



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

WELCOME

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



4TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

2ND FEBRUARY 2025

Please contact us:

The Presbytery
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Deacon Michael Turnbull

michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Secretary

Harriet Cornwall
marnhull@prcdtr.org.uk
Office hours: Mon & Fri 9am-3pm
Weds 9am-1pm
Mobile: 07432 404358

Parish Website

www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep

Barbara Turnbull
07910 663392
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 (Headteacher Mrs Sharon Betts)

St Mary's RC Primary School,
Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, Dorset
DT10 1JX
www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk
office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk

Confession: Please ring Fr Cletus on 01258 820388 to arrange an appointment outside of the times listed above

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

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating
Sun 2nd Feb	Marnhull	9am Holy Mass	PRESENTATION OF THE LORD FEAST
	Gillingham	11am Holy Mass	
Mon 3rd Feb	Marnhull	9.30am Morning Prayer & Rosary	
Tues 4th Feb		No Mass	
Weds 5th Feb	Gillingham	10am Morning Prayer & Rosary	St Agatha Memorial
Thurs 6th Feb	Marnhull	10am Morning Prayer & Adoration	St Paul Miki & Companions Memorial
Fri 7th Feb	Gillingham	5pm Evening Prayer & Adoration	
Sat 8th Feb		No Mass	

Mass Intentions

Sunday 2nd February at 9am: Jan & Robert Carson, RiP

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, Ted Elmore.

Sunday Readers: Our Lady's 9am: Charles Snell; St Benedict's: Meriel.



CANDLEMAS

The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, forty days after the birth of Jesus. 2nd February is also known as Candlemas Day as traditionally all the Church's candles were blessed for the year.

In pre-Christian times, 2nd February marked the mid point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox. Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights.

Founded by Pope St. John Paul II in 1997, today is also the **World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life**. He attached it to "Candlemas Day" because the consecrated men and women are to be the light in the world, imitating Jesus, the **Light of the World**.

A huge Thank you to Fr Anthony who has travelled all the way from Devon to say Sunday Mass for us these past weeks.

****New** - Lent Talks and Lunches: Churches Together Marnhull**

Lent talks will begin on Friday, 7 March at 12 midday and continue every subsequent Friday in Lent finishing on 11 April. The talks will last for 30 minutes and will be followed by a light lunch, the proceeds of which will be donated to the food bank. The subject of this year's talks is prayer, and over the six weeks we will reflect on the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian. The leaders will invite those present to experience different forms of prayer: Lectio, Ignatian, Celtic, Prayer of Silence, Our Father. All talks are open to all denominations. Our Lady's will lead the talks on 21st March and 11th of April. Please note that we will only be able to offer lunch after three of the talks. This is because there is a clash between the village lunches and Lent lunches. Lunch will be offered on the 14th, 21st and 28th March. Our Lady's will provide lunch on 21st March. The tradition of ecumenical Lent talks is an old one in Marnhull, and it provides a significant witness to our shared faith. Please come and listen and enjoy a bowl of soup with wonderful company. Jacintha.

****New** - "Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.." 1 Peter 3:15**

Did you know that there is a prayer group in our parish that meets every month to learn more about how to spread our Catholic Faith? Most Parishes have such groups, generally meeting monthly, for about an hour, for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayer, Sharing of encounters, and Planning. Our aim is that through prayer and growing with each other in faith, we may be inspired to reach out together to our parish so that there is a perceived need for faith sharing in all groups in the parish. Also to take opportunities presented in the liturgical calendar and local events, to create special moments of outreach to those who need a helping hand, the lapsed, other Christian Churches, and the 'unchurched'. Our parish group meets at Our Lady's on the third Thursday of the month, with the time changing through the seasons. Our next parish meeting will be on Thursday 20th February after 9.30.am. Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is invited to 'Come and see' (Jn 1:39) the help available to share our faith. If you have a query before 20th February, please contact Deacon James. Tony Moore

****New** - School Class Bibles Appeal**

Following last Sunday's 2nd collection, which raised just over half the cost price in cash, if any parishioner missed the collection & still wishes to donate towards this expense, you can do so in one of two ways:

- 1) Send/hand in a cheque payable to **PRCDTR Marnhull RC Parish**, write 'School Bible Appeal' on the reverse.
- 2) Make a bank payment online to **Sort Code 55-61-09 : A/c No. 07388381** with School Bibles as reference.

Many thanks for all the contributions. Pam Snell, Parish Treasurer

House Blessings - An annual blessing of a house and home can be a powerful source of Grace for all who live there and for visitors over the year. This is popular around Epiphany and the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord (2nd February). It involves inviting a priest or deacon to bless the house with holy water and prayers and is attended by the family and sometimes their guests. It may then lead to a cup of tea and a slice of cake! Please speak to Deacon Mike or Deacon James if you would like to arrange this simple act of prayer in your own home.

Mass Intention Envelopes - Mass Intention envelopes are now provided at the back of the Church - please place in the Sunday Collection basket or hand to the Priest. Although every effort will be made for the Mass to be said on the day requested, it may not always be possible (eg, if there is already an intention for that day). If you would like to know more about Mass Intentions, please see the Newsletter section of our website: <https://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk/newsletter>. The suggested minimum donation is £10.

An invitation to survivors of Abuse

We have two survivor groups in the diocese that have now been running for over a year, which provide an opportunity for anyone with lived experience of abuse to share their thoughts and ideas about survivor support work in our diocese. We are grateful to all those who so generously give of their time to attend these meetings. The diocese would welcome the opportunity to hear from others who have a lived experience of abuse, so that we can involve them in the work we are doing to support survivors. If you would like to help us with this work, or you would like to find out more, please contact: Sophie Scagell (Survivor Support Caseworker) on 01364 645436 / sophie.scagell@prcdtr.org.uk

UNBOUND - a practical guide: 15th February, 10-3pm, Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre

In this Jubilee year where Pope Francis has asked us to be "Pilgrims of Hope" this day will offer practical guidance on the spiritual battle of life and how inner healing and deliverance can give us true freedom in Christ. The day is being led by Sue Walsh the National Co-ordinator of Unbound Prayer ministry UK. This event will be held at Buckfast Abbey conference centre (Dart View Room 4). There is an opportunity to go to the Abbey mass at noon. Bookings need to be done through plymouth-crownhill@prcdtr.org.uk Enquiries: 01752 701660. We look forward to seeing you.

****New** - Lent Retreats from 7th March at St Rita's, Honiton.** for those who would like to step back from everyday life to review their journey in faith and make a little extra space and time for God. **See Poster at the back of the church.** For further details and bookings contact Plymouth Diocesan Ignatian Spirituality Group at diocesan-ignatian-retreats@prcdtr.org.uk or phone 01752 769164 or 07823 447637.

****New** Thank you from Stella Maris**

Thank you to parishioners who supported Sea Sunday in 2024 - our Parish donated £190.42. "The generosity shown by you will help ensure that seafarers and fishers in this country and around the world will continue to receive the care and support that they need".