



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



20TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

16TH AUGUST 2026

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating	Intention
Sunday 16th August	Our Lady	9am Holy Mass	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
	St Benedict	11am Holy Mass		Bob & Mary Horton, RiP
	Our Lady	6pm Holy Mass		
Monday 17th August	Our Lady	9.30am Holy Mass, followed by Rosary		Peter Wardley, RiP
Tuesday 18th August		NO MASS		
Wednesday 19th August	St Benedict	10am Holy Mass followed by Rosary		
Thursday 20th August	Our Lady	9.30am Holy Mass followed by Benediction	St Bernard Ab, Dr. Memoria	.
Friday 21st August	St Benedict	5pm Confession, Bene- diction, Evening Prayer 6pm Holy Mass	St Pius X, Pp Memoria	Mary Oliver, RiP
Saturday 22nd August	Our Lady	10am Mass followed by Confession	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary 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

Fr Cletus: cletus.ibeka@prcdtr.org.uk 01258 820388
Presbytery, St Benedict's, High Street, Gillingham, SP8 4AG

Deacon James: james.mackain-bremner@prcdtr.org.uk
07906 599389

Deacon Michael: michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk
07504 821558

Parish Secretary: Harriet Cornwall: marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk
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: Ken; 11am: Jill; 6pm: Richard.

The Assumption

A room in shadow, sadness grows
and breathing shallows, fades to quiet.
And borrowed son, lays down his head
on she who, graced by Love, was his.
From hill of hate he took her hand,
fulfilled the call that had been said.
He gave her strength to be the one
who mothered him across the years.

Now she lays down this earthly role,
and falls asleep, but not to dream.
Instead, she awakens, blazed in light,
Her eyes, which gazed on infant's smile
now see his damaged hands reach out
and make her mother of us all.

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.

On Sunday 16 August we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Thank you to Fr Mark Skelton for sharing a poem on the Dormition of Our Lady.

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.

****New** 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-suiciderighttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote.

****New** A Talk with David Skinner - 20th August at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall of the Holy Name & St Edward - Shaftesbury**

"David Skinner, an 81-year-old Christian campaigner, has had his conviction overturned by the High Court after being prosecuted for sending graphic images of abortion to the police. His intent was to report the crime of "mass murder" in Dorset's Ophir Road BPAS (Abortion) clinic. Skinner had been convicted under communications laws and fined £3,840. However, on appeal, a High Court judge ruled that upholding the conviction would be a disproportionate interference with his rights to freedom of expression and religion." (SPUC). **Despite the weight of the issues he tackles, David is funny, warm & engaging - don't miss this inspiring evening! This talk has been organised by the Shaftesbury and North Dorset SPUC group - all are very welcome.**

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**.

****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.**

Volunteers needed for Car Link - a vital service to our Community - please speak to Deacon Mike for more info: 07504 821558

****New** 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.**