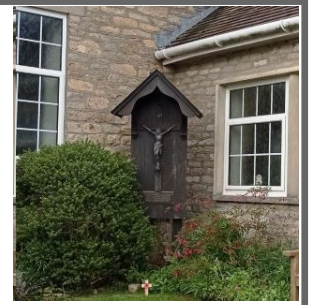




OUR LADY'S, MARNHULL AND ST BENEDICT'S, GILLINGHAM WELCOME

PARISH PRIEST: FATHER JOSEPH NWIBOKO



FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

3RD DECEMBER 2023

Please contact us:

The Presbytery
Old Mill Lane
Marnhull
Dorset
DT10 1JX

Tel: 01258 820388
marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk

Fr Joseph
Joseph.nwiboko@prcdtr.org.uk

Deacon James Mackain-Bremner :
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Deacon Michael Turnbull:
michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Secretary
Harriet Cornwall
marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk
Office hours: Mon/Weds/Fri 9am-1pm

Parish Website
www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep
Barbara Turnbull
01747 822779/07971 338339

The Catholic Safeguarding Resources
<https://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/parish-resources>

Our Lady's Church
Old Mill Lane,
Marnhull
Dorset DT10 1JX

St Benedict's Church
Cemetery Rd,
Gillingham SP8 4AZ

Parish School
St Mary's Primary School,
Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, Dorset
DT10 1JX

www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk
office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk

If anyone knows anyone who is sick or housebound and would like a visit, please let Fr Joseph or the Deacons know.

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating
Sun 3rd Dec	Marnhull	9am	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	Gillingham	11pm	
	Marnhull	6pm	
Mon 4th Dec	Marnhull	9.30am <i>followed by Rosary</i>	
Tues 5th Dec		NO MASS	
Weds 6th Dec	Gillingham	NO MASS <i>Rosary at 10am</i>	
Thurs 7th Dec	Marnhull	9.30am Mass for St Mary School & Parishioners	St Ambrose - Mem
Fri 8th Dec	Gillingham	<i>Adoration, Evening Prayer & opportunity for confession. 5.00 – 5.45 p.m</i> 6pm Mass	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity
Sat 9th Dec	Marnhull	10am <i>Followed by Confession</i>	

Sunday Readers

Our Lady's 9.30am: Steve; St Benedict's: Susie; Our Lady's 6pm: June

Please pray for those who are ill

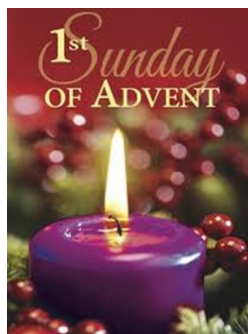
David Paris, Coral Harrow, Betty Walford, Joyce West, Barbara Frost, Tony White, Bob Horton, Hilary & Clive Drake, Jeremy Cusden, Jan Carson, Nigel & Sarah Mackay, Pippa Turnbull

MASS INTENTIONS this week

Monday 4th Dec
Ursula Rowe - RIP (Foundation Mass)

CONFESSION

Please ring Fr Joseph on 01258 820388 to arrange an appointment outside of the times listed above.



A Reflection by Msgr Robert Draper

'Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Is 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8 Ps79 1Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37

The origin of the word human comes through Latin from the word for earth or soil. So when Isaiah says: "You are the potter, we are the clay" he is being accurate as well as poetic. And we use the word "human" so often to emphasise the limitation, the frailty, the weakness of people; that is something Isaiah is so aware of in this most poignant passage. It is the flawed nature of Israel that the prophet draws attention to: they have drifted away, they have forgotten, been distracted and no longer recognise the God who is their Father. And now because of this they are lost (Cont.)

Reflection by Msgr Robert Draper .. Continued)

and, because of their sin, not able to come back. In this hopeless situation Isaiah pleads for God to act because that is the only way: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down." Advent is the time of waiting for the coming of the Lord; because ultimately it is only by God's actions that humans can have any future. The reading from Paul and the gospel both emphasise the waiting – Paul addressing the Corinthians confident in their faith, Jesus challenging his listeners to "to stay awake." The Christian life is always lived acknowledging the utter dependence on God, but the reason we, like the Corinthians, can live with confidence is that for humans that dependence is rooted in God's love. Isaiah pleads for God to come down, but for Christians that has already been realised in the Word made flesh who dwelt – and dwells – amongst us.

Singing Practice at St Benedict's Saturday 2nd December at 5pm

Come and practice hymns for Advent - All Welcome!
(Deacon Mike)



Parish Film Night Tuesday 5th December

In the side room at Our Lady's, 6.30 for 6.45 start. Please come to what is **possibly the BEST Christmas film EVER!**

'It's A Wonderful Life'. Bring a friend & some Christmassy food to share, mulled drinks provided

Day of Faith at St Mary's School Thursday 7th December

The day will begin with Mass at Our Lady's for the school and Parishioners - On Thursday St Mary's School will be holding a Day of Faith. This has been running in Advent and Lent for several years, initially planned and organised by parishioners but now planned and directed by the staff in accordance with the Catholic Religious Education Policy of the school. The Deacons and some parishioners help out during the day **You are all warmly invited to join in this Mass and offer it for the school, the children and the staff in the development and strengthening of their faith.**

Light up a Life - Weldmar Hospice Care, Gillingham Thursday 7th December at 6.30pm at Orchard Park Garden Centre

There is a short service with reflection and prayers. People can donate, in memory of family members who have died during the year, but no donation is necessary. Carols will be sung and Christmas refreshment provided
For more information:

<https://www.weldmarhospicecare.org/events/light-up-a-life-gillingham/>



Sturminster Choral Society Saturday 9th December at 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Sturminster Newton

Vaughan Williams

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Tickets on the door - £10

Enquiries: 01258 820755

World Gifts Cafod

A range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families experiencing poverty. When you choose a gift, you support the area of our work that this gift represents. Buy a gift and help supply families with essential kits to help them survive harsh winters in places like Gaza, Afghanistan and Ukraine. The World Gifts Health fund supports healthcare, plus care for the most vulnerable people in poor communities. For more information please collect a booklet at the back of church or visit: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL

Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)



Please support our second biggest fundraiser of the year - our Christmas Crib Appeal. To donate to this year's Crib Appeal, please use your mobile phone to scan this QR code, which takes you directly to our 'Give a Little'

campaign or visit the crib in your church.

Carol Service (joint) at the Methodist Church Thursday 14th December at 7pm

All are welcome to join the **Carols by Candlelight** service at **7pm on Thursday 14th December** at the Methodist Church. There will be the traditional Carols and Lessons along with some lovely organ and piano music and there will be music to please everyone. Admission is free and the service will be followed by mince pies and refreshments.

Brass Cleaning at Our Lady's Church on Thursday 21st December after 9.30am Mass

Here is a lovely opportunity to contribute to the beauty of Our Lady's Church and shine the brass ready for Christmas. **All are welcome** - if you have any queries, please contact Eileen O'Hare on: e.ohare29@btinternet.com

General Cleaning of Our Lady's 22nd December from 9.30am

Again all are welcome and this is an opportunity for those not on the weekly rota to make a contribution. Contact e.ohare29@btinternet.com if you need further details.