



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday 17th 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)

St Joseph's Presbytery, 15a Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB
Telephone: 01563 521832 • Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk
Facebook: St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock • Twitter: @RCStJosephs

Parish office email and for newsletter items (by 10 am Thursday): kilmarnock.stjoseph@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Pastoral Assistants: Sister Mary Rose Confidence, Sister Mary Mabel, Sister Marilyn Juliet
Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mount Carmel Convent, 14 Kirkton Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 2DF
Telephone: 01563 523822 • Email: ihmsisters@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

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

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 17th – 24th DECEMBER 2023

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 16th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	11.00 am	Carols at the Cross at the Christmas Tree on King Street	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 17th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Michael & Theresa Corry (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass	For the Parish / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 18th	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	
	10.00 am	Mass	John Murphy (RIP) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 19th	7.00 pm	Penitential Service in St Joseph's Church	
	10.00 am	Mass	Eddie King (RIP) /
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 20th	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	10.00 am	Mass	Mary Theresa Rooney (RIP) / Rose Cumisky (Ann)
	After Mass	Recitation of the Rosary	
Thursday 21st	7.30 pm	Diocesan Carol Service in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr	
	1.30 pm	Carol Service followed by mince pies in the hall	
	6.00 pm	Mass	Frances Neil (Ann) /
Friday 22nd	6.30 pm	RCIA in the parish house	
	6.30 pm	Choir Practice	
	10.00 am	Mass	Grace Kelly (RIP) / Margaret McKinstrey (Ann)
Saturday 23rd	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Terry Bailey (RIP) / David Robertson (RIP)
Sunday 24th	11.00 am	Mass	For the Parish / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	9.00 pm	Christmas Mass during the Night with choir	John Brady (RIP) / Vanessa Quinn (RIP)
Monday 25th	11.00 am	Mass of Christmas Day	Mary Wynne (RIP) / Special Intention

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

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: Advent should not be turned into an anticipated Christmas. It runs into Christmas, certainly, and finds its resolution in that feast, and then in the octave and season that follow, in the feasts of Mary, Mother of God, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord.

Advent is a penitential season, in the sense of being a call to conversion. It necessarily incorporates pain and a sense of lack, the whole of our insufficiency. Advent converts and enlarges us, and does so with our hope. Advent delivers the

surprise of the Child in whom all things hold together and God is with us.

There are several opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Confession or Reconciliation during Advent: on Mondays after 10 am Mass, on Saturday at 5.30 pm before the Vigil Mass of Sunday, in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Wednesdays of Advent from 7.30 pm – 8 pm, and at the **Kilmarnock Parishes Penitential Service on Monday 18th December at 7.00 pm in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock.** Please take

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: £674.08. **Weekly collection:** £1,010.75. **SCES:** £20. **Building fund:** £745.67

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

seriously the invitation to the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Christmas.

The children who made the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time in Spring 2023 are invited to return to the sacrament at this service on Monday 18th December.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: A Carol Service will take place in the church on Thursday 21st December at 1.30 pm followed by tea coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards.

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 – Christmas Night Mass in St Joseph’s
- 10.00 am – Christmas Morning Mass in St Matthew’s
- 11.00 am – Christmas Morning Mass in St Joseph’s

The 9 pm Christmas Eve Mass in St Joseph’s will be accompanied by our Parish choir who have been hard at work preparing for Christmas.

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.

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.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS’ CHRISTMAS DINNER: The Christmas dinner will take place on Sunday 7th January 2024 at 12.30 pm for senior parishioners. There is no cost. If you wish

to attend please add your name and menu choice to the sheet on the notice board in the porch.

BUFFER ZONE BILL: Gillian Mackay MSP, member for Central Scotland Region, has published a Bill to introduce ‘safe access zones’, or buffer zones, around abortion centres in Scotland. This ‘buffer zone’ law being proposed for Scotland will be the most extreme of its kind in the world. The Bill is clear that “praying audibly” and “silent vigils” will be criminalised, punishable by an “unlimited fine”. This includes “the actions of a person inside their residential flat that are visible through the window” up to 200 m from an abortion centre. Additionally, the Bill allows for future modifications to extend the 200 m ‘buffer zone’ to GPs, pharmacies, and counselling services. This Bill means residential homes, Catholic schools, graveyards, churches and mosques will fall into the 200 m ‘buffer zone’, essentially criminalising prayer. The consultation closes on 20th December, and it is important that as many people as possible respond. There are many resources available to inform your response, e.g. rcpolitics.org/buffer-zones/ or bit.ly/f2pbriefingnotes. The link to a short consultation response is bit.ly/f2pshortsurvey. Additionally, you can email prolife@gallowaydiocese.org.uk with any questions you may have.

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.

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 20th December – Glorious Mysteries

ALTAR SERVERS’ PANTOMIME: Begins with pizza and games in St Joseph’s church hall on Friday 29th December, 12.30 pm and followed by the Pantomime at the Palace Theatre from 2 pm. Returning to St Joseph’s around 4 pm.

HYMN: We long to see Thee so!

We long to see Thee so! To see Thee newly born,
we long for Christmas morn, the sands of time run slow.

*O come, O come, O come, our Saviour dear to be,
O come, O come, O come, we have no King but Thee.*

We long to see Thee so! To see the Angel’s glory,
to hear their midnight story, and with the shepherds go.

We long to see Thee so! No other joys can please us,
we want Thee, Baby Jesus, the sands of time run slow.

We long to see Thee so! The world will not receive Thee,
but we will never leave Thee. To whom, Lord, could we go?

We long to see Thee so! Sweet Christ-Child, do not tarry,
O bring Him to us, Mary, amid the frost and snow.

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK							
	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children’s Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 16 December 6 pm	H Rameckers, M McGrath, F Donachie	Sr Juliet, M Steele, A Gorman, K McGhee, C Power	Joseph, Lexi, Maia, Antoni, Ravindu			Anne, Michael	IHM Sisters
Sunday 17 December 11 am	P Nicholson, G Smith, B Shepherd	A Smith, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Luca, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel	Anne & Mike Timmons	Anne & Lucie Dorrian	Theresa, Alan	IHM Sisters
Saturday 23 December 6 pm	E Heron, R Heron, A Davidson	C McGowan, K McGhee, Sr Mabel, F Donachie, Sr Juliet	Joseph, Lexi, Maia, Antoni, Ravindu			Claire, Margaret	H Rameckers
Sunday 24 December 11 am	H Matthews, G McGee, E Bohan	I Love, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields	Luca, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel	-	Anne & Lucie Dorrian, IHM Sisters	Paul, Libby	H Rameckers