



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

WELCOME

PARISH PRIEST: FATHER JOSEPH NWIBOKO
Deacons: Rev. Deacon James Mackain-Bremner
Rev. Deacon Michael Turnbull

Marnhull RC Parish is part of Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocese – Registered
 Charity No. 21322



HOLY WEEK

24TH MARCH 2024

Please contact us:

The Presbytery
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 Dorset
 DT10 1JX

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

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating
Sun 24th March	Marnhull	9am Mass	Palm Sunday
	Gillingham	11am Mass	
	Marnhull	6pm Mass	
Mon 25th March	Marnhull	9.30 Mass, followed by Rosary	
Tues 26th March	Marnhull	NO MASS	
Weds 27th March	Gillingham	NO MASS	
Thurs 28th March	Marnhull Gillingham	8am Morning Prayer 8am Morning Prayer	Maundy Thursday
	Gillingham	7pm Mass	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Fri 29th March	Marnhull Gillingham Marnhull	8am Morning Prayer 8am Morning Prayer 11am Stations of the Cross	Good Friday
	Gillingham	3pm Passion & Veneration of the Cross	CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION
Sat 30th March	Marnhull Gillingham	8am Morning Prayer 8am Morning Prayer	Holy Saturday
	Gillingham	11am	Blessing of the Food
Sun 31st March	Marnhull	9am Mass	EASTER SUNDAY
	Gillingham	11am Mass	

Sunday Readers: Our Lady's 9am: Andrew & Eileen ; St Benedict's: Meriel
 Our Lady's 6pm: Christine

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

Please pray for those who are ill
 David Paris, Coral Harrow, Betty Walford, Joyce West, Barbara Frost, Tony White, Bob Horton, Hilary & Clive Drake, Jan Carson, Nigel & Sarah Mackay, Pip-pa Turnbull, Brian White, John Graham

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

There will be no Mass on Wednesday because Fr Joseph will be attending the Chrism Mass at Plymouth Cathedral

Remember that clocks go forward on 31st March (Easter Sunday)

Christmas Boxes 2023 - Correction to last week's notice: Knitting for Christmas boxes 2024

Apologies, I made an error in last week's Newsletter notice - please do **NOT knit hats & gloves - only small scarves are required.** Thanks, Harriet

***Walk of Witness Churches Together**



Please join us on GOOD FRIDAY MORNING 29th MARCH 2024, 11.00am outside The Barn Surgery.

After the walk, there will be tea/ coffee and Hot Cross Buns in our New Church which will be the first time that the Catholics will be able to host the Walk of Witness refreshments, so please do come and support it.

****Easter Clean of Our Lady's Church****

on Wednesday 27th March. From 10.00am. Please spare an hour to help. Contact Eileen: e.ohare29@btinternet.com

***Reminder of the Day of Faith at St Mary's School, Marnhull - Monday 25th March at 9.30am**

The day will start with Mass at Our Lady's for the whole school and Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Swieconka (Blessing of the Easter Baskets)

One of the most enduring and beloved of Polish traditions, the baskets containing Easter foods are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday. The basket is traditionally lined with a white linen or lace napkin and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (buzszipan), the typical Easter evergreen. Polish people take special pride in preparing a decorative and tasteful basket with crisp linens, occasionally embroidered for the occasion and just enough boxwood and ribbon woven through the handle. Observing the beautiful food and creations of others is one of the of the special joys of the event. The Blessing of the Food will take place at 11am on Holy Saturday at St Benedict's.

Refugees at Home - looking for hosts

Refugees at Home connects people with a spare room to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay. We recruit and support volunteer hosts who are willing to offer a temporary home and a helping hand. Our role is to carefully match each guest and host, to assess and prepare them ready for hosting, to advise on hosting arrangements and accommodation, and to provide ongoing support to hosts throughout each stay.

Each placement is different, and the length of hosting can vary from a few nights to several months and anything in between. Hosting is entirely altruistic, and we do not pay hosts for giving up their spare rooms.

We are always looking for new hosts with a spare room or two, in cities and towns that are well connected and have good public transport systems. This enables our guests to travel to college, school, support groups or jobs, and retain their independence. Please refer to our website for further information on becoming a host:

<https://refugeesathome.org/get-involved/id-like-to-host/>

You can also contact the Caritas Diocese of Plymouth Refugee and Migration Project Lead, Alex Miranda, for more details: alexandra.miranda@prcdtr.org.uk

One Man's Rubbish is another Man's Treasure!

Thank you very much to all the volunteers who helped clear and sort items and furniture left behind at the New Church on Thursday - we had great fun and made an excellent start!

On Wednesday 10th April from 2pm to 6pm, the New Church will be open to all Parishioners to come and help themselves to any items left behind by the previous occupants. As the saying goes, *One man's rubbish is another man's treasure!*

Please come and see if you can find something useful - this will help us to get rid of stuff as well as keeping items out of landfill.

Any items left over after this date will be taken to charity shops or the tip.

A Reflection on the readings for Palm Sunday by Monsignor Robert Draper

At the beginning and at the end of this week the liturgy offers us two accounts of the Passion, and they could not be more contrasted. Many people believe they are so familiar with the Passion story that they may not notice how very different the two accounts are this year, unless they are helped.

Mark is a very bleak and sombre account – Jesus is abandoned, torn by grief and ridiculed by everyone. John's account is very different as we will hear – Jesus is very much in control, aware of his purpose and dies with his mother and the beloved disciple with him. Just one example will highlight the difference. In Mark at the arrest Jesus is lying on the ground distraught with grief, in John it is the arresting party that crash to the ground as Jesus addresses them with his magisterial "I am he." Many in any community may identify with a rejected and grief struck Jesus, feeling abandoned and alone, the reality of Christ's solidarity with humanity in all its frailty is at the heart of Mark's account. But all Christians can hear John's account and recognise that this is an account of the great triumph of Christ over the world and over sin and death.

Many will, no doubt, for pastoral reasons, hear the shorter version of this long Passion account of Mark in today's liturgy. However the longer version does offer a solemn context which does give the hearer a further opportunity for reflection. The touching story of the anointing of Jesus by the woman – not used in the Passion account in the year of Matthew in the liturgy and found in a different setting elsewhere in John – with its reference to Jesus' burial is a fitting prelude to the drama that unfolds. The account of the Last Supper firmly tied into the Passion emphasises the essential identity of Christ in his twofold great act of self-giving. That act is recorded in the liturgy solemnly in this way only once in the year, but that same act is enacted every time the Eucharist is celebrated.

Caritas March Newsletter upcoming events around our diocese [https:// tinyurl.com/2s3nevuz](https://tinyurl.com/2s3nevuz)

PARISH FUNDRAISING SWEEPSTAKE 2024

Application forms are available in both churches from Sunday 3rd March, and also online via the website [here](#)

Entries in by 31st March deadline please for inclusion in the April prize draw. Thank you, Pam