

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>

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS. 26TH 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.	Feast of the Holy Family	<i>Cyril & Bernadette Bastable</i>
	Gillingham	11.00 a.m.		<i>The people of the parish</i>
Monday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m. followed by Rosary	St. John, Apostle	<i>Francis & Diana Porteous</i>
Tuesday		No Mass		
Wednesday	Gillingham	10.00 a.m. followed by Rosary	St. Thomas Becket	<i>Marion Tobin RIP</i>
Thursday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m.	6 th Day of Octave	
Friday	Gillingham	Adoration & opportunity for confession. 5.00 – 5.45 p.m. Mass 6 p.m.	7 th Day of Octave	<i>Marion Tobin RIP</i>
Saturday	Marnhull	10 a.m. Mass followed by confessions	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	

Please note that there is not a Mass at 6 p.m. on Sunday 26th December

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.



The Holy Family



St. John, Apostle



St. Thomas Becket



Mary, Mother of God

Images to celebrate some of the wonderful feasts we have this week.

Of course, the Feast of Christmas has an 'Octave,' which means that it lasts eight days. This is because the joy of knowing that Jesus, Son of God, has been born for us is so great that it spills over into the next eight days. In fact, Christmas carries on even longer: What a great witness to the truth of the Gospel it is to keep your Christmas decorations up until the Feast of the Epiphany when so many people want to take them down a day or two after 25th December. If they ask you why you do it, you can tell them of the hope and joy which a real Christmas celebration can bring.

This week, the poet Sally Read, writes in *The Tablet* of the transformation of her poetry which accompanied her spiritual transformation from 'robust atheism' to Catholicism. In doing so, she offers a beautiful description of the Incarnation in terms of poetry, discovering that God the Father is the forerunner of the American confessional poets of the twentieth century like Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton, just as God's poetry is the inspiration of Saint Ephrem, Saint Francis, Gerard Manley Hopkins and R. S. Thomas:



"The ineffable Father expressed himself through Jesus Christ. God is, therefore, the original writer of the body, the original confessional poet. His story, his vision, needs to be expressed in skin and bone. He is the first to manifest his pain, his heart, his philosophy, in his Word. The Father is the Poet, Jesus Christ is the Poem"

May the wonder of the Incarnation fill you will peace and joy as you celebrate Christmas. God bless you. Father Francis

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.

Synod Process

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.

The diocesan team have produced a second newsletter about engagement with the process throughout the diocese. It will be available on the parish website.

Headline: Nearly 60 contributions from individuals, parishes and groups already received.

Features: Answers to questions: What does 'Synodal' mean? How are we reaching out to the young? How is our journey going? What are we hearing and what will happen next?



It's been truly inspiring as I travel round the parish to see so many people working so hard to make our church celebration of Christmas so beautiful and prayerful. Thank you to everyone: sacristans,

Deacons, altar-servers, florists, organists and choir, church cleaners and decorators, for generously giving your time and energy to this. May God bless you. And thank you to everyone who has attended our Christmas services. By your presence you witness to your faith in our beloved Saviour and so support your brothers and sisters in Christ. Finally, and especially, thank you to all who are unable to join us in body, but are with us in prayer and in spirit. May God give you peace and joy, today and throughout the year.

Fr. Francis

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

If you don't use the weekly collection envelopes, could we encourage tax payers who want to give to the parish over Christmas to use one of the special 'Christmas Offering' envelopes available in both churches and write your NAME on the envelope to facilitate allocation as GIFT AID.

Please make cheques payable to PRC DTR Marnhull R C Parish. Alternatively, you can use online banking. If you do, please add the narrative CHRISTMAS OFFERING when making the payment.

The Parish Bank details are: Sort Code 55-61-09 Account Number 07388381 A/C Name - PRC DTR Marnhull R.C. Parish Natwest Blandford Forum.

Many thanks, Pam Snell, Parish Treasurer

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

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.

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

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives.

You can donate on the CAFOD website: www.cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

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