



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

4th Sunday of Easter
Sunday 21st April 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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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
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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 21st – 28th APRIL 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 20th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 21st	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ For the Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	/ Betty McCann (Ann)
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 22nd	10.00 am	Mass	/ Agnes Lennon (RIP)
Tuesday 23rd	10.00 am	Mass	/ Irene McDonnell (RIP)
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Wednesday 24th	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	10.00 am	Mass	/ Special Intention
	After Mass	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
Thursday 25th	6.00 pm	Mass	/ Fr Michael Savage (RIP)
Friday 26th	10.00 am	Mass	/ Catherine Gallagher (RIP)
Saturday 27th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Murdoch McGuire (RIP)
Sunday 28th	11.00 am	Mass	Special Intention / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Reception of Fr Martin Chambers, RIP in Our Lady and St Meddan's, Troon	

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

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FR MARTIN CHAMBERS, RIP: Fr Martin's funeral will take place in Our Lady of the Assumption and St Meddan's, Troon. He will be received into the church on Sunday 28th April at 6.00 pm. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 29th April at 12.00 noon, following which his mortal remains will be interred at Knadgerhill Cemetery, Irvine.

Both the Vigil Reception and Requiem Mass are public celebrations to which all who knew Fr Martin are welcome to attend. Capacity in the church is limited however additional overflow capacity will be made available in the church hall and grounds so please do not be discouraged from attending his Requiem Mass in person if you are able. There is no parking at the church however parking is available on the streets surrounding the church.

If you intend to join for either or both liturgies please plan accordingly and arrive in good time, we would also suggest

that you bring bottled water with you in case you are seated in the grounds. Both liturgies will be livestreamed through the Diocesan Facebook (Galloway Diocese) and YouTube (@RCGalloway) channels.

NEW WEBSITE: We have been working hard over the last several months to redesign www.rckilmarnock.org.uk, the one website for the three parishes in Kilmarnock, to make it more accessible and easy to use. The new website is now live and can be accessed at the same address as the old one. You can find all the latest Mass times, news, and information on it for all three Kilmarnock parishes.

REPOINTING WORKS: Over the next two months, the repointing works will continue, this year working on part of the house which has been identified as requiring urgent intervention. Please take extra care in the car park to the rear of the Church where scaffolding has been erected and the builders will be working.

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:** £1,039.03. **Building Fund:** £57.

Holy Places: £20. **Church Students Fund:** £15.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.



We had another very successful parish trip, this time to New Lanark, on Monday of last week. These trips run monthly and are open to everyone – the next one will take place to St Andrew’s on Friday 17th May. Registration will open in the soon.

RETREAT DAY FOR PRIMARY 4 CHILDREN: For the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion there will be a retreat in St Matthew’s Church, Kilmarnock on **Saturday 11th May**, beginning with Mass at 10.00 am and lasting until 2.00 pm. Children should bring a packed lunch. Attendance at the retreat is an important part of preparation to receive the Sacrament.

Please note the change of date from the one originally advertised at the start of the year owing to Fr Martin’s funeral arrangements.

VOCATIONS SUNDAY: The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday, and is marked as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus’ instruction to “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates her attention on raising up shepherds for God’s people – vocations to Holy Orders (the priesthood and diaconate) and to the religious life – while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God’s call.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest.
 Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.
 Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Could God be calling you to priesthood. To be a priest in Scotland today is “a life worth living” and a path worth taking. So, give it some quiet thought. It can be a challenging life, but it can also be a very rewarding life where you are able to make a difference in the lives of others. The invitation to “make disciples of all the nations” is a command to each one of us. For advice or information please approach Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin. You may also contact Bishop Frank, Diocesan Vocations Director, at administration@gallowaydiocese.org.uk.

Pope Francis’ letter for Vocations Sunday 2024 is available to read at www.vocations.org.uk.

The special collection taken this weekend is for the Ecclesiastical Students’ Fund. Thank you for your support.

EXAM SEASON: We wish all of our young parishioners well as they begin their exams tomorrow and continue over the coming weeks. We wish them every success in their exams and assure them of our prayers for them. St Joseph of Cupertino, pray for them.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ: Come along for homemade soup, sandwich and cakes on Tuesdays between 11 am and 1 pm. **With a busier Café, we appeal for some more home baking to be donated on a weekly basis.** If anyone can help please contact Margaret McGrath on 01563 542130.

ST JOSEPH’S ACADEMY MAGAZINE: The Easter edition of the Academy’s free magazine is now available to view online. It’s full of lots of interesting articles and images from staff and students across the yeargroups and is well worth a read. You can find it through our Facebook and X (Twitter) pages.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?: As a parish community, we were delighted to welcome Jasmin Bobko into the Church at the Easter Vigil. If you’re thinking of becoming Catholic, or know someone who is, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin to register your interest in the RCIA program for next year.

HALL HIRE: Did you know that our parish hall is available for hire for occasional events? If you’ve a big event coming up – whether it’s a significant birthday or a big family gathering – the hall is available for rent at competitive rates. By hiring the hall, you’re able to support the continuing mission of St Joseph’s, and in particular the ongoing works and maintenance of the hall. Most recently, the funds raised through the café and hall hire have enabled us to renew all of the lighting in the main hall area, making it brighter and more energy efficient.

If you’re interested in finding out more, please speak to Margaret McGrath.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY: Fr Stephen, Fr Kevin, and the Sisters visit Catholic patients in Crosshouse Hospital typically twice weekly. If you know of anyone in the hospital, please let us know by email (stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or phone and they will be visited during our routine visiting. We are not automatically notified when a Catholic patient is admitted to hospital and so we rely on receiving the information from family and friends.

For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or on 01655 882145.

For **urgent or emergency assistance from a chaplain** please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

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

- Solemnity of the Ascension (Holy day of obligation) – Thu 9th May
- Children’s Retreat for First Communion – Sat 11th May, 10.00 am (*St Matthew’s, Kilmarnock*)
- Parish Minibus Trip to St Andrew’s – Fri 17th May
- First Communion – Sun 2nd Jan

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK								
	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children’s Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers	
Saturday 20 April 6pm	M McGrath, F Donachie, A Davidson	G Rankin, E Rankin, M Steele, K McGhee, C McGowan	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Anne, Michael	H Rameckers	
Sunday 21 April 11am	P Nicholson, G Smith, B Shepherd	R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, A Smith	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca	Anna Mackie, Alice Murphy	Pauline Ferguson, Caitlin Mulhern	Theresa, Alan	H Rameckers	
Saturday 27 April 6pm	E Heron, M Kirk, K McGhee	C Power, Sr Mabel, Sr Juliet, D Casey, F Donachie	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Claire, Margaret	M McGrath	
Sunday 28 April 11am	H Matthews, G McGee, M Andrew	F McCann, P Dorrian, P Chigbo, D Custodio	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca	Anne & Gerry Smith	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Paul, Libby	M McGrath	