – 20th February, for young people aged 11 – 17 inclusive.

The weekend is a great opportunity for our young people across the diocese to get together, explore parts of Dartmoor and join in activities such as high ropes and abseiling (weather dependent).

The event is based at Heatree House, near Manaton and run by experienced, trained staff. Please see their website for more details: <https://www.heatree.org>



To book, please get in touch with: Saskia at youth@prcdtr.org.uk



To secure your place a deposit of £30 needs to be paid by 9th January. The total cost is £95 and the parish will fund 50% of this for young people of this parish. Please contact Fr. Francis to request this.

Caritas Plymouth would like to invite you to an online event on homelessness on the 18th of January 2022 from 6-7pm. As Britain emerges from the crisis of pandemic and begins to come to terms with the impacts of the crisis over the last few years, the effects on homelessness are likely to be significant. It is predicted that the economic aftermath of COVID-19 risks a substantial rise in core homelessness, including rough sleeping. This event will offer an opportunity for prayer and reflection on how we can take practical action to support those who are homeless.

If you can join us for this event, please register using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/NkUZYhwckf> or email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk



St. Barnabas Society was founded in 1896 to support Anglican clergymen who became Catholic. Ever since then the Society has supported up to 100 converts at any one time, many of whom have continued their mission within the Catholic Church.

Many have lost not just their incomes and homes, but friends and family too. The Society provides both financial and pastoral support. Demand remains as strong as ever.

To fund its work, the Society relies on donations and legacies from generous members of the Catholic community in this country. If you feel able to support our work, please contact our Director, Fr. Paul Martin, on 01865 513377 or visit our website:

www.stbarnabassociety.org.uk

Thank you.