

OUR LADY'S MARNHULL AND ST BENEDICT'S GILLINGHAM

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FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT. 27TH NOVEMBER, 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.	First Sunday of Advent	<i>Neil Donaldson RIP</i>
	Gillingham	11.00 a.m.		<i>Lorraine and Andrew</i>
	Marnhull	6 p.m.		<i>The people of the parish</i>
Monday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m.	Advent	<i>Private intention</i>
Tuesday		No Mass		
Wednesday	Gillingham	10 a.m. followed by rosary	St. Andrew, Apostle	<i>Andrew Straw RIP</i>
Thursday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m.	Advent	
Friday	Gillingham	<i>Adoration & opportunity for confession. 5.00 – 5.45 p.m. Mass 6 p.m.</i>	St. Osmund of Salisbury	<i>Bridie Logue</i>
Saturday	Marnhull	10 a.m. Mass followed by confessions	St. Francis Xavier	



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Desmond O'Byrne

formerly of this parish

who died on Thursday 4th November

May he rest in peace.

Gillingham Singers - a choir which has several parishioners as singers - is singing a Christmas Concert - "Christmas Round the World" - on Saturday 3rd December at St Mary the Virgin Church, Gillingham at 7.30 pm.

Advance notice of Masses over the Christmas period:

24th December: 2 p.m. Guy's Marsh; 8 p.m. St. Benedict's; Midnight Our Lady's

25th December: 9.30 a.m. Our Lady's, 11 a.m. St. Benedict's

NO EVENING MASS 26th December

9.30 a.m. Our Lady's

28th – 31st December

Mass at the usual times.

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



Film Night this coming Thursday, 1st December, 6.15pm in the Chapel room at Our Lady's: 'A Man For All Seasons', the outstanding portrayal of St Thomas More, PG in glorious technicolour. Food, drink and conviviality. Do ask around for a lift, it really is an enjoyable evening.

Sound System at Our Lady's

As you know, we are going to replace the sound system at Our Lady's. The delay is caused by the onerous system of permissions which need to be obtained from the diocese and from the Historic Churches Commission. This process is nearly completed, so this would be a good time to visit a church in which the kind of system we will be getting has been installed, so that we can experience what it sounds like.

The Anglican Church of the Holy Rood in Buckland Newton has kindly agreed to welcome us on Friday 2nd December at 11 a.m. Anyone who would like to attend is most welcome. It would be particularly helpful if people who have modern digital hearing aids were to join us, since the system, apparently, automatically connects with these. Fr. Francis can take three people with him.

The evangelisation group is planning an Open Church event at St. Benedict's on the last Sunday before Christmas, 18th December. This will involve inviting all and sundry to join them, votive candles, prayer support and generous listening. They are asking for volunteers to help with supervising candles, helping to write prayers, continuous prayer, controlling music and being warm and welcoming. They ask you to meet them at 2.15 p.m. for prayers and preparation. The plan is to finish at about 4 p.m. depending on what happens. They ask you to encourage friends and family of whatever persuasion to come along after 3 p.m. Please contact Tony Moore, Annette Lyons or Deacons Mike or James to offer help.

Caritas Plymouth, in partnership with Caritas Clifton and PACT (Prisons Advice and Care Trust) will be holding an online event to reflect on what more we can do to support prisoners and their families. PACT's vision is of a society in which justice is understood as a process of restoration and healing, in which prisons are used sparingly and as places of learning and rehabilitation, and in which the innate dignity and worth of every human being is valued. PACT is expanding its work in the Southwest and will be offering more volunteering opportunities. Come along to find out more.

7-8 p.m. Tuesday 29th November. Click the link to register: [Prisons Week 2022 \(office.com\)](https://www.prisonersweek.org.uk/)

For more ideas and news from Caritas Plymouth, click this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2hrtkx7t>



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:

Last week, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week. On Tuesday, the children took part in a whole school assembly. Each child had a puzzle piece template and wrote or decorated it to show how they help prevent bullying at St Mary's. They also discussed what makes a perfect friend (e.g. a big pair of ears to show they're a good listener, a big heart to show they care, hands for kindness, a watch because they always have time for them). During the week, the children were 'Secret Angels', where each child was given another child's name in secret. They then had to do lots of kind acts for them throughout the week (they could also be kind to other people so it didn't look obvious) and then on Friday they were supposed to reveal who their secret angel was; however this wasn't so successful – for a good reason! As our children are usually kind to each other, it was difficult to single out any one person! I think you'll agree, a lovely 'failure' to celebrate. The week culminated in the children 'reaching out' to children in need, by coming to school wearing pyjamas, a onesie or spotty clothes and brought a donation for Children in Need. They raised the magnificent sum of £107.75

Flame 2023 Saturday 4th March, Wembley Stadium times tbc Age: 14 – 21– tickets £35

Join Youth Events at Wembley Stadium on Saturday March 4th. Tickets are £35 which include entry and travel to Wembley. Coaches will pick up from locations in Dorset and Devon. It's a great chance to hear from speakers like Robert Bilott, singer/ songwriter Adenike and award winner Guvna B. This is the largest catholic gathering in England and Wales. To book: <https://forms.office.com/r/i7rv7WzbG4> Or contact Saskia or Michelle at: youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Catholic international aid agencies in the UK say the British government's announcement that it wouldn't restore the overseas aid budget target to 0.7 percent of Gross National Income (GNI) is disappointing.

CAFOD director Christine Allen admitted it is difficult times for everyone, "which means difficult decisions must be made." But prioritizing spending in the UK, the country is "just robbing Peter to pay Paul."

"This approach fails to tackle the root causes of global injustice – which contributes to migration – and it's a mistake we will pay for further down the line. The UK can and must do better," she said.

Pilgrimage to Lisieux, Lourdes, Rocamadour and Nevers by coach.

7th – 14th September 2023

Half board accommodation: Lisieux 2 nights, Rocamadour 1 night, Nevers 1 night. Full board accommodation: Lourdes 3 nights.

Includes full coach services, ferry crossing from Portsmouth.

£905 pp; single room +£145; insurance £45. Cost based on 30 pilgrims; this would be reduced if more than 40 sign up.

More information from Blandford Parish Office 01258 452051 or Clare at Tangney Tours 01732 886666

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas

Support CAFOD's work with poor farmers in rural areas of the countries we work in, by contributing to our Farming fund that provides people in the developing world with aid for essential skills to provide for themselves for the long term.

Or the Health fund supports healthcare, disease prevention, plus care for the most vulnerable people in poor communities.

World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

Visit: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or collect a catalogue at the back of church. (Many World Gifts are under £10)

Churches Together in Marnhull.

We are planning on having a warm room at the Methodist Church in Marnhull, the only church with a substantial meeting room, on either a Wednesday or Thursday from 11am until 4pm, commencing in December through until Easter. We are hoping that parishioners from all three churches will see this as a good idea and will offer to help in whatever way that they can with this initiative. We will need people to offer a couple of hours on a rota to help oversee the running and we will also need people to donate soup. There are many people in Marnhull and the surrounding area who live on their own, and who will find heating costs harder to meet this year; we are hoping that this initiative will afford some financial respite, company as well as warmth. This is well within the spirit of the gospel and the Beatitudes. If you can help, please can you contact jacinthabowe@gmail.com.

Advent Service.

The annual Churches Together' Advent Service will take place at 3pm on Sunday 27th November at St Gregory's church, Marhull. Our Lady's choir will be singing, which will be a joy to listen to- indeed they have received many compliments after the last Churches Together' memorial service for the Queen. Please put this date in your diary.

44 Christmas boxes have been delivered to the depot in Salisbury for distribution to the poorest people of Bulgaria, and also this year to refugee Ukrainians. May the donors of so many thoughtful gifts - and the kind and patient packers! - be blessed for their generosity. Our best year yet!

Thank you from CAFOD

Your support over this challenging year has been life-changing and very much appreciated. Thank you for praying, campaigning, donating or volunteering to support people and communities in their struggles against poverty and in the face of huge humanitarian crises, such as the war in Ukraine, the Pakistan Floods and the World food Crisis, particularly in East Africa. For example in South Sudan, where many communities have taken in displaced people fleeing violence and natural disasters. With your support our local experts help the communities give the arrivals food, and some are also given land. They erect temporary structures as shelter and helped to start farming. Nyanguet, who fled with her five children after her village was attacked, says, "*The community host us well. My children and I feel safe now.*"

Thank you for helping to support people and communities like this throughout the world. Please pray for our sisters and brothers around the world this Advent and Christmas time. Wishing you a truly blest, peaceful and joyful Advent and a happy Christmas from all at CAFOD.