



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Sunday 24th March 2024

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. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 17th – 24th MARCH 2024

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Gathering</i>	<i>Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)</i>
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 of Passion/Palm Sunday	Francis Farren (Ann) / Mary Murray (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass of Passion/Palm Sunday	John McGill (Ann) / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	
Monday 25th	10.00 am	Mass	Angelo Suffredini (Ann) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 26th	10.00 am	Mass	James Smith (RIP) / William James Guy (Snr.) (RIP)
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	7.30 pm	Mass of Chrism at St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr	
Wednesday 27th	10.00 am	Mass	Baby Rory Hodge / Barry Dunlop (RIP)
		The Rosary will not be recited after Mass today	
	11.00 am	Easter Service for Park School (All are welcome to this beautiful service)	
Thursday 28th	7.00 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Patsy Doherty (RIP) / Agnes Nicholson (RIP)
Friday 29th	10.45 am	Walk of Witness, Salvation Army Hall to New Laigh Kirk	
	12 noon – 3 pm	Ecumenical Vigil at New Laigh Kirk	
	12.00 pm	Stations of the Cross for Children in St Joseph's	
	3.00 pm	Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord	
	6.00 – 6.50 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 30th	11.00 am	Blessing of Easter Baskets (Święconka)	
	8.00 pm	Vigil Mass of Easter Sunday	John Lennon (RIP) / Robert McWhinnie (RIP)
		<i>Reminder: The clocks go forward one hour on Easter Sunday morning.</i>	
Sunday 31st	11.00 am	Mass of Easter Sunday	For the Parish / For the Parish

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: With sadness we inform you of the deaths of Neil Laird, Mary McGowne and Sarah Hall. May they rest in peace. Our condolences and prayers are extended to their families and friends. Neil's funeral Mass will take place at St Joseph's at 10.00 am on Monday 15th April, with a Vigil Reception on Sunday 14th April at 6 pm. Arrangements for Mary's funeral Mass have yet to be confirmed.

DO THIS IN MEMORY: Today our young parishioners continue their preparation for the sacrament of Holy Communion with another of the special "Do this in Memory"

Sundays. Children are asked to please bring your candles and gather in the sacristy a few minutes before Mass to walk in the procession.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR P3 CHILDREN: The children of primary 3 who have been preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation will celebrate the sacrament for the first time on Monday 25th March at 7.00 pm in St Joseph's church. This service is for all the Kilmarnock and Hulford parishes.

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: £683.31. **Weekly collection:** £1,251.98. **SCIAF:** £61.65. **Building Fund:** £6.

Xaverian Fathers Mission: £20. **Justice & Peace:** £5.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

MASS OF CHRISM: Bishop Frank will celebrate his first Mass of Chrism as our new bishop in St Margaret's Cathedral on Tuesday 26th March at 7.30 pm. At this Mass the oils for use in the Sacraments will be blessed and consecrated, and the priests of the diocese renew their Priestly Promises. All are welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY: Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence, one of only two in the Church's year. On this day we are all expected to abstain from eating meat, and those aged 18-59 and in good health are expected to fast: to have one main meal in the day and two smaller meals which should not add up to the size of the main meal.

Through our fasting and abstinence we are making an effort to unite ourselves to Christ's suffering on the way to Calvary.

POLISH BLESSING OF THE BASKETS (ŚWIĘCONKA): The Polish community (and others who wish) are invited to bring baskets of food to St Joseph's Church at 11.00 am on Saturday 30th March to be blessed in the traditional Święconka Blessing Service (in the English language).

ALTAR SERVER REHEARSALS: Holy Thursday rehearsal at 6.25 pm on Holy Thursday; Good Friday rehearsal at 2.00 pm on Good Friday; Easter Vigil rehearsal from 12.00 noon until 1.00 pm on Holy Saturday.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: A special collection will be taken on Good Friday for the Holy Places - places of pilgrimage in the Holy Land - to assist the welcome and hospitality of pilgrims. This collection also assists Christians who are persecuted in the Holy Land. An envelope is included in the box set. Thank you.

EASTER CARDS: A selection of beautiful cards for Easter are available at the stall at very reasonable prices.

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.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: The times of the liturgies are:

Palm Sunday, 23rd/24th March:

6 pm (Vigil) and 11 am

Holy Thursday, 28th March:

7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, 29th March:

10.45 am Walk of Witness, starting at the Salvation Army Hall

12 noon – Stations of the Cross for Children;

12 noon – 3 pm: Ecumenical Vigil at New Laigh Kirk

3 pm Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord

7 pm: Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, 30th March:

11.00 am Święconka Blessing of Food Service

Easter, 30th/31st March:

8.00 pm (Easter Vigil), 11 am (Sunday)

PARISH MINIBUS TRIP TO NEW LANARK: The next Parish Minibus Trip will take place to New Lanark on Monday 8th April. We will celebrate Mass at 10.00 am following which we will leave for New Lanark. On arrival at New Lanark we will have lunch as a group, before having an opportunity to explore the wonderful surroundings of the village. We will return to St Joseph's for approximately 6.00 pm. The cost per person is £20, payable on the day and includes lunch and admission to the village. If you would like to take part, please sign up in the porch.



On Friday of last week our popular Parish Minibus Trips resumed with an outing to New Abbey in Dumfriesshire. The trip was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

EASTER EGG APPEAL: Joseph Davidson, altar server and Head Boy of the Junior School at St. Joseph's Academy, is collecting Easter eggs for families in the local community. Any donations would be gratefully appreciated and can be left in the box in the porch.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated in St Paul's Church, Hurlford on Sunday 7th April at 2 pm. This service will include the Sacrament of reconciliation, veneration of the Divine Mercy image and mass. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to attend.

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 23 March 6 pm	A Davidson, E Heron, K McGhee Passion: F Donachie, G McIntyre	E Rankin, G Rankin, Sr Juliet, Sr Mabel, D Casey	Joseph, Lexi, Maia, Antoni, Ravindu			Anne, Michael	IHM Sisters
Sunday 24 March 11 am	E Bohan, M Andrew, G McGee Passion: F McCann, G Smith	A Neil, A Smith, P Chigbo, E Cunningham	Luca, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Ryan	Anne & Gerry Smith	-	Eileen, Dennis	IHM Sisters
Holy Thursday 28 March 7pm	M Cunningham, L Hand, T Murphy		Ryan, Ravindu, Lexi, Rachel, Mark, Antoni,				H Rameckers
Good Friday 29 March 3pm	B Shepherd, E Maxwell, F Donachie Passion: P Nicholson, H Rameckers		Rachel, Mark, Marilyn, Aidan, Luca				
Stations of the Cross 7pm	K McGhee						
Holy Saturday 30 March 9 pm	H Matthews, K McGhee, F McCann, G McGee, M Andrew	F Donachie, A Gorman, J Lennon, C McGowan, C Power	Joseph, Lexi, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Luca			Claire, Margaret	M McGrath
Easter Sunday 31 March 11 am	T Murphy, P Nicholson, L Hand	L Dorrian, I Love, H Matthews, P Dorrian	Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Maia	-	-	Theresa, Alan	M McGrath

HOLY WEEK IS THE HEART OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR

Holy Thursday



Holy Thursday begins the *Triduum*. The oldest and still official name of this day is "Thursday of the Lord's Supper". It commemorates the historical Gospel events surrounding the Last Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist. "Maundy Thursday," a popular title in English-speaking countries, comes from the solemn ritual of washing of feet in imitation of Jesus at his Last Supper. The name is a corruption of *mandatum* (Latin for "commandment") from the words of Jesus sung as the washing begins; "A new commandment I give to you" (Jn 13:34).

Parish liturgies take place in the evening, with joyful overtones. Bells ring and festive colours are used for vestments and decorations. The Gloria, not prayed since Ash Wednesday (except for solemnities such as the Feast of the Annunciation), returns for this brief moment. The tabernacle is empty so that all might receive the Eucharist from bread consecrated at this Mass.

The Holy Thursday ritual has included a ceremonial washing of feet by the presider since the 5th century. This ritual imitates Jesus' Last Supper action of humility and service. Appropriate songs are sung during this symbolic washing. Usually, twelve participants are chosen from the parish at large.

At the end of the Holy Thursday liturgy, consecrated Hosts are carried in procession, with incense and song, to a chapel of adoration. These Hosts will be received the next day in Communion. After placing the Hosts in the tabernacle, an atmosphere of quiet watching with the Lord begins. It is common for people to spend a Holy Hour sometime before midnight in the adoration chapel.

Good Friday



The second day of the *Triduum* is the Passion of the Lord, known as Good Friday, the anniversary of the death of Jesus on the cross just outside the walls of Jerusalem. The origin of the term "Good" for this day is unknown, but probably emphasises the saving value of the historical event of the crucifixion of Jesus. The theme of this day throughout history has been one

of quiet sadness and mourning for the crucified and dead Jesus.

On this one day of the entire year, the Mass is not celebrated. The Church's Good Friday liturgy takes place in the afternoon. The emphasis of the liturgy is on Scripture readings and prayers, the veneration of the cross, and the reception of the Eucharist from the Hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday.

Holy Saturday

The daytime hours of Holy Saturday continue the atmosphere of Good Friday, and have been observed as a time of quiet and fasting from the earliest centuries. The day has no liturgy or religious traditions of its own. There is an atmosphere of anticipation for the coming of night and for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

Adults preparing for Baptism or reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil often spend some time in a mini-retreat, with fasting and prayer as the hours of the Easter Vigil approach.

Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday is the night of all nights and the primary celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

The late 20th-century restoration of the adult catechumenate (RCIA) first developed in the early Church has added an important feature to the Easter Vigil that had not existed for centuries: the public Baptism of adults, and reception of the other sacraments of initiation by them and by already-Baptised adults being received into full communion with the Church.

The elaborate and beautiful ritual of the Easter Vigil calls for extensive preparation by the parish team and many other parishioners. The church is decorated; sacramentals of oil, incense, water, and fire are readied; and the liturgy is rehearsed. Adult Elect and Candidates begin their final hours of preparation. The Easter Vigil has four clearly-defined parts: the service of light, the Liturgy of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, and the Eucharist. The service of light begins with a fully darkened church. The presider and other celebrants begin outside or at the back of the church, striking the Paschal flame and lighting the Paschal candle (the symbol of Christ's Resurrection), which is inscribed and adorned with appropriate symbols. Once the Paschal candle is lit to the chant of *Lumen Christi* ("light of Christ"), its flame is used to light small candles held by those in the congregation. The Paschal candle is processed to the altar, during which *Lumen Christi* is sung twice more at intervals.

Following the arrival of the procession, the *Exultet*, a recounting of the saving actions of Christ, is sung. Then the readings of the Mass, several from the Old Testament, are interspersed with responsorial Psalms and prayers by the celebrant. The Liturgy of the Word is far lengthier than in any other Mass of the Church, consisting of as many as seven readings that recapitulate God's saving action throughout history. The prayer at the end of this part of the Liturgy of the Word is the Easter Proclamation, immediately after which the lights are turned on suddenly, and the Gloria is sung with the maximum amount of musical instruments, bells, and choir available to the parish.

Following the proclamation of the Gospel and the preaching of the homily, the celebration of Baptism of the Elect begins, followed by a rite to receive already-baptised Candidates, and Confirmation of all those just received into the Church. The Mass concludes with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Easter



The theme of Easter morning continues the triumphant joy of the Easter Vigil. It remembers and celebrates the very foundation of Christianity: Jesus is raised from the dead, and is Lord. Those who believe and are baptised share in this resurrection to new life. This theme will continue for the next fifty days of the Easter Season, which does not end until Pentecost Sunday. It was natural

that the very first followers of Jesus would hold the moment of Jesus' Resurrection sacred. It was the anniversary of that wonderful time when they experienced him risen and still among them. His death had occurred on the most important of all Jewish feasts: the Passover. His Resurrection fulfilled all that the Passover had meant to them as Jews. It was an *exodus*, or passage, from the old times and the oppression of slavery to spiritual freedom. Jesus himself was the Paschal Lamb, slain to achieve this freedom.

During this week, the heart of the Church year, the drama of God's love for us unfolds before our eyes. We celebrate and thank God for the very essence of our faith this week. Please make a special effort to play an active part in all of the liturgies this week, and to bring your children along too.

• **PALM SUNDAY: The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem** •

Before Mass the congregation will be invited to assemble in the place from where the procession will move. Please take your palm branch and this newsletter:

After the Gospel the priest says:

Dear brothers and sisters, like the crowds who acclaimed Jesus in Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace.

The altar servers lead the priest and the congregation into the church singing the hymn:

**Hail, Redeemer, King divine! Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine,
King, whose reign shall never cease, Prince of everlasting peace.**

***Angels, saints and nations sing: 'Praised be Jesus Christ, our King,
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea, King of love on Calvary.'***

**King whose name creation thrills, rule our minds, our hearts, our wills,
till in peace each nation rings with thy praises, King of kings.**

**King most holy, King of truth, guide the lowly, guide the youth;
Christ thou King of glory bright, be to us eternal light.**

**Shepherd-King, o'er mountains steep, homeward bring the wand'ring sheep,
shelter in one royal fold states and kingdoms, new and old.**

AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

- Have I rejected or neglected my faith? Have I refused to defend my faith, or been ashamed of it? Is there any aspect of my faith that I do not accept?
- Have I taken the Lord's name in vain? Have I been superstitious *or* put my trust in witch doctors, fortune-tellers or any other like these? Have I shown disrespect for any holy things, places or people?
- Have I missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation? Have I been attentive during the Mass or do I wilfully get distracted?
- Have I received Holy Communion with a grave sin on my conscience?
- Have I received Holy Communion without proper reverence?
- Have I acted with impatience, anger or jealousy?
- Have I fostered resentments or been unwilling to forgive?
- Have I been verbally or physically violent with others?

- Have I taken part in or encouraged abortion, euthanasia or any other means of taking human life?

- Have I been hateful or judgemental in thoughts or deeds? Have I looked down on others?
- Have I spoken badly about others, engaging in gossip?
- Have I consumed alcohol excessively or taken drugs?
- Have I looked at impure videos or websites? Have I been committed impure acts on my own? Have I been involved in impure acts with someone else? Am I living with someone as if I were married when I am not?
- If I am married, do I seek to love my spouse above all else? Do I put my marriage and my children first? Am I faithful to my spouse?
- Do I let my work occupy time and energy that family and friends deserve? Have I been honest and diligent in my work?
- Have I been proud or selfish in my thoughts or actions? Have I neglected the poor and those in need? Have I spent money on my own personal comfort and luxury, forgetting my responsibilities to others and the Church?
- Have I stolen or cheated anyone at work? Have I received or given bribes or participated in sharing funds from questionable sources?
- Have I given in to laziness? Have I preferred physical comfort to service of others? Have I neglected the responsibility to bring others closer to God through my example and words?

- Have I told lies?

CONFESSION FOR EASTER: There is an additional opportunity for Confession this week on Good Friday from 6.00 – 6.50 pm, in addition to the usual Confessions after Monday morning Mass.

Lent is a wonderful time to rediscover the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation through which God forgives us our sins, without condition and without reserve. It is not only for those times when we may commit grave sin, but for all times – no matter the gravity of our sins, they always harm our relationship with God in some way. This harm is then restored and healed through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

ORGAN RECITALS 2024

THE RESTORED 1903 HARRISON & HARRISON PIPE ORGAN

TUESDAY 19 MARCH – 12 NOON
CIARAN WALKER
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, INVERESK

TUESDAY 18 JUNE – 12 NOON
ALESSANDRO BIANCHI
ST EDWARD'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

TUESDAY 16 JULY – 12 NOON
HANS UWE HIELSCHER
WIESBADEN MARKTKIRCHE LUTHERAN CATHEDRAL, GERMANY

TUESDAY 20 AUGUST – 12 NOON
ROBIN BELL
ST LEONARD'S SCHOOL, ST ANDREWS

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER – 12 NOON
DR JOHN KITCHEN MBE
EDINBURGH CITY ORGANIST

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER – 12 NOON
CHRIS BRAGG
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER – 12 NOON
WILLIAM R. HUTCHESON
FREELANCE ORGANIST, PAISLEY

FREE ADMISSION

RETIRAL COLLECTION



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St Joseph's is a parish of the RC Diocese of Galloway. Charity number SC010576



THE YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE INVITES YOU TO OUR EASTER YOUTH EVENING WITH BISHOP FRANK

Come and meet our new Bishop, chat with him and celebrate Easter with him.

WHEN: Sunday 14th April 2024

BEGINS WITH MASS AT: 6pm

followed by pizza and activities

finishing with Night Prayer at 8.30pm.

WHERE: St Matthew's,
Grassyards Road, Kilmarnock. (KA3 7SH)

**YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE
JOIN US TO REFLECT, SUPPORT AND PRAY TOGETHER.**

This event is free-it will only cost you your time!

For more info email us at: youth@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

Tel: 01563 533587

The Youth Ministry Office is a Ministry of the RC Diocese of Galloway.

Charity Number: SC 010576. Director: Fr Jim Hayes

