



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Parish Priest: Reverend Stephen G McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Reverend Kevin J A Rennie (kevin.rennie@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

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Pastoral Assistants: Sister Mary Rose Confidence, Sister Mary Mabel, Sister Marilyn Juliet

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A parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway (www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk). Charity number SC010576.

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 3rd – 10th DECEMBER 2023

Mass is livestreamed on the "St Joseph's, Kilmarnock" YouTube channel.

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 2nd	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 3rd	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Lewis Orr (RIP) / Tommy Carolan (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass	Anne Sinforiani (RIP) / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	After Mass	Defibrillator Training in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 4th	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	
	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Brian Farren, RIP	Brian Farren (RIP) / Brian Farren (RIP)
Tuesday 5th	10.00 am	Mass	Jim Monaghan (RIP) / Desmond Boyle (Ann)
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 6th	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Reception for William McNulty, RIP	William McNulty (RIP) / William McNulty (RIP)
Thursday 7th	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for William McNulty, RIP	Rose Allardyce (RIP) /
Friday 8th	6.00 pm	Mass	Fiona and Richard Laverick (Spec Int) /
Saturday 9th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 10th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	John McCulloch (Ann) /
	11.00 am	Mass	Patricia O'Neill (RIP) / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Children's Christmas Party	
	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	

The church will be open for prayer Monday to Friday from 9.30 am until 4 pm. Enter through small side door.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of our parishioners Brian Farren, William McNulty and Colin McKay. May they rest in peace. Brian's Requiem Mass will be offered on Monday 4th December at 10.00 am. William's Requiem Mass will be offered on Wednesday 6th December with a Vigil Reception on Tuesday 5th December at 6.00 pm. Colin's Requiem Mass will be offered on Wednesday 13th December at 10.00 am with a Vigil Reception on Tuesday 12th December at 6.00 pm.

91ST AYRSHIRE ST JOSEPH'S SCOUT GROUP CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY: The 91st Ayrshire (St Joseph's) Scout Group will be delivering Christmas cards within the Kilmarnock town area, Hurlford and Crookedholm only. All cards must be correctly addressed to ensure delivery. The cost is 40 pence per card. Collection points are Beaver, Cub and Scout gatherings on 6th and 7th December; then at all Masses

at St Joseph's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Matthew's Churches on 9th and 10th December. Deliveries will take place over the weekend of 16th/17th December. This fundraising effort is very important for the success of our Scout Group throughout the year. Thank you for your support.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ: There will be no Community Café this week. They will be back as usual on the 12th and 19th then they're taking two weeks off at Christmas.

SAINT ANDREW'S PRIMARY CHRISTMAS FAYRE: will take place on Friday 8th December in St Joseph's Academy Assembly Hall from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm. There will be a wide variety of stalls including handmade crafts from several of the classes, as well as Santa's Grotto and a bouncy castle.

SAINTS ANDREW'S PARENT COUNCIL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets will be on sale for the Saint

Hall bookings: Margaret McGrath (01563 542130). **Safeguarding co-ordinator:** Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)

Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals: In emergencies ask hospital staff to page on-call priest chaplain. For regular visiting:

Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or 01563 521832)

Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri (benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or 01655 882145)

St Andrew's Primary: 01563 549549 **Mount Carmel Primary:** 01563 525897 **St Joseph's Academy:** 01563 526144

Standing orders: £706.39. **Weekly collection:** £1,246.57. **SCES:** £722.44. **SCIAF:** £100. **Building fund:** £65.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

Andrew's Christmas Raffle after the 11.00 am Sunday Mass this weekend. A wide variety of different prizes are on offer, with all funds raised being in aid of supporting the pupils at the school. Tickets are £1 per strip.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: will take place on Sunday 10th December from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm. All children from our parish are invited to come along for games and snacks, as well as a visit from Santa himself!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Christmas Masses in the Kilmarnock area will be celebrated this year:

- 5.00 pm – Christmas Vigil Mass in St Matthew's
- 7.00 pm – Christmas Vigil Mass in Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 9.00 pm – Night Mass in St Joseph's
- 10.00 am – Christmas Dawn Mass in St Matthew's
- 11.00 am – Christmas Dawn Mass in St Joseph's

Both the Vigil and Christmas Morning Masses here in St Joseph's will be accompanied by our Parish choir who have been hard at work preparing for the Christmas Masses.

With Christmas falling on a Monday this year, it is important to remember that it does not replace our Sunday obligation. We are obliged to attend the celebration of Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent either at the Saturday Vigil or Sunday morning Mass and to attend the celebration of Mass for Christmas Day either at the Sunday evening or Monday morning Masses.

CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS: A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday 20th December at 7.30 pm. The service provides an opportunity to come together once again as a diocesan family to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

GALLOWAY DIOCESE NEWS: The Advent issue of the Galloway Diocese News is now available and will be distributed at the end of Masses this weekend. There are enough copies for one per household.

WE HAVE, ON SITE, ON THE WALL OF THE CHURCH HALL, A DEFIBRILLATOR TO RESTART A HEART: *"The clock is ticking but my heart isn't- please give me a fighting chance."*

What happens if a loved one or friend suffers a heart attack. Are you ready and able to help? How would you feel if they died in front of you were unable to do anything? With some heart massage (CPR) and use of the defibrillator training you could give them a fighting chance until the emergency services arrive.

Margaret McGrath, as a qualified first aider, will deliver a training session this Sunday after Mass for all those interested. All are welcome to arrive on the day – if you are able to let us know beforehand that you will attend please email kilmarnock.stjoseph@gallowaydiocese.org.uk.

APPEAL FOR FOOD PARCELS: We have seen a notable uptake in demand and are grateful for any and all support received. We would ask you to donate some of the following items which go into food parcels and enable us to continue providing this vital service:

- Cans of soup

- Canned meals, e.g. beef bolognese, chilli con carne, chicken supreme, Fray Bentos style pie
- Pasta / tinned potatoes / rice
- Tinned fruit / vegetables / beans
- Cartons of long-life milk (UHT)
- Tinned hotdog sausages
- Tinned sardines / mackerel fillets / tuna
- Biscuits
- Toilet roll / bars of soap.

Please ensure canned foods **have a ring pull** for opening. Please also note that tea, coffee and sugar are **not required**. Any donations are gratefully received and can be dropped off in the Church Porch / Church Hall (Wednesday 10.30 – 11.30) / Church House.

SPRED CHRISTMAS CAROLS: The Diocesan SPRED (Special Religious Development) team are singing Christmas carols at Ayr Central Shopping Centre on Thursday 21st December from 11 am – 1 pm. They invite you to join them to make a beautiful sound and remind people of the true meaning of Christmas. Please, singers, join them if you can.

OGGIE! OGGIE! OGGIE!: AGAP Theatre present the hit play, "Oggie! Oggie! Oggie!", a modern energetic twist on the Confessions of Saint Augustine. Written and Performed by Stephen Callaghan, the show was a huge hit at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe. For one night only the Show will be performed in Saint Paul's Church Hall on Friday December 8th at 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost £5 and are available NOW by calling 07495 347884 or online at www.oggie-ayr.eventbrite.co.uk (online booking fee applies). Tickets will also be available to buy in the parish soon. Suitable for age 12+ due to adult themes.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY FOR ADVENT: The Diocesan Marriage, Family and Life Office is offering an online Advent Rosary which will launch their work in our diocese. If you wish to attend the Rosary please email prolife@gallowaydiocese.org.uk and you will receive a link to join in the online prayer.

- Wednesday 29th November at 8 pm – Joyful Mysteries
- Wednesday 6th December – Luminous Mysteries
- Wednesday 13th December – Sorrowful Mysteries
- Wednesday 20th December – Glorious Mysteries

JOB VACANCIES – AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACNUK): Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) are looking for a **Community Fundraiser in Scotland** and a **Youth & Events Co-Ordinator in Scotland**. Both roles will raise awareness, generate prayer, and fundraise to support persecuted and forgotten Catholic faithful and other Christians around the world. More details about both vacancies can be found at www.acnuk.org >About Us >jobs at ACN. To apply, please submit a cover letter and CV to: HR@acnuk.org.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: There's lots coming up in the coming weeks, so save the date and join us when you can.

- Defibrillator Training – Sunday 3rd December
- Children's Christmas Party – Sunday 10th December, 2.00 – 3.30 pm
- Penance Service – Monday 18th December at 7 pm
- Christmas Masses: 24th December at 9 pm, 25th December at 11 am
- Altar Servers' Panto Trip – Friday 29th December, 12.30 pm
- Senior parishioners' Christmas Lunch – Sunday 7th Jan 2024, 12.30 pm

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Minister of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 2 December 6 pm	A Davidson, E Heron, R Heron	A Gorman, Sr Mabel, M Steele, K McGhee, M McGrath	Joseph, Lexi, Maia, Antoni, Ravindu			Anne, Michael	M McGrath
Sunday 3 December 11 am	E Bohan, M Cunningham, R Doak	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love	Luca, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel	Anna Mackie, Alice Murphy	Pauline Ferguson, Margaret McGrath	Paul, Libby	M McGrath
Saturday 9 December 6 pm	M Kirk, K McGhee, G Mchtyre	E Rankin, G Rankin, J Lennon, C Power, F Donachie	Joseph, Lexi, Maia, Antoni, Ravindu			Claire, Margaret	H Matthews
Sunday 10 December 11 am	L Hand, E Maxwell, T Murphy	H Matthews, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields	Luca, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel	Anne & Gerry Smith	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Eileen, Dennis	H Matthews