

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 IN ORDINARY TIME. 23RD JANUARY, 2022

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.	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	Tony Harrison
	Gillingham	11.00 a.m.		
	Marnhull	6 p.m.		
Monday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m. followed by Rosary	St. Francis de Sales	
Tuesday		No Mass		
Wednesday	Gillingham	10.00 a.m. followed by Rosary	Ss. Timothy & Titus	Jock Brazier
Thursday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m.	Feria	Barbara Frost
Friday	Gillingham	Adoration & opportunity for confession. 5.00 – 5.45 p.m. Mass 6 p.m.	St. Thomas Aquinas	Andrew Lobb RIP
Saturday	Marnhull	10 a.m. Mass followed by confessions	Our Lady on Saturday	

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.

You may have seen advertisements offering cremation which use words like 'simple,' 'direct,' or 'pure' and emphasize that the service the Company offers is a cheaper alternative to a traditional funeral and with 'less fuss'. In another parish I have ministered in, a parishioner asked me what I thought of these advertisements, since a good Catholic of his acquaintance was thinking of signing up for his own funeral since he didn't want to burden his relatives with fuss or expense.

I'm going to share my view with this parish in case anyone, with the best of intentions, is thinking of doing the same.

If you look at the detail of what these Firms are offering, it is clear that when someone with one of their plans dies, their body is collected and taken away to be cremated, and that's the last moment the bereaved are involved. There is no funeral service; family and friends are not allowed to accompany the body to the crematorium. The ashes are scattered at the crematorium without any mourners present. Extra cost is incurred if any further input from mourners is requested; in some cases it is not permitted.

Because there is no involvement of family, friends or a minister of religion in these 'events' (the sellers themselves call them 'alternative to a funeral'), my view is that they are neither desirable nor suitable for Catholics.

Fr. Francis

Octave of prayer for Christian Unity

In Gillingham this Sunday, 23rd January, there will be a Service at 3 p.m. in the Methodist Church.



*We saw his
Star in the
East...*

Plymouth Diocese Youth Ministry is organizing a Zoom meeting for people aged between 11 and 17 years to discuss and share thoughts on the future of the Catholic Church. This is part of the Plymouth Diocese Synodal Pathway which seeks to hear from everyone.

The Zoom meeting will be on Monday 24th January at 7 p.m. To obtain the Zoom link, please contact Saskia at youth@prcdtr.org.uk

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!



The planned Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Bishop Mark, originally scheduled for March this year, has been postponed to later this year.

The new dates are **30th October to 10th November**, when hopefully conditions for travelling will be much easier for us

all. It will include a full programme of visits to the Holy Sites and staying in excellent Christian accommodation in the hills of Samaria and Judea, and closing with three nights at the Sea of Galilee. Places are limited, but to register your interest and for further detail please contact Della Shenton on della@5gr.org.

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

Our Headteacher, Mrs. Betts, writes:

The children have really thrown themselves into their work this term – our theme being 'Peering into the Past' has a history focus, although I have already seen lots of science investigations taking place.



We look forward to hearing shouts of "All aboard!" from our younger children as they enjoy some classic train stories and immerse themselves in our small world trains. After reading the story 'The Train Ride', the children really impressed us by collecting interesting nouns and adjectives related to what they may see on a train journey. Mrs Myatt reported, "It was great fun exploring language together from the 'tall, towering buildings' to the 'soft, fluffy sheep'."

Caritas Plymouth, the agency appointed by Bishop Mark to inspire and coordinate charitable works in the Diocese of Plymouth, organised a Zoom meeting last Monday to reflect on the problem of homelessness and share ideas of things which the people of the diocese can do to address it. The meeting began with prayer, led by the Vicar General. These seemed especially appropriate words to pray as we began: "Help us as we strive for a world where everyone has a home...save us from being overwhelmed by the scale of the housing crisis and help us to know where to begin."

We then heard from Jacob Quagliozzi who works for a charity called Housing Justice. They provide night shelters and engage with government to help those in most desperate need of housing. A full description of what they do can be found at <https://housingjustice.org.uk/>. Jacob told us that the very successful scheme to get everyone off the streets during the pandemic brought a reduction in rough sleeping in 2020 by about 50% on previous years, though the figure of 2,688 in 2020 is twice the number in 2010. Overall, though, the need is shifting from those who sleep rough to other forms of homelessness: sleeping on a friend's sofa, threat of eviction from rented accommodation, domestic abuse, etc. Most rough sleepers are male, but the new crisis is among females, either alone or with young children.

Housing Justice has produced a booklet with many ideas of what parishes can do to help those in such profound need. It's available online at <https://housingjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Many-Rooms-Responding-To-Homelessness.pdf> Besides supporting local homelessness charities, it tells us how to safely approach a person we find sleeping on the street and how to find out what other needs are most pressing in the local area.

Here are some local charities which work with and for the homeless:

https://www.julianhouse.org.uk/service_category/outreach-services/

<https://www.stepbystep.org.uk/>

<https://www.alabare.co.uk/>

Each of these websites include information on how to volunteer to help in their work. Jacob and the second speaker, Lois Wild from St. Petroc's in Cornwall, <https://www.stpetrocs.org.uk/> emphasised how much they would like us to pray for those who are homeless, under threat of losing their home, as well as those who work on the front line with these vulnerable people.



Parish Evangelisation Group

All are welcome to the meeting on Thursday 17th February:

6 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady's

6:15 p.m. Meeting in the side chapel at Our Lady's, supporting each other in our efforts to spread the Good News.

Those who cannot attend in person are asked to pray for the success of the meeting and of the work of all members of the parish to invite others to walk with Jesus Christ.



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

The Universe Catholic Weekly

is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new on line newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Order **your Digital** copy by going

to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call us on 0743661

7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

PARISH SWEEPSTAKE 2022

To continue with this fun method of raising parish funds the **SWEEPSTAKE 2022** applications are available 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 **Costs £20 for the whole year. Each draw has prizes £10-£40**

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