



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

## THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Feast of the Holy Family  
Sunday 31st December 2023

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

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

St Joseph's Presbytery, 15a Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB

Telephone: 01563 521832 • Web: [www.rckilmarnock.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ihmsisters@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

A parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway ([www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk)). Charity number SC010576.

### LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 31st DECEMBER – 7th JANUARY 2024

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

| Date          | Time             | Gathering                                                 | Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)       |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 30th | 10.00 am         | Mass in St Matthew's Church                               |                                                 |
|               | 5.30 – 5.45 pm   | Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)                  |                                                 |
|               | 6.00 pm          | Vigil Mass                                                | / Hugh & Moira McCluskey                        |
| Sunday 31st   | 11.00 am         | Mass                                                      | Peter & Janette Campbell (Ann) / For the Parish |
| Monday 1st    | 10.00 am         | Mass of Mary, Mother of God                               | William James Guy (RIP) / Davie McGivern (RIP)  |
| Tuesday 2nd   | 10.00 am         | Mass                                                      | Patricia Koop (Ann) /                           |
| Wednesday 3rd | 10.30 – 11.00 am | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament                        |                                                 |
|               | 10.00 am         | Mass                                                      | Teddy & Frances Kelly (Ann)                     |
|               | After Mass       | Recitation of the Rosary                                  |                                                 |
| Thursday 4th  | 6.00 pm          | Mass                                                      | Maria Bordone & Daniel Alonso (Ann)             |
| Friday 5th    | 10.00 am         | Mass                                                      | Mrs Kane (RIP) / Kathryn Sinclair (RIP)         |
| Saturday 6th  | 10.00 am         | Mass in St Matthew's Church                               |                                                 |
|               | 5.30 – 5.45 pm   | Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)                  |                                                 |
|               | 6.00 pm          | Vigil Mass                                                | Special Intention /                             |
| Sunday 7th    | 11.00 am         | Mass                                                      | Robert John Mulhern (RIP) / For the Parish      |
|               | 12.30 pm         | Senior Parishioners' Christmas Dinner in St Joseph's Hall |                                                 |

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

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR:** Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May 2024 be blessed and prosperous for you all.

**REQUIESCANT IN PACE:** With sadness we inform you that our parishioner Agnes Colgan has died. May she rest in peace. Our condolences and prayers are extended to Agnes' family. Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

Please also keep the late Kathleen Chambers, Fr Martin Chamber's mother and the Chambers family in your prayers. The funeral Mass for Kathleen Chambers will take place in St Mary's, Irvine at 12 noon on Thursday 11th January.

**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:** This will resume on Tuesday 9th January from 11 am – 1 pm.

**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.

**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](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or 01563 521832)

Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri ([benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto: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:** £1,495.74. **Crib:** £216.63. **Building fund:** £120.

**Christmas Collection:** £985.44. Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

**SUNDAY COFFEES AND CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

These are taking a break over the Christmas holidays, both will resume on Sunday 14th January.

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

**ALTAR SERVER'S PANTO TRIP:** We're very grateful to all of our altar servers and other young volunteers in the Parish for their ministry. They all had a lovely day yesterday with pizza in the Church Hall and then going to the Palace Theatre for Jack and the Beanstalk – the penultimate performance before it closes for a two-year refurbishment.



If any young people in our parish would like to get involved as servers, readers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist or passkeepers at Mass please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin for more information.

**FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES:**

St Marnock's Church will host a service at 3 pm on Sunday 21st January. The service this year has been prepared by Christians in Burkino Faso. A poor country even by West African standards, landlocked Burkina Faso has suffered from recurring droughts and military coups. Despite this troubled background, Christians there have chosen the theme of the Good Samaritan, reflecting the bonds that unite the whole human family, wherever we may live in the world. Please let Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin know if you would be willing to participate by leading a reading.

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY:** The hospital chaplains of Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals are pleased to visit patients on request. Chaplains are not automatically notified when a Catholic patient is admitted so self-referral is required. For general visiting in Crosshouse Hospital please contact Fr Stephen McGrattan at [stephenmcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:stephenmcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or on 01563 521832. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at [benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or on 01655 882145. For the urgent or emergency assistance of a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

**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.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE:** 1st January is the World Day of Prayer for Peace. The prayer of St Francis (below) is a good reflection for us to use at this time.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 where there is injury, pardon;  
 where there is error, the truth;  
 where there is doubt, the faith;  
 where there is despair, hope;  
 where there is darkness, light;  
 and where there is sadness, joy.

○ Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
 to be consoled, as to console;  
 to be understood, as to understand;  
 to be loved, as to love.  
 For it is in giving that we receive;  
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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

- Sacramental Preparation Mass – Sun 14 Jan, 11.00 PM
- Diocesan Youth Evening – Sun 21 Jan, 6.00 PM (St Matthew's, Kilmarnock)
- PPC Meeting – Mon 22 Jan, 6.30 PM
- Parish Burns' Supper – Sat 27 Jan, 7.00 PM
- Childrens' Confirmation Retreat – Sat 10 Feb, 10.00 AM (St Matthew's, Kilmarnock)
- Confirmation Service – Tue 13 Feb, 7.00 PM (OLMC, Kilmarnock)
- Ash Wednesday – Wed 14 Feb

| MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK |                                       |                                                        |                                        |             |                    |                     |                 |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|                                            | Readers                               | Ministers of Communion                                 | Altar Servers                          | Sunday Teas | Children's Liturgy | Welcomers           | Bidding Prayers |
| Saturday 30 December<br>6 pm               | K McGhee, M McGrath,<br>M Kirk        | G Rankin, E Rankin, C<br>McGowan, J Lennon, C Power    | Joseph, Lexi, Maia,<br>Antoni, Ravindu |             |                    | Anne,<br>Michael    | H Matthews      |
| Sunday 31 December<br>11 am                | M Cunningham, R Doak,<br>L Hand       | H Matthews, A Smith, P Chigbo,<br>E Cunningham         | Luca, Marilyn, Aidan,<br>Mark, Rachel  | Holiday     | Holiday            | Eileen,<br>Dennis   | H Matthews      |
| Saturday 6 January<br>6 pm                 | G McIntyre, F Donachie,<br>H Ramecher | M Steele, A Gorman, Sr. Juliet,<br>K McGhee, C McGowan | Joseph, Lexi, Maia,<br>Antoni, Ravindu |             |                    | Claire,<br>Margaret | IHM Sisters     |
| Sunday 7 January<br>11 am                  | E Maxwell, T Murphy,<br>P Nicholson   | L Dorrian, I Love, H Matthews,<br>R Murphy             | Luca, Marilyn, Aidan,<br>Mark, Rachel  | Holiday     | Holiday            | Theresa,<br>Alan    | IHM Sisters     |