



## 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



### FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

6TH APRIL 2025

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating	Intention
Sunday 6th April	Marnhull	9am Holy Mass	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	
	Gillingham	11am Holy Mass		
	Marnhull	6pm Holy Mass		
Monday 7th April	Marnhull	9.30am Holy Mass <i>Followed by Rosary</i>	St John Baptist de la Salle - Comm	
Tuesday 8th April		NO MASS		
Wednesday 9th April	Gillingham	10am Holy Mass <i>Followed by Rosary</i>		
Thursday 10th April	Marnhull	9.30am Stations of the Cross 10am Holy Mass		
Friday 11th April	Gillingham	5.30pm Stations of the Cross, 6pm Holy Mass		
Saturday 12th April	Marnhull	10am Holy Mass, <i>Followed by Confession</i>		

#### Please pray for those who are ill

David Paris, Coral Harrow, Betty Walford, Joyce West, Barbara Frost, Tony White, Bob Horton, Hilary Drake, Sarah Mackay, Brian White, John Graham, Jane Raw, Rory Herbert, Norma Wilcox.

**Sunday Readers:** 9am: Mary; 11am: Rupert; 6pm: Richard

**Confession is available by appointment** - Please ring Fr Cletus on 01258 820388

#### LENTEN TASK - Called to Call Others

As a missionary church, we start our 40 days' journey with Our Lord in this period of Lent. As we know, Lent is a time of conversion, a turning back to God through the practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving; whilst still maintaining these practices, I would also encourage you to embrace the task of talking to people about your faith - please make an effort to bring at least one person to the church as part of your Lenten practice. Fr Cletus.

#### Contact Details

**Fr Cletus:** [cletus.ibeka@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:cletus.ibeka@prcdtr.org.uk) 01258 820388

**Deacon James:** [james.mackain-bremner@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:james.mackain-bremner@prcdtr.org.uk)/07906 599389

**Deacon Michael:** [michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk)

**Parish Website:** [www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk](http://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Harriet Cornwall: [marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk)  
01258 820388 or 07432 404358 (during office hours)

**Parish Treasurer:** Pam Snell: [marnhull-treasurer@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:marnhull-treasurer@prcdtr.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Rep:** Barbara Turnbull 07910 663392

<https://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/parish-resources>

**St Mary's RC Primary School, Marnhull:**

[office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk) 01258 820417

#### A Reflection on the readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent by Monsignor Robert Draper

Is 43:16-21; Ps 125; Ph 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

For the people of Israel the Exodus was the primordial act of salvation. It was the Lord who acted to enable the Hebrews to escape from Egypt and the clutches of pharaoh at the Red Sea, and that event was foundational to their covenant relation with God. Addressing a people caught up in Exile and diaspora, Isaiah offers a provocative vision: what God will do for his people now will outshine even the great event of the Exodus! God will restore his people to their land, and bring back all the exiles and refugees to the Land promised to their fathers. This will be something new which will reveal God's gracious generosity to his people and fulfil all the covenant promises, however impossible it might seem.

The beautiful gospel passage we are offered today almost certainly was not an original part of John's gospel – there are good reasons to suggest it could have an origin in the Lucan tradition. Nonetheless the church has venerated it as canonical, and it offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on judgement and mercy – which are important Lenten themes. At one level it is a scene of bustle and violence as the shouting crowd drag the woman before Jesus baying for her blood. (Cont.)

(Cont.) At another level there is a serenity and calmness as Jesus writes silently on the ground and utters only the briefest comment to the mob, while the woman stands silent throughout. There is no suggestion that by dispersing the mob with his words Jesus regards her sin as insignificant, rather the emphasis is on the fact that the only one who is able to judge is the one who desires only to be merciful. The Lenten practice of celebrating the sacrament of penance invites all of us to stand silent before the Lord charged with unfaithfulness to the covenant and hear not words of condemnation, but mercy

### 24 Hour Adoration last Friday & Saturday

Thank you to all those who took part in the 24 hours of Adoration. It was truly a beautiful and enriching experience with Our Lord. Parishioners' response was very positive and we hope to repeat this beautiful Devotion. God Bless. Fr Cletus



**PARISH FILM NIGHT: On Wednesday April 9th we will be watching JESUS OF NAZARETH, Part 2** (Robert Powell as Christ). It doesn't matter if you haven't seen Part 1. We continue with the Passion of Our Lord so it's a fine act of devotion for Lent & the approach of Holy Week. Meet at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start in the Parish Room at Our Lady's. Bring simple food to share.

### \*\*New\*\* Easter eggs for Stella Maris

"I am one of two lay chaplains of the Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), who look after the ports along the south coast of England. Our work is to support those men and women who work at sea, bringing to us essential items for our economy and well-being, as well as carrying goods for the country's export businesses. We offer personal pastoral, spiritual and material support to seafarers and their families. Each year, we have a chocolate Easter Egg appeal that collects donated Easter Eggs for seafarers who are working far away from home. While we recognise that there are many calls on charitable support, nevertheless, we wish to continue to support the often lonely and forgotten men and women who work on the ships that provide us with essential goods". Gregory Hogan, Southampton Regional Port Chaplain. **Please leave donated eggs and any knitted items at the back of the Church.**



### \*\*New\*\* CAFOD Lent Appeal Response - Thank you!

The CAFOD Lent Appeal in our parish has raised £1086. Some parishioners are also donating on a monthly basis, and some donations are made online through CAFOD's website. A massive thank you for your support and understanding of the work of CAFOD and experiencing the joy and strength in coming together in this Jubilee Year of Hope.

**\*\*New\*\* MARY & MARTHA GROUP** will be meeting on **Tuesday 15th April 1030am** at 24 Church View (opp Waitrose). All ladies most welcome. Theme for a short meditation & discussion: the Synod's document on 'Women in the Church' plus bring any ideas for supporting our parish. Speak to Jacintha or Annette for further information.

### \*\*New\*\* No Missa de Angelis on 6th April at Our

**Lady's** - it has been decided not to offer the Missa de Angelis on the first Sunday of this month (ie. 6th April) at Our Lady's. However, this setting will be used on Maundy Thursday with parts sung in Latin.

**RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** - Please pray for Beth who will be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass in our parish.

**Catholic Herald Magazine** for Lent available at each Church - cost £5. Please place cash in the jar provided.

### Assisted Suicide

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, is likely to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> April. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvoter>. A range of further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

### PARISH PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>

**May 2025** Come on a one-day journey with us to the Holy Doors in our diocese. We will be visiting Buckfast Abbey, Plymouth Cathedral, Launceston and Crediton. A time of prayer, joy and companionship will start at 8.00am and finish in the evening. Coach travel from Marnhull and from Gillingham, Mass at Buckfast - bring a packed lunch. It's not too late to sign up - please see Annette or Heather. Price per person will depend on numbers but support is available where needed. We are hoping to plan a pilgrimage to Holy Trinity, Dorchester in the Summer - details to be shared later on. Pick up your Pilgrim passport or download from the website: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter>

### NEW VOLUNTEERS

Please could new volunteers return their forms to either Barbara Turnbull (safeguarding Rep) or Harriet Cornwall in the Parish Office. Thank you.

### Transformative Lenten Retreat: "Pilgrims of Hope" - April 9th-11th

Join us for a Transformative Lenten Retreat led by Fr. Jon Bielawski at Holy Trinity, Dorchester. **Schedule: 6:30 PM** - Arrival, Silent Prayer, and Reflection; **7:00 pm** - Talk by Fr. Jon Bielawski; **8:00 PM** - Holy Mass "Let this Retreat be a time of grace and deepening faith as we prepare our hearts for Easter. **All are welcome!**" Fr. Babu 01305 251976.

**Lent Zoom Talks** organised by Fr Mark Skelton. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84052447850?pwd=MmZpcz91dTsGJWdR0vH5H9zYS4e6.1> Meeting ID: 840 5244 7850; Passcode: 043004. 10<sup>th</sup> April:- Jesus's last Pilgrimage.

**Gift Aid Envelopes** The Gift Aid envelopes for the financial year 2025/26 are now available for collection at the back of the church. If you have any queries please contact Paul Bowe at [marnhull-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:marnhull-giftaid@prcdtr.org.uk)

### EXTENDED DEADLINE! PLEASE SUPPORT THIS PARISH 50:50 CLUB FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

Entry forms will be available in both churches, can be downloaded [here](https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter), or from the website:

<https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter>. Payment methods for entries are explained on the application. The more entries we get, the bigger the prizes may be, hence the '50:50' title. Tickets cost £25 for one entry for the whole year, with a Special Offer of £40 for two entries! Please join in this annual fundraiser towards the maintenance of our parish buildings. It would be great to achieve 100+ entries this year and make this a worthwhile project for all concerned. **Please send your entries in by Easter Sunday.** The first draw will be at Easter & periodically until Christmas. Winners will receive prize money by cheque. Pam Snell, Treasurer

**Plymouth Diocese Vacancy: Head of Caritas** - see posters or website:

<https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter> &

**Vacancy for Headteacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary in Falmouth** see website for details.. The closing date for applications is the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.