

# 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  
01747 822779/07971 338339. The Catholic Safeguarding Resources located at <https://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/parish-resources>

## TWENTY-FIFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME. 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

Parish website:

[www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk](http://www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)

[admin@marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk](mailto:admin@marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk)

St Mary's Primary School,  
Old Mill Lane, Marnhull, Dorset. DT10 1JX  
[www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)  
[office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk)

Day	Place	Time	Celebrating	Intention
Sunday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m.	<b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<i>Norma</i>
	Gillingham	11.00 a.m.		
	Marnhull	6 p.m.		<i>The parish</i>
Monday		9.30 a.m. followed by rosary	Requiem for Queen Elizabeth II	<i>The Late Queen</i>
Tuesday		No Mass		
Wednesday		10 a.m. followed by rosary	<b>St. Matthew</b>	<i>Mowbray, Colman &amp; Winner Fiddis</i>
Thursday	Marnhull	9.30 a.m.	<b>Dedication of Plymouth Cathedral</b>	<i>Jayne Leyton</i>
Friday	Gillingham	Adoration & opportunity for confession. 5.00 – 5.45 p.m. Mass 6 p.m.	St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	<i>Tony &amp; Mary Moore</i>
Saturday	Marnhull	10 a.m. Mass followed by confessions	Our Lady of Walsingham	<i>The inmates of Guys Marsh</i>



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**Bernadette Jones**

a parishioner who lived in Sturminster Newton, who died on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

*May she rest in peace.*



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**Vincent Williams**

a parishioner who lived in Gillingham, who died suddenly last week.

*May he rest in peace.*



Please pray for the repose of the soul of

**Rev. Richard Priest**

Vicar of the Stour Vale Benefice, who died suddenly last week.

*May he rest in peace.*

*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,

*Please would anyone who wishes their child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time in 2023 please have a word with Father Francis.*

*The Bishops have sent us prayer cards for the late Queen, our new King and the Royal Family. These are available in both churches. Please help yourself.*

### **Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 18th September 2022**

There will be second collection at all Masses on this day to support the Mission Directorate of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. This organization works to support those who work for the spread of the Gospel in this country; a wonderful service in a land where so many have no idea how wonderful it is to encounter Jesus.

*Each parish has to count Mass attendance on the last two Sundays in September and the first two Sundays in October to include in its annual return to the Diocese, so this will happen for the next four Sundays*

### **Job Vacancies at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Marnhull**

**Mid-day Supervisor, Part Time – Permanent.** Term-time only: 10 hours per week plus 5.5 hours for 2 days a week in afterschool club.

**Teaching Assistant (with Midday Responsibilities).** Part Time – Permanent. Term-time only 30 hours per week including 2.5 hours Midday Assistant.

For both roles, please see our website for application forms and job description:  
[http://www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/web/current\\_vacancies/619409](http://www.stmarymarnhull.dorset.sch.uk/web/current_vacancies/619409)

### VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER CELEBRATING FARMING AND RURAL LIFE

THURSDAY 29th SEPTEMBER at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

TICKETS £7.00, not £8 as previously stated, £3.50 children - includes a main, pud and a drink; vegetarian option.- Available from the Post Office, the Marnhull Stores, and from local churches.

News from the Diocesan Youth Service:  
The next youth event is Sing from the Heart at Buckfast Abbey, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 10-5.00.

All singing abilities are welcome. Friends and family are invited to arrive at 3.30 for a mini concert, followed by a BBQ for all.

Booking essential:

<https://forms.office.com/r/yFfr7n4zmM>

For further information contact:

Saskia, [youth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:youth@prcdtr.org.uk)

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

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

Thank you to all those who were able and willing to attend the parish meeting last Thursday at the Methodist Church in Gillingham. There was good representation from every part of the parish, but I am conscious that some who would have liked to be there had other commitments, so I will summarise my presentation. This is the start of a discernment on an important matter for the whole parish, so please do get involved.

We began with a reading from the Bible, from the Book of Wisdom: "O God of my ancestors and Lord of mercy, give me the wisdom that sits by your throne. Send her forth from the holy heavens, that she may labour at my side and that I may learn what is pleasing to you." We then said together the Synod Prayer, which asks for the humility to seek the will of the Holy Spirit "...Let us find in you our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right...."

Some tips on how Christians discern the will of the Holy Spirit were then given:

Don't make up your mind too quickly. You are trying to discern what the Holy Spirit wants, not what you want. This involves listening to everyone else and coming to a common mind, not fighting your corner.

No we were ready to hear what the meeting was all about: the Catholic place of worship in Gillingham. You will know that this has been a matter for discussion for a number of years. A lot of work was done on plans for a new building. Having been in the parish for a few months, I told the Finance Committee that I did not see the pastoral need for such an ambitious scheme and I believed it would leave the parish with a substantial debt it would be unlikely to be able to repay. So I looked again at the possibility of extending the present church to give more worship space and an area for meetings, the two perceived needs. In the meantime I was approached by the Methodist Minister to see whether our parish would be interested in buying the Methodist church in Gillingham. Since then, the Methodist officers have been very helpful in providing information about the building. This has shown me that our parish should be able to afford it. So the question for us to find the Holy Spirit's answer to is: Would buying this building be the best way to enable parishioners to be disciples of Jesus Christ and draw others to follow Him?

I advised those present that coming to a conclusion about that involves them asking themselves "What am I prepared to do to make this work?" The extensive facilities on offer at the Methodist church will only fulfil their purpose if every parishioner is committed to active participation: attending Mass, taking part in study courses and social events, reaching out to the people of the town to offer them welcome, an open ear, a place where they can find the love of Jesus.

Another question, difficult to answer, but one which we need to look at honestly in order to discern whether this is the way forward for us, is 'what will our parish look like in ten or twenty years' time.'

With such big questions presented for the first time, the best thing to do next was go and ponder them; let it all sink in and wait upon the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Before winding up, though, I needed to make clear that our parish's discernment is only one part of the process which could lead to us acquiring the Methodist church: The final decision belongs to the Bishop, who carries the ultimate responsibility for the pastoral provision in the diocese. And, like any property transaction, 'it ain't over till it's over!' Contractual negotiations, predicted running costs or building surveys all have the potential to make it unwise to proceed.

What next?

I asked everyone present to ponder these things for a couple of weeks and to give me in writing any questions they have. On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September the Mass in St. Benedict's will begin at 5 p.m. and then there will be a second parish meeting in the Methodist church at 6 p.m. At that meeting I will do my best to answer the questions I've been sent and then we will listen to each other as we do our best to put into words what the Holy Spirit is saying to our heart.

It would really help to organize that sharing if you could tell me beforehand if you intend to speak, so that we know roughly how much time to allow each speaker.

It's understandable that not everybody is able to attend, but I do urge you to do so if you can, because if we are to discern well we will need to listen carefully to each other. The stronger and more settled our opinion, the more important it is to listen to everyone else.

Fr. Francis

**SAVE THE DATE: 29th October 2022 - Vocations to Priesthood - Day of Reflection.** From 10:00 to 16:00 at University of Exeter, Catholic Chaplaincy - within easy walking distance from Exeter St Davids Railway Station. Under 18s are welcome to attend with parents' permission.

For further information and to register for the event, please contact Fr Jacek Kostuch on [Jacek.Kostuch@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Jacek.Kostuch@prcdtr.org.uk) or speak to your Parish Priest by 16th October at the latest. *Arrangements can be made to collect you from Exeter St David's Railway Station and returned after, if required*