



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday 24th 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 24th – 31st DECEMBER 2023

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 23rd	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 24th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Terry Bailey (RIP) / David Robertson (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass	For the Parish / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 25th	9.00 pm	Mass of Christmas Night with the choir	John Brady (RIP) / Vanessa Quinn (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass of Christmas Day	Mary Wynne (RIP) / Special Intention
Tuesday 26th	10.00 am	Mass	
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 27th	10.00 am	Mass	Hans Olsen (RIP) /
	After Mass	Recitation of the Rosary	
Thursday 28th	6.00 pm	Mass	John Lennon (RIP) / Anne Sinforiani (RIP)
Friday 29th	10.00 am	Mass	Peter Dourish (Ann) / Marie McCarron (Ann)
	12.30 pm	Altar Servers' Pantomime Trip gather in St Joseph's Hall	
Saturday 30th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 31st	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Hugh & Moira McCluskey
	11.00 am	Mass	Peter & Janette Campbell (Ann) / For the Parish
Monday 1st	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	10.00 am	Mass	William James Guy (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.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FATHER McGRATTAN:

The celebration of Christmas is not only about Jesus being born in a stable. This great Feast breaks into our lives when Jesus is born afresh in our hearts. The poor condition of our hearts must never prevent us from opening ourselves to receive the Lord: after all Jesus was born in the poverty

of a stable because he loved us so much he would pay any price to live among us. It is an act of humility and love, no matter how broken or lukewarm our lives have been, to pray, "Come, Lord Jesus, live in me!"

Hearts in our parishes are clearly touched by the Feast of Christmas. This is witnessed by the efforts of many people to create prayerful, inspiring and beautiful Christmas celebrations.

Thank you to all of you: the flower arrangers, those who build the crib and erect and decorate the tree, the musicians and singers, the ministry co-ordinators, altar servers, sacristans, readers and Eucharistic ministers, the cleaners, the Scouts for the care of the people using the car park, and especially the others whose work, often unseen, makes Christmas a season of hope for our community and beyond. Thank you to all!

Thank you for the continued gift of yourself to the parish community. May the unfailing closeness of God-with-us bring peace to you and your families! Let us pray for one another.

CHRISTMAS MASSTIMES: Christmas Masses in St Joseph's will be celebrated this year:

- 9.00 pm – Christmas Night Mass in St Joseph's accompanied by the choir
- 11.00 am – Christmas Morning Mass in St Joseph's

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:** £1,058.60. **Holy Places:** £7. **Building fund:** £35. **SCIAF:** £200. **Crib:** £26.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.



FR FRANK DOUGAN APPOINTED AS BISHOP OF GALLOWAY: On Friday 22nd December it was announced, that Pope Francis had nominated Fr. Frank Dougan as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Galloway. He will succeed Archbishop William Nolan who was Bishop of Galloway from 2014 to 2022 when he became Archbishop of Glasgow, since when it has been administered by Fr. William McFadden. The date of the episcopal ordination will be announced in due course.

Reacting to his appointment, Fr. Frank said: "I am humbled and more than a little bit nervous that Pope Francis has asked me to take on this office. I feel confident however that I will not be alone in spreading the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I will be joining with every single person in Galloway Diocese all of whom have a role to play, my role being just one of them."

"With God's grace and the deep faith of the Church in Galloway we can continue to build on the solid foundations left by those who have come before us, stretching back to St. Ninian who first planted the seeds of the Christian faith in Scotland here in Galloway."

Fr. Frank added: "My mother was from Ayr, and I spent many childhood summers here, so you could say there is a little bit of coming home for me! But most importantly, we must proclaim a Church where everyone can feel at home and welcomed."

Responding to the news Diocesan Administrator Fr. William McFadden said: "On behalf of the community in the Diocese of Galloway, I am delighted to warmly welcome Fr Dougan as our new bishop. I can assure him of an enthusiastic welcome as he comes among us bringing his unique pastoral leadership and skills. I look forward to working with him, and in continuing the implementation in the diocese of the pastoral and prophetic vision offered by Pope Francis for the Church today."

Reacting to the announcement, Bishop Joseph Toal, the Bishop of Motherwell said: "I am very happy to hear that Fr Dougan has been chosen by the Holy Father as the new Bishop of Galloway. My thoughts and prayers are very much with him at this time. It is very good that Motherwell Diocese is again able to provide a Bishop for a Scottish Diocese, and it is quite something that another Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride, will become Bishop of Galloway."

"We will miss Fr Frank in Motherwell as his ministry extended beyond the the Parish to Our Lady and St Bride's Secondary School and Hairmyres Hospital, along with his Canon Law responsibilities in the Diocese and with the Interdiocesan Tribunal. I am sure the wide pastoral experience gained here will be of great benefit in his episcopal ministry."

Msgr. Francis Dougan was born on 8 September 1972 in Lanark. After graduating in law, he was awarded a licentiate in canon law.

He received priestly ordination on 27 June 2001, and was incardinated in the diocese of Motherwell.

He has held the following offices: parish vicar of Our Lady and Saint Anne of Cadzow, Hamilton and chaplain of Holy Cross High School in Hamilton (2001-2006); vice rector of the Pontifical Scottish College in Rome (2006-2012); parish priest of

Saint Mark and Saint Anthony in Rutherglen and chaplain of Trinity High School in Hamilton (2013-2021); since 2013, advisor at the Interdiocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal; since 2017, adjunct judicial vicar at the Interdiocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal and judicial vicar for the diocese of Motherwell; since 2021, parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes in East Kilbride, chaplain of Hairmyres General Hospital in East Kilbride, and chaplain at Saint Andrew's and Saint Bride's High School in East Kilbride.

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.

THANKYOU: Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin thank you for the cards and gifts received at Christmas.

ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY FOOD PARCEL APPEAL: The pupils and staff of St Joseph's Academy have gathered food for over 100 substantial food parcels over the last two months for distribution to those in need. They have been shared between the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and Foodbanks of the Kilmarnock parishes. Thank you to the pupils and staff for your kindness and for reaching out with Christmas spirit.

CRIB APPEAL: The Crib Appeal supports the St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society. The pressure of the pandemic led to an increase in need for their services and, at the same time, the restrictions left them facing major funding gaps which threaten their ability to continue to offer these much-needed services. Donations may be left at the crib.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ AND SUNDAY TEAS: The Sunday Teas and Community Café will take a two-week break during the Christmas holidays, to resume on Sunday 7th January and Tuesday 9th January from 11 am – 1 pm.

CHRISTMAS CARD APPEAL: The 91st Ayrshire (St Joseph's) Scout Group are grateful for the support received for their annual Christmas Card delivery service. They raised over £1000 – thank you for your support.

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.

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 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 Dorian, IHM Sisters	Paul, Libby	H Rameckers
Sunday 24 December 9 pm	P Nicholson, G McGee, F McCann, G Smith, M Andrews, H Matthews, A Davidson	M Steele, D Casey, K McGhee, F Donachie (Choir), A Gorman	Joseph, Luca, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu		-	Paul, Libby	M McGrath
Monday 25 December 11 am	M Cunningham, A Stevens, E Heron	A Neil, E Cunningham, I Love, R Murphy (Choir), M McGrath	Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Marilyn		-	Margaret	M McGrath
Saturday 30 December 6 pm	K McGhee, M McGrath, M Kirk	G Rankin, E Rankin, C McGowan, J Lennon, C Power	Joseph, Lexi, Maia, Antoni, Ravindu		-	Anne, Michael	H Matthews
Sunday 31 December 11 am	M Cunningham, R Doak, L Hand	H Matthews, A Smith, P Chigbo, E Cunningham	Luca, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel	-	-	Eileen, Dennis	H Matthews