

OUR LADY'S MARNHULL AND ST BENEDICT'S GILLINGHAM

News from our parish school

Our Headteacher, Mrs. Betts, writes

The children have enjoyed learning all about day and night! We used torches and globes to locate where the sun is situated and what happens when planet Earth spins. We learnt how long it takes earth to rotate on its axis, how many hours are in a day and night and began learning about the different time zones around the globe. The children were inquisitive and engaged throughout and relished the opportunity to visually create day and night, using the torches and globes. They were excited at the realisation that when it is day time for us, it is night time for those countries on the other side of the world and vice versa.



The children also completed a fantastic homework project to design and make their own space rockets! These were absolutely amazing and something which the children put a lot of time, thought and effort into, we were absolutely blown away!

This week our youngest children joined Fr. Francis in Our Lady's Church to talk about the Sacrament of Baptism. In class, they have been learning that baptism is an invitation to belong to God's family. They have explored some of the things which happen at a baptism, like pouring water, anointing with oil, wrapping in a white garment and lighting a candle. They've watched a video of a baby being welcomed by a priest and Church family at the beginning of a baptism, so they were ready to talk with Fr. Francis and interested to look at the places where baptism takes place; sitting in the nave of the church for the first part and then going to the font. They learnt about the Paschal Candle, saw what the Mummy and Daddy and Godparents do and what the priest does.

They heard Fr. Francis explain that a sacrament involves doing something to our body, like washing or feeding, so that God will do something similar to our heart and soul. The children really enjoyed their visit and it reinforced their learning.

We are offering a number of opportunities for parents of children due to start school in September 2022 to come and look around our lovely school. These begin at 9.30 a.m. on the following days: 22nd November, 29th November, 6th December and 10th January. Please come along, or encourage any parents you know to do so. Thank you for helping us to help as many children as possible to benefit from the wonderful learning experience we offer.



It was great to see Fr. Robbie Lowe's book sell out last week. If anyone missed out and would like to purchase a copy, please let Fr. Francis know and he'll get some more.

'The Night Journey' is a beautiful reflection on the Mass which leads us to the manger and the child in the arms of Mary.

All proceeds go to charities working with disadvantaged children. Copies cost £7.50 each. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to PRC DTR

Marnhull R.C. Parish. A parish cheque for total sales will then be sent to Fr. Robbie

The Passage - homeless charity

The Passage offers a wide range of services, all year round, to meet the needs of homeless and vulnerable people. Our aim is to help people to address the issues that have contributed to them becoming homeless, and to enable them to move on to live safe, happy and fulfilling lives. From 30 November for 1 week the government will double all donations to The Passage. Please support The Passage and make a donation. Visit <https://passage.org.uk/> The website will direct you to a link to The Big Give.



Ever worried that you haven't understood the Gospel reading at Mass? Join Mauro Ianicelli on Youtube for his Wednesday evening 7.00pm live sessions between now and Christmas to "Break open each Advent Sunday Gospel ...before you go to Sunday Mass". First session is this Wednesday 24th November. To register free, go to www.comeandsee.org Mauro has just finished the excellent 8 week course "The Bible Timeline" which he plans to run again during Lent 2022.

CAFOD World Gifts

The True spirit of
Christmas giving



Each World Gift is a real example of CAFOD's work. When you choose a gift, you support the area of our work that this gift represents.

When you buy chickens, you support our work with poor farmers in rural areas of the countries we work in, by contributing to our Livestock, Agriculture and Livelihoods fund. Gift ideas: Vegetable garden £5, Trees for life £8, Energy saving stove £9. Chickens £20. Gift catalogues are available at church or online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

The Vale Pantry, Sturminster Newton, has asked us to join them in a 'Reverse Advent Calendar', to raise food for Christmas for local people in poverty. We're asked to pop an item of suitable food into a box at home, each day of November, (or as many days as we can).

Please note: they're always short of childrens' cereals; tins of spaghetti hoops, beans, pasta sauce (but not dry pasta nor soup. They have loads.); then personal care things like toothpaste and deodorant.

When it's full, drop the box into the Pantry or the Medical Centre in Stur, at the beginning of December. If you can't get the box to them, Tony Moore will collect it from you and deliver it to The Pantry. 01963 365848