

OUR LADY'S MARNHULL AND ST BENEDICT'S GILLINGHAM

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Parish website: www.marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk admin@marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk	Deacon Mike Turnbull 07504 821558 michael.turnbull@prcdtr.org.uk	Saints & Feast days:
Sunday Masses: NO PUBLIC MASSES INTENTION: Cleaning: <i>Our Lady's:</i> Flowers: Cleaning: <i>St Benedict's:</i> Plate collection,	Weekday Masses Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	NO PUBLIC MASSES INTENTION:

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT.

29TH MARCH 2020

Please pray for those who are ill: Ellen Paris, Monica Goode, Brendan Colohan, Terry Hayward, Valerie Evill, Jennie Spetch, Coral & Johnny Harrow, Betty Walford, Fr Keith Collins, Joyce West, Sarah Mackay, Ronnie Bird, Mary Extance, Ethne O'Sullivan, Barbara Frost, Tony Timoney-White, Mary Bradbury, Joe Briffa, Bernard McRory, Judith Davidson, Irena Magill, Mary Hawtree, Phil Coyne, and Sally Hoy.

Please also pray for the 84 Catholic prisoners at Guys Marsh prison.

Just after the Monday supplementary was published, Father Martin sent: "Dear parishioners, sadly I have to inform you that our churches have now been ordered to close and not open for any purpose."

Dear parishioners,

In this awful situation in which we find ourselves it is heartening that people, parishioners and neighbours are displaying so much warmth and charity towards each other. This is expressed in many ways. For example, I am personally overwhelmed with gratitude for the gifts of foodstuffs which have appeared on my doorstep- and the many offers to provide more! I am grateful as well to those who have put forward ideas about how to sustain the parish financially while there are no Sunday Masses. There are details about how to make a standing order or make your contribution in other ways on the website, I know. We are so fortunate that God has raised up many people with so much talent which enables the spirit of the parish to be maintained: lots are engaged in programmes in their locality to assist the elderly and needy and there are those who keep communication in place with the digital newsletter and the parish website. There's no shortage of information which can be used to develop and enhance our spiritual life and to help each other.

Each morning I offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in Our Lady's church and, of course, it is strange to be without the presence of the faithful- but actually I have an increased awareness of the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and the company of the saints and angels as I stand at the altar. One of the Lent readings in the Liturgy of the Hours is from the prophet Joel: "Between the porch and the altar the priests the Lord's ministers shall weep, and shall say: Spare O Lord, spare thy people and give not thy inheritance to reproach" This reading comes to mind each day as I pray for you all when making the Stations of the Cross.

Please keep in your prayers all our sick parishioners- Mrs Valerie Evill was taken to hospital in the week but is improving slightly. The Revd Peter Colebrook, a well known resident of Marnhull for many years has died. He did so much good work in the village and will be very much missed by our friends at St Gregory's. We extend our sympathy to his widow Elspeth.

Dear CHILDREN, all of you- I hope that you are finding plenty of things to occupy yourselves while there is no school. Don't forget to say your prayers for everyone. I very much miss seeing you.

God bless you all. Fr M

*Welcome newcomers and visitors. At Our Lady's, after 9.30.am Mass there is a cup of tea or coffee in the Chapel Room (door on way to car-park)
You can also find out more about our parish on our website – address at top of this page.*

The Rededication Of England As The Dowry Of Mary – This Sunday 29th March. There is a Novena of Prayer leading up to this Sunday, begun on *Friday 19th March*. Let's take today from the Novena, the prayer for England:

"O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy Dowry, and upon us all, who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope, was given unto the world; and he has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the cross, O sorrowful Mother, intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the Chief Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith, fruitful in good works, we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee in our heavenly home. Amen."

A supplementary newsletter will be published by email only, on Mondays. If you know of anyone who wants to receive these emails, please give them my email address and ask them to drop me a line. Thanks, Tony.

I note your comment regarding Gillingham **Town Council's initiative** during the current crisis. A similar initiative has been adopted in Sturminster. Anybody requiring help should contact Dorset Councillor Carole Jones on 01258-472497 (mobile 07968-348481, e-mail carole4stur@gmail.com) , or the Mayor, Councillor Helen Lacey tel. 01258-473133(e-mail cllrhelenlacey@sturminsternewton-tc.gov.uk). They are co-ordinating a band of helpers who will shop, collect prescriptions, post mail and telephone daily to anyone who is afraid or unable to leave home to check all is well and if anything is required. This initiative covers Sturminster, Hinton St. Mary and Marnhull. Andrew Donaldson.

When I enquired of the **Gillingham Foodbank** last week I was told:-

They have no plans to change the opening hours, which remain 10.00am to noon on Monday and Thursday (they do not have enough volunteers to open longer);

They need Fruit Juice and Spaghetti. Monetary contributions are best made by cheque payable to: Gillingham Food Bank. As our churches are no longer open, you may consider putting your contribution in the baskets provided at the supermarkets.

Thanks to all who help this wonderful charity.

Blessings and best regards, Dennis O'Toole

Parish collections

For parishioners wishing to contribute to church finances whilst our churches are closed, a Parish Standing Order form [to commence after 6th April 2020] is available upon request from the treasurer. Gift Aid contributors who usually use numbered envelopes can switch to this method for the foreseeable future if desired. The last few envelopes for this Tax Year 2019/20 can still be used if you wish to send a cheque **with them** payable to **PRCDTR Marnhull R.C.Parish** to : The Parish Priest, The Presbytery, Old Mill Lane, MARNHULL, DT10 1JX

Online banking payments is another alternative but the *reference field* i.e.your surname and gift aid envelope number, must be completed so that we can identify donors. This is particularly **important** if you are a taxpayer allowing Gift Aid reimbursements, although non-tax payers can use this method also. Should your donation be for Easter Offering type your **name & EASTER** in reference field. For forms and further information please phone Pamela Snell [Parish Treasurer] on: 01258 821463 or email admin@marnhullandgillinghamrc.org.uk

Brian adds: "With the present inability to distribute and use the regular envelopes, especially for the new year from 12th April – please use the above proposals if you can. Brian White – Gift Aid Organiser.