

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>

3RD WEEK OF ADVENT. 12TH DECEMBER, 2021

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.	Gaudete Sunday	<i>Monsignor David Silk</i>
	Gillingham	11.00 a.m.		<i>Martin McCorry RIP</i>
	Marnhull	6 p.m.		<i>The People of the Parish</i>
Monday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m. <i>followed by Rosary</i>	St. Lucy	<i>Sanka Herath & others</i>
Tuesday		No Mass		
Wednesday	Gillingham	10.00 a.m.	Advent	<i>Private Intention</i>
Thursday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m.	Advent	<i>Honey Rinpoche & others</i>
Friday	Gillingham	<i>Adoration & opportunity for confession. 5.00 – 5.45 p.m.</i> Mass 6 p.m.	Advent	<i>Andy & Victoria</i>
Saturday	Marnhull	10am. Mass <i>followed by Confessions.</i>	Advent	

Mrs. Betts and I have agreed that, very sadly, it would be wise to cancel the carol service and crib blessing which was planned for the school children and the parish on Thursday 16th December so as to minimize the risk of covid transmission. Please God, it will be possible to enjoy such an event next year. Fr. Francis

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, Pat Edwards Jones and Fr Louis Beesley-Suffolk.

Worshippers at Our Lady's will have noticed the signs giving advance warning of road closures near the church from 18th to 22nd December. Fr. Francis has been in touch with Dorset County Council to obtain more details: Throughout the closure period there will be no access from the B3092 into Great Down Lane. Those normally coming to church that way will have to go via Sodom Lane, Pilwell and Nash Lane. There will be a second road closure down Old Mill Lane from the junction with Great Down Lane. The Council and the contractors have indicated that they will clear a route through the works when access to the church is needed, but you may have to wait a little while for them to provide a safe way through. In this way it should be possible to have all our usual Masses, but this will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Plymouth Diocese has provided a way for everyone to take part in the Synod process by responding to a short online survey. This is in addition to our parish meetings which will hopefully resume in January. If you would like to give your views directly to the Diocese, just copy and paste this link into your internet browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9MVCQ7M>



Please pass this link on to *anyone* you think may be willing to do the survey. Remember, as well as valuing the views of practicing Catholics, the Church wants to listen to everyone.

We are fast approaching the 17th December, which is a significant date in Advent: one week later is Christmas Eve, so the liturgy gives voice to our increased excitement at the Coming of our Saviour into the world. The special Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass says: "It is by his (Jesus')"

gift that we already rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise." Those who say the Divine Office will notice the special Antiphons for the Magnificat at Evening Prayer. They are called the Great O Antiphons, because they each address our Saviour with a different title of God:

O Wisdom (O Sapientia), O Lord of lords (O Adonai), O Stock of Jesse (O Radix Jesse), O Key of David (O Clavis David), O Rising Sun (O Oriens), O King of Nations (O Rex Gentium), O God-With-Us (O Emmanuel).

You may recognize the titles, as they are the first lines of the verses of the hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

At the time the antiphons were composed, before the sixth century, people had a great interest in word patterns. They gave their compositions greater depth of meaning by arranging the words in ways which gave cryptic messages to the reader who could decipher them. There is just such a message contained in the O Antiphons:

If you take the first letter of each Latin title you get S-A-R-C-O-R-E

If you reverse the order, so you're in effect reading them by looking back from the day before Christmas Eve, you get E-R-O-C-R-A-S. The Latin words Ero Cras translate into English as "Tomorrow I will be with you"

To the right is a detail of the manuscript illuminated by a monk of Buckfast Abbey which the Abbot uses to sing the antiphon "O Emmanuel" on 23rd December.



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

It was a great pleasure to celebrate Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady with the school and parish together in Our Lady's. We began with the lovely hymn, "As I Kneel Before You." The children sang beautifully as Deacon James and Father Francis processed in and incensed the altar with Mr. Wardley and Sophie and Madalena as altar servers. The scriptures told how Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Eventually, God wanted to send his Son to save everyone from the effects of this disobedience. Father explained that, because God knew that Mary would say yes to be the Mother of God, he gave her a special gift at the moment she was created: he prevented that bad seed of pride from entering her, so she was completely pure and beautiful. That's what it means when we say Mary is the Immaculate Conception. After Holy Communion, we sang a version of the Hail Mary to reflect on God's gift of grace to Mary and her courage and faith in agreeing to do what God asked.

Then Father gave some special letters to our senior pupils who have agreed to be Pupil Chaplains and help the children to know Jesus. The letters were from the Bishop himself. He thanked the Chaplains for doing this for God and commissioned them to do all they can to share the Good News of Jesus.

The celebration was rounded off beautifully with the lovely children's voices singing "The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came."

Thank you to all the parishioners who shared this time with us, and thank you especially to Mr. Bowe who kindly played the organ.

We are offering a number of opportunities for parents of children due to start school in September 2022 to come and look around our lovely school. The last of these starts at 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.

Parish Sweepstake.
December's lucky winners are:

First prize	Christine Bueno
Second prize	Pam Downton
Third prize	Maggie Foster
Christmas Bonus prizes	Linda Walters
	Peter Prior
	Kate Seck

CATHOLIC VOICES – Sharing The Faith With Charity and Clarity
For those who were unable to join in with this inspiring event which took place on Saturday November 13th the recording can be accessed via the following link.
https://prcdtr-org-uk.zoom.us/rec/share/jg8L0Xk-uOnj-vb2Cc92Q5KA_5dP6gx7iwz1IDEilzLcl07-FaE0kzwMFsmykiB.W-pwFwLUAm-uHm4V Passcode: mjUFA44. (include the full-stop)

Average Weekly Collections:

	Cash	Gift Aid	Gift Aid by SO
October	£64.80	£150.70	£357.90
November	£220.56	£194.00	£397.38

Plymouth Secular Clergy Fund
This fund provides some additional support for the clergy of the diocese when they retire or become ill, or are experiencing particular financial hardship. There is normally an annual collection for this fund, but covid has prevented that. If you would like to give a donation, please send a cheque, made out to Plymouth Secular Clergy Fund, to Father Paul Andrew, Treasurer, PSCF.
Catholic Presbytery, Clodgey Lane, Helston TR13 8PJ.
Some people in the diocese have generously remembered the fund in their will. If you would consider doing this, please contact Fr. Paul Andrew for advice on what to do.

Ask your MP to end 'DIY' abortion
The abortion lobby are now running a large campaign in the media to put pressure on the Government to make temporary 'DIY' abortion schemes permanent before the end of the year. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible write to the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, asking the Government to end these dangerous 'DIY' abortion schemes.
Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website today which makes it easy for you to send an email to your MP asking them to write to Sajid Javid. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.

Heaven's Road Catholic Online Radio
www.heavensroadfm.com is an online radio broadcasting features like prayers, interviews and music to appeal to a Catholic audience – they also have many podcasts and broadcast over 40 daily live Masses from 15 churches in England and Ireland from their website www.heavensroadfm.com
Please help us by:

- Including us in your prayers
- Telling your friends and family about us
- Liking/sharing and hashtag our posts on social media

We'd really appreciate your support for our Mission to spread God's love.
Thank you for helping and God Bless you for your prayers, support and generosity!



CAFOD World Gifts
The True spirit of Christmas giving
Each World Gift is a real example of CAFOD's work. When you choose a gift, you support the area of our work that this gift represents.
When you buy chickens, you support our work with poor farmers in rural areas of the countries we work in, by contributing to our Livestock, Agriculture and Livelihoods fund. Gift ideas: Vegetable garden £5, Trees for life £8, Energy saving stove £9. Chickens £20. Gift catalogues are available at church or online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>