



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

PARISH PRIEST: FATHER ONYEBUCHI CLETUS IBEKA

Deacons: Rev. Deacon James Mackain-Bremner

Rev. Deacon Michael Turnbull

Marnhull RC Parish is part of Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocese, Registered Charity No. 213227



21ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

23RD AUGUST 2026

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating	Intention
Sunday 23rd August	Our Lady	9am Holy Mass	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	St Benedict	11am Holy Mass		
	Our Lady	6pm Holy Mass		
Monday 24th August	Our Lady	9.30am Holy Mass, followed by Rosary	St Bartholomew, Apostle FEAST	
Tuesday 25th August	NO MASS			
Wednesday 26th August	St Benedict	NO MASS 10am Morning Prayer & Holy Rosary		
Thursday 27th August	Our Lady	NO MASS	St Monica, Patron of Mothers Memoria	
Friday 28th August	St Benedict	5pm Confession, Bene- diction, Evening Prayer 6pm Holy Mass	St Augustine, Bp. Dr. Memoria	
Saturday 29th August	Our Lady	10am Mass followed by Confession	The Passion of St John the Baptist Memoria	

Please pray for those who are ill

David Paris, Joyce West, Tony White, Hilary Drake, Sarah Mackay, Brian White, John Graham, Jane Raw, Rory Herbert, Kay White, Frances Mowbray, Joyce Mitchell, Chris Williams, Petronella Sellick, Timothy Harris, Mary George.

Our Lady's RC Church, Marnhull, Old Mill Lane, DT10 1JX
St Benedict's RC Church, High Street, Gillingham SP8 4AG

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01258 820388 or 07432 404358 (during office hours)

Parish Treasurer: Pam Snell: marnhull-treasurer@prcdtr.org.uk

Gift Aid Organiser: Paul Bowe marnhull-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara Turnbull 07910 663392
<https://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/parish-resources>

Marnhull Parish Website: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/>

St Mary's RC Primary School, Marnhull:
office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk 01258 820417

Sunday Readers: 9am: Mary-Clare; 11am: Meriel; 6pm: June

Please note that the Catholic Children's Society Annual Appeal: "Grateful Hearts - Serving Others" will take place on the weekend of 29th & 30th August and there will be a 2nd Collection on Sunday 30th August.

Saint John the Baptist has two feasts to himself. One, in August, celebrates his death, and one, in June, celebrates his birth. And this is as it should be, for as Christ himself said, John was the greatest of the sons of men. The greatest, but also the most tragic.

A prophet from before his birth, leaping in the womb to announce the coming of the incarnate God, his task was to proclaim the fulfilment of all prophecies – and thus his own obsolescence. And *he did it*: with unequalled courage he spread the news that he, the greatest of all men, was the least in the kingdom of heaven. His disciples, and the devil, would have preferred him to fight, to build his sect, to defeat this upstart whom he himself had baptized, to seize his place in history. But he did not – and so, rightly, he *has* his place, and he has glory in heaven. We envy the great and the talented, and sometimes we think that they themselves are beyond envy. But when they come across someone with greater gifts, as one day most of them will, they will see for the first time what it means to feel like us. Let us pray that they, like John the Baptist, may pass that test. (Universalis)

****New** Harvest Supper on Saturday 19th September (date tbc)**

Please come along to the Harvest Supper on Saturday 19th September in St Benedict's Parish Hall. 6pm for drinks, followed by a Fun Quiz and food. Look out for sign up sheets at the back of each Church.

The Sycamore Course will take a break over the summer and will reconvene on Monday 7th Sept at 7.00pm for 'our next topic - The Bible. All are welcome for stimulating discussion and refreshments and it is not too late to come along in September if you didn't attend the other sessions. Please talk to Deacon James if you'd like to join.

Save the Date - Celebration of Marriage Saturday 12th September 12 Noon in Plymouth Cathedral

Please join us at our Celebration of Marriage, where the Celebrant will be Bishop Nicholas. Marriage enriches us all and all are welcome, including those whose spouses are no longer with them here. Let us know your anniversaries or intentions, or your planned wedding date. For more information please contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk.

****New** Please contact your MP to oppose assisted suicide - Deadline 11th September**

In April 2026, the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill fell at the end of the Parliamentary session failed to complete its passage through Parliament. However, Lauren Edwards MP has now reintroduced essentially the same Bill, with a **Second Reading scheduled for Friday 11th September**. It appears that the assisted suicide lobby is intending to invoke the Parliament Acts, whereby if the House of Lords rejects the same Bill in two consecutive Parliamentary sessions, it can be passed without their consent. **If MPs reject the Bill at Second Reading, it will not progress further. That is why the next few weeks are so important.** We have **just a small window of time to persuade MPs to reject the Bill**. Much of this time falls over the summer recess, which means MPs are spending more time in their constituencies. That makes the summer one of the best opportunities to **meet** or **write** to your MP before the September vote.

Here is a SPUC link to help you: [How-to-defeat-the-Terminally-Ill-Adults-End-of-Life-Bill-A-guide-to-lobbying-your-MP-in-person-JULY-2026.pdf](#) Hand written letters **do carry more impact** but if you prefer to send your letter online, the charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. For more information and resources, visit: cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote.

March for Life on Saturday 5th September in London

"Abortion has devastating repercussions for mothers and children but its indirect impact reaches fathers, grandparents, siblings and the wider family who often carry hidden grief or guilt. These wounds, largely overlooked by society, can fracture relationships and damage the whole family unit. That's why the theme for this year's March for Life is **"Abortion Hurts the Family"**. If you've never attended a March for Life before, then just to assure you that it's a peaceful, family-friendly event that attracts thousands of people of all ages and denominations, including many children and young adults. The actual March starts at 1.30pm. It's a great blessing that among those who attend are numerous women and men who themselves been impacted by abortion and know firsthand the hurt and damage it causes. If you have been affected by abortion in any way, please go to the website of <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/> and contact them to be in touch with organisations which can help with healing - you would be particularly welcome at the event on Sept 5th. Come to this year's event and be a voice for the voiceless - if you can come as a group or church event better! Lastly and very importantly, your prayers are needed, this work is for the Glory of God, nothing can be done without His help! Thank you." (Church talk from March for Life team). Please pick up a flyer at the back of the church for more details. There will be Holy Mass at 10.30am at Westminster Cathedral - 14 Bishops will be attending and there are many Priests and Religious who will be taking part in the actual March. If you have any questions, please talk to Annette or Harriet.

****New** Rosary for Pro-Life in Shaftesbury - Thursdays at 7pm. Everyone Welcome!**

Please remember that there is a Rosary every fortnight on Thursdays at 7pm outside Shaftesbury Abbey gates - the next Rosary will be on **Thursday 27th August at 7pm**.

Average Weekly Collections for : JUNE 2026				
Collections in church		Other/ Online	Standing Orders	New Church APPEAL
Loose Plate	Gift Aid		Gift Aid	TOTAL FOR THE MONTH of JUNE
440.48	73.75	52.50	£762.25	
Weekly Average		1,328.98		£127.50

****New** Save the Date!** Mission Made Possible Roadshow organised by the Diocesan Evangelisation Team on **Saturday 26 September 10am -2.15pm** at St Benedict's Gillingham. **All are welcome!** More details to follow.

Our Parish small Book Club will resume on 3rd September at Our

Lady's. This week's recommendation from the CTS "100 Books You Really Should Read" is from the section on Spiritual Reading, and is entitled "Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity: The works." Elizabeth was a contemporary of St Therese of Lisieux and although, she lived for only 26 years, she is quoted in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church". Please speak to Tony Moore 07967 592849 if you have any questions about the book club.

A message from Fr Chris Findlay-Wilson: "We are planning a day-return coach for the **Eucharistic Congress** in London 10th October. It would leave Plymouth at 5am and pick up at Exeter Services - and possibly Taunton or Wincanton" There are currently 32 places available - please contact Fr Chris if you're interested in going 01202 746539 www.catholicparkstone.org

Plymouth Diocese Newsletter

<https://email.workwithgusto.co.uk/t/t-47E6F88D98A22DCD2540EF23F30FEDED>

Cashless Giving machines Please do consider using these, as it's a very convenient way to support the Parish if you don't carry cash to Mass.

St Benedict's Maintenance fund: www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/new-church-in-gillingham **Thank you.**