



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th 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

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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 WEDNESDAY 25th – SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER 2024

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Wednesday 25th	9.00 pm	Night Mass of the Nativity of the Lord	Robert John Mulhern (RIP) / Marie Quinn (RIP)
Thursday 26th	11.00 am	Dawn Mass of the Nativity of the Lord	Mary Wynne (RIP) / For the Parish
Friday 27th	6.00 pm	Mass	/ Bobby Stephen Kerr (RIP)
Saturday 28th	10.00 am	Mass	/ Robert Kerr (RIP)
	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 29th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Mae Brown (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass	/ Agnes Colgan (RIP), Mary Kimmitt (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.

### 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



**MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY:** Mass will be celebrated on New Year's Day at 11.00 am.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FATHER McGRATTAN:** Christmas revives our hope. Every newborn child has that power. The Christ Child uniquely. He revives the hope of a better world here and now, of a change for the good.



Today, the birth of that little baby of Bethlehem sheds light once again upon our darkened lives and our world. Jesus was born in Bethlehem because of the tyrannical rule of the Roman Empire which obliged his family to register in the place of their origin in a census designed to exploit and dominate. Yet out of this utter disruption came a Saviour, one who is called the Prince of Peace. At this time we pray for all those displaced through war in the land of Jesus, that the pathway of sacrifice, compassion, forgiveness and peace traced by Jesus, Mary and Joseph in their time, may become a beacon of hope for those who are persecuted today.

It takes only a little light to prevent us being overwhelmed by darkness. A single flame of light can be our hope in the darkness. Hope is our desire and expectation of good things to come, even though the future is invisible and unknown to us.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 the Jubilee Year of Hope. We are invited to be Pilgrims of Hope – recognising in our midst the flames of hope, however dim, burning to prevent darkness overwhelming.

As we celebrate the great feast of the Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us remember that Christian hope is dynamic and enlightens the pilgrimage of life, revealing the faces of brothers and sisters, companions on the journey. Let our lives point to Jesus, his Son, who offers his life as a pathway for everyone.

Hearts in our parishes are clearly touched by the Feast of Christmas. This is witnessed by the efforts of many people towards 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 others whose work, often unseen, makes Christmas a season of hope for our community and beyond. Thank you everyone!

Thank you, also, 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.

**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

RC Diocese of Galloway



# Young Adults

Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

## Christmas Dinner

St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock  
Sunday 5th January  
6.00 - 8.00 pm

Come and join with young adults (18-30) from across the Diocese for a festive Christmas dinner.

No charge but please register by scanning the QR code.



@ youth@rcdg.org.uk · Facebook · Instagram Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

donations are gratefully received and can be dropped off in the Church Porch) / 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.

**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.

**MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK**

	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
<b>Tuesday 24 December 9pm</b>	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 11am</b>	L Heron, T Murphy, M Cunningham	R Murphy, E Cunningham, D Custodio	Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Ravindu			Eileen, Dennis	IHM Sisters
<b>Saturday 28 December 6pm</b>	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 11am</b>	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