



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 22nd December 2024

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

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

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**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

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A parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway ([www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk)). Charity number SC010576. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

## LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER – 29th DECEMBER 2024

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 21st	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Billy Donochie (RIP) /
Sunday 22nd	11.00 am	Mass	John Brady (Ann), Haydn Carr Pollock (Sp Int) / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Choir Practice for Christmas	
Monday 23rd	10.00 am	Mass	John McCulloch (Ann) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 24th	10.00 am	Mass	Special Intention / Special Intention
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Wednesday 25th	9.00 pm	Night Mass of the Nativity of the Lord	Robert John Mulhern (RIP) / Marie Quinn (RIP)
	11.00 am	Dawn Mass of the Nativity of the Lord	Mary Wynne (RIP) / For the Parish
Thursday 26th	6.00 pm	Mass	/ Bobby Stephen Kerr (RIP)
Friday 27th	10.00 am	Mass	/ Robert Kerr (RIP)
Saturday 28th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Mae Brown (RIP)
Sunday 29th	11.00 am	Mass	/ Agnes Colgan (RIP), Mary Kimmett (Ann), Peter and Janette Campbell (Ann)

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

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** Mass of Christmas Night (accompanied by our choir and organ) will be celebrated at 9.00 pm on Christmas Eve. Christmas Morning Mass will be celebrated at 11.00 am on Christmas Day.

**MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY:** Mass will be celebrated at 11.00 am.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** The Funeral Mass for Nancy McCloskey will take place in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Monday 23rd December at 10 am.

**GALLOWAY YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Join young adults from across the Diocese for a festive Christmas Dinner on Sunday 5th January from 6.00 – 8.00 pm at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock (KA3 1HB). The evening begins with Mass at 6.00 pm following which we'll enjoy our dinner together from 6.30 pm. There's no charge for the evening but please register so we know you're coming by scanning the QR code on the poster in the porch, or through our social media channels: @rcdgyouth.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** We are grateful to the team of cleaners who work extremely hard to keep our church looking its best and making St Joseph's a pleasant and welcoming place to come to worship. We are looking to recruit more cleaners to make this job easier for everyone. The cleaners ordinarily work on the first Friday of each month, starting after 10.00 am Mass. If you would be able to spare an hour or two to help, please speak to Francis Donachie (07568562100) for more information.

**DIOCESAN WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA:** As part of Bishop Frank's work on communications the Diocese has launched a new Diocesan website: [www.rcdg.org.uk](http://www.rcdg.org.uk) where you can find lots of useful information and news from the Diocese. To keep up to date with the latest from across the Diocese be sure and follow us on Facebook, X, or Instagram: RC Diocese of Galloway - @rcdgalloway.

**THANK YOU:** Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin thank you for your greetings cards and gifts at this time. We will both offer Mass on New Year's Day for your intentions.

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

*Ayr Hospital:* Fr Benjamin Mkeri ([benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk) or 01655 882145)

**St Andrew's Primary:** 01563 549549 **Mount Carmel Primary:** 01563 525897 **St Joseph's Academy:** 01563 526144

**Standing orders:** £621. **Weekly collection:** £1,338.92. **Building Fund:** £1,747.97. **Ecuador Trust:** £650.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

## BISHOP DOUGAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters, God is with us.

As we come again to the great feast of Christmas, we all do so with mixed feelings. We hear a message of "Joy to the World" and yet we are faced with so much bad news in our world, in our communities and often in our own families. But, as we celebrate again the birth of Christ, we remind ourselves that the bad news is not the last word. The Prophet Isaiah helps us out in the First Reading at Midnight Mass: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." (Is 9:2)



That message was true at the first Christmas and is the same today. As pilgrims of hope we are called to remind ourselves and each other that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ, nothing can come between us and the love of God made present in Jesus Christ. Why?

Because God is with us.

I ask the blessing of the newborn Christ on you and your families and invite you to continue to welcome the love of Christ into your hearts and to share that love with others.

+Frank Dougan, Bishop of Galloway

**MINIBUS DRIVERS:** We are looking to recruit additional drivers for the minibus to allow us to run the minibus for the housebound more frequently. This would require the driver to drive around pre-arranged houses to collect the housebound and bring them to Mass before returning them again afterwards. Typically, this means collecting persons from 9.30 am and finishing drop offs around 1.30 pm. If you would be interested, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin for more information.

**APPEAL FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL:** Demand for the Parish foodbank has been increasingly notably over recent weeks at a time when donations of food have also been decreasing. This puts increasing pressure on the society to try and fund purchases of food in order to keep producing food bags for those in need in our community. They ask that, if possible, you please consider donating either full food bags, or individual items. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be left in the box in the church porch. The contents requested for a food bag are:

- Can of soup
- Canned meal, e.g. beef stew, chilli con carne, curry
- Pasta or rice (only small bags)
- Tinned fruit / vegetables / beans
- Cartons of long-life milk (UHT)
- Tin of tuna
- Packet of biscuits
- Toilet roll.

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.

**ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY DONATION:** The SSVP extend their thanks to the staff and students of St Joseph's Academy who through their Foodbank Collection for a recent non-uniform day collected a significant number of tins. This collection meant that the SSVP's November expenditure was down significantly on what it would have otherwise been.

**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@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk)) or phone 01563 521832 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@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.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 over the next few weeks, so save the date and join us for what you can:

- Altar Server's Christmas Panto Trip – Saturday 28th December
- Senior Parishioners Christmas Dinner – Sunday 5th January, 12.00 – 3.00 pm
- Young Adults Christmas Dinner – Sunday 5th January, 6.00 – 8.00 pm
- Sacramental Preparation Mass – Sunday 11th January, 11.00 am



**CONTACTLESS DONATIONS:** The Diocese has teamed up with Give A Little to make contactless donations available in parishes. You can now support St Joseph's by contactless donation using the machine in the porch, or online through our website, just:

- 1) Select the Collection, 2) Choose the amount, 3) Tap your card, 4) (If you're a taxpayer) Enter your email address to register for Gift Aid.

This will not replace the traditional cash collection but is intended to offer those who don't carry cash the opportunity to donate in support of the parish.

### 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
<b>Saturday 21 December</b> 6pm	A Davidson, E Heron, M Kirk	C McGowan, M McGrath G Rankin, L Rankin, M Steele	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Matthews
<b>Sunday 22 December</b> 11am	P Nicholson, G Smith, H Matthews	I Love, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anne & Gerry Smith	Anne Dorrian	Eileen, Dennis	H Matthews
<b>Tuesday 24 December</b> 9pm	G McIntyre, L Hand, H Rameckers, M Kirk, F Donachie, P Nicholson, E Bohan	K McGhee, M Walker, G Rankin, L Rankin, P Dorrian, J Shields	Lexi, Ryan, Antoni, Luca, Joseph			Claire, Margaret	IHM Sisters
<b>Wednesday 25 December</b> 11am	L Heron, T Murphy, M Cunningham	R Murphy, E Cunningham, D Custodio	Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Ravindu			Eileen, Dennis	IHM Sisters
<b>Saturday 28 December</b> 6pm	K McGhee, G McIntyre, H Rameckers	Sr Juliet, D Casey, F Donachie, J Lennon, C Power	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Anne, Michael	H Rameckers
<b>Sunday 29 December</b> 11am	G McGee, M Andrew, M Walker	P Dorrian, D Custodio, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	-		Theresa, Alan	H Rameckers