

OUR LADY'S MARNHULL AND ST BENEDICT'S GILLINGHAM

Marnhull RC Parish is part of Plymouth Roman Catholic Diocese – Registered Charity No. 213227 Safeguarding: Barbara Turnbull
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TWENTY-SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME. 2ND OCTOBER, 2022

Parish website:

www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

admin@marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

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

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating	Intention
Sunday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m.	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	Gillingham	11.00 a.m.		
	Marnhull	6 p.m.		
Monday		9.30 a.m. followed by rosary	For the appointment of a Bishop	<i>Dicastery for Bishops</i>
Tuesday - Saturday		No Mass		

Fr. Francis will be away for much of next week, so weekday Masses will be limited as above.

Please pray for those who are ill:

David Paris, Brendan Colohan, Coral Harrow, Betty Walford, Joyce West, Sarah Mackay, Barbara Frost, Tony Timoney-White, Bob Horton, Robert Carson, Hilary & Clive Drake, Eileen Chimes, Jeremy Cusden

I am very grateful to the more than fifty parishioners who braved the elements last Friday evening to take part in the Parish Meeting in the Gillingham Methodist Church Hall.

At the first meeting, the possibility of acquiring the Methodist Church to replace St. Benedict's was explained (see report in Parish Newsletter of 18th September). This week's meeting had two purposes: to give brief answers to questions put to me since the first meeting and to listen to the opinion of everyone present about where the Holy Spirit seems to be leading us.

A note of the answers I gave will soon be circulated to all who receive this newsletter by email. If you would like to receive this note and have yet to be included in the newsletter e-mailing list, or would prefer to receive a printed copy, please contact me.

For the following hour or so, we listened to everyone who wished to speak and it was so enriching of our community to experience that honest, heart-felt and wise sharing by each person. It was not a time for discussion or debate, but a time simply to be respectful of every person's opinion and open to change our own views as we listened to the Spirit moving among us.

Wise contributions reminded us of the important details which would need to be worked out if it were decided to take this proposal to the next stage. People spoke with feeling and love of the mission we share to bring the Good News to everyone we meet and of the spiritual blessings we enjoy in our present church of St. Benedict. The need to make sure we never lose the beauty of our faith and worship, and never let the burdens of administration make us lose our focus on what is truly essential to our Catholic Christian life were points well made which we must carry with us whatever the future holds.

Many spoke of the opportunity for enhancement of every aspect of our parish life which a move to the Methodist church building could provide. A number of contributors mentioned ways in which they would be willing to give their time and energy to that.

In the first part of the meeting I answered the question which a number of people had put to me about whether such a transaction would be affordable by saying that, on the basis of the data I have now, it appears that it would be possible, by selling the current church, to achieve it without going in to debt.

My sense is that there was a clear majority of people at the meeting who would like to see this move take place if detailed analysis of initial and continuing costs show that they are affordable, if a contract with the Methodist church can be agreed and if the permission of the diocese can be obtained.

I would like to hold an indicative vote – sometimes known as a straw poll – on the matter so that parishioners who were not able to be present at the meeting can give their view. If you were not at the meetings, I strongly urge you to inform yourself about the proposal by finding a parishioner who was there and speaking to them about it.

Details will be given of how the straw poll will be conducted at Mass. When it happens, if you are undecided, you should either abstain from the vote or vote in favour of continuing to investigate the purchase of the Methodist church. In this way you will not hinder the majority view expressed at the meeting from prevailing.

Fr. Francis

Welcome newcomers and visitors. You can find out more about our parish on our website – address at top of this page.

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News from our parish school:

Reception September 2023 – Open Days

If you know of anyone who is looking for a place for their child in September 2023, please let them know about our open days...

With the deadline approaching for new parents to make choices on a school for their four year olds, we will be having some open mornings from 9:30 on **3rd October, 10th October, 17th October** 2022 in addition to an 'open door' policy at school. Any prospective parents are welcome to call the school on 01258 820417 to organise a tour or just pop into the school office and ask to take a look around.

We also have spaces in preschool. We find that children who attend our preschool setting make a smooth transition into Reception, since they are familiar with the environment.

FILM NIGHT Thursday October 6th: 'Ida', an award-winning Film about a young novice in post- WW2 Poland, haunting, beautiful, a story of despair and hope, forgiveness and mercy. In Polish with sub-titles! Food, drink and an opportunity for socialising! 630pm in the side-room of Our Lady's. Lifts available.

Do you have any empty shoe boxes? It will be collecting time again very soon for the poorer people in Eastern Europe. Crates will be in the porches for Christmas gifts with posters detailing suggestions. Thankyou. Last year we filled over 30 boxes!

Churches Together in Marnhull

Very many thanks to those who supported in whatever way the Harvest Supper, which celebrated rural life. The evening witnessed a great coming together of the different Christian denominations in Marnhull, bearing witness to our shared beliefs and solidarity. All proceeds will go to Vale Pantry to help those who are experiencing financial hardship, making it difficult to nourish themselves and their families.

Our next event is at 3pm, Sunday, 9th October at St Gregory's church Marnhull. This is a special village commemoration service marking the death of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Everyone is welcome. Our Lady's choir has been invited to sing a beautifully specially composed piece which celebrates the remarkable life of our wonderful late Queen.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Friday 7th October. Millions of people are starving in East Africa.

Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world working hard to put food on the table.

There will be a Second Collection at Masses on 9th October.

Use the Gift Aid envelope or go to

cafod.org.uk/fastday

Below is a link to a short You Tube message from CAFOD Director Christine Allen in East Africa. <https://youtu.be/2kaW-AXzggE>

From the Diocesan Youth Service:

Ever thought about how chocolate is made? Fancy making chocolate from scratch?

Join other youth (10 – 17 year olds) on **Saturday 15th October** at Star of the Sea Parish hall, **Weymouth, 9.30 – 3.30** to explore how chocolate is made and a chance to make your own. You will also think about the fair trade of products such as chocolate and create your own packaging. To book:

<https://forms.office.com/r/qw6pwhEAUc> For further information see the booking form or contact Saskia: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Fr. John Rice and Fr. Guy de Gaynesford will be leading a ten day pilgrimage to the Holy Land from **9th - 18th May** next year. The cost is £1,389 per person.

For further details Tel. 01793 881166 / 07515 819700

OUR SYNODAL JOURNEY

As part of our on-going Synodal journey, the Office for Evangelisation and Catechesis invites you to the following talks.

Saturday 29th October

11.00am Entering the Decision-Making Process of the Church

1.30pm Interpreting the Word of God for our time

Saturday 26th November

11.00am The work of the Holy Spirit in the Church Today

1.30pm Deaconesses in the Catholic Church

The talks will take place at St Peter's Catholic Church, Crownhill, Plymouth, PL5 3AX.

For those attending the day there will be 10.30am Refreshments and 12.15pm Lunch break.

There is also Mass at 9.30am for those who wish.

To request a Zoom link please email:

carolinefarey@btinternet.com

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 12th October 2022. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes return flight, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £100.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Big Sleep at Home in aid of Alabaré

On the night of Friday 7th October we are asking you to give up your cosy bed and sleep in a place of your choice and at the same time raise vital funds to support Alabaré's work with those who are homeless and vulnerable. Why not join with others and sleep in the church or the church hall? Or sleep on a bench in the garden, in the garden shed or even on the kitchen floor?

Find out more at:

<https://www.alabare.co.uk/campaign/big-sleep-events>

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