



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Feast of the Holy Family
Sunday 29th December 2024

Parish Priest: Reverend Stephen G McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk)
Assistant Priest: Reverend Kevin J A Rennie (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). Charity number SC010576. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER – 5th JANUARY 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 28th	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	Nancy McCloskey (RIP) / Mae Brown (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass	/ Agnes Colgan (RIP), Mary Kimmett (Ann), Peter and Janette Campbell (Ann), Peter Maxwell (RIP) /
Monday 30th	10.00 am	Mass	
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 31st	10.00 am	Mass	Fr Martin Chambers (RIP) /
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 1st	11.00 am	Mass	For the Parish / For the Parish
Thursday 2nd	6.00 pm	Mass	Peter Dourish (Ann) / James and Sarah McAllister (Ann)
Friday 3rd	10.00 am	Mass	Eleanor McFarlane (RIP) / Marie and Patrick Heffron (Ann)
Saturday 4th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 5th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Hugh & Moira McCuskey (RIP) / Marie McCarron (Ann)
	11.00 am	Mass	Frances Neil (Ann) / Kevin Ginity (RIP)
	12.30 – 3.00 pm	Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.00 pm	Galloway Young Adults Mass	/ For the Parish
	6.30 pm	Galloway Young Adults Christmas Dinner in St Joseph's Hall	

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

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

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 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, Fr Kevin, and Canon Jack thank you for your greetings cards and gifts at this time. We will offer Mass on New Year's Day for your intentions.

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.

JUBILEE OF HOPE: Pope Francis opened the 2025 Jubilee Year on Christmas Eve in Rome and Bishop Frank opens it here in the Diocese today with Mass in the Cathedral. The theme for the year ahead is "Hope". Pope Francis in his homily for Christmas Eve invited us all in the year ahead to seek to rediscover the hope which Christ's call holds for all of us.

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 or 01563 521832)

Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri (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:** £1,277.18. **Building Fund:** £25.00. **Justice and Peace:** £60.00.

SCES: £5.00. **Crib Collection:** £53.20. **Donation:** £100.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

Announcing the theme for the coming Holy Year in May, Pope Francis promulgated the Papal Bull "Spes non confundit" (Hope does not disappoint) in which he asks us all to reflect on the theme of hope from the perspectives of:

- A word of hope – we are called to recognise the hope offered by Christ, rooted in faith and love.
- A journey of hope – throughout our lives we are journeying towards Christ. We're called to grow closer to him in this year, to deepen our relationship with him.
- Signs of hope – in a world shrouded in darkness, we are called to be signs of Christ's hope.
- Appeals for hope – hope is not simply personal, but universal, we are asked to seek to change the hearts of governments to let them be signs of hope to those most in need.
- Anchored in hope – anchoring ourselves in hope we recognise Christ's promise to us. The symbol for this Jubilee year is that of the anchor, reminding us that no matter the challenges we face, we can overcome them with Christ.

Over the coming year let hope be at the heart of all that we do and a renewed hope at the heart of our prayers. Let us seek to grow closer to Christ in his love, ever aware of the hope his call holds for us.

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.

SAVE THE DATE – ASSISTED DYING LEGISLATION AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: Please save the date of Saturday, 8th February 2025 when an event will be held to help us understand how, as Catholics, we are asked to respond to proposals to legalise assisted dying. Fr Dan Fitzpatrick (Diocese of Paisley) will explain what the Church teaches, Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Dougan, lunch will be provided, and there will be workshops and opportunities for discussion. The event will be held in St. Joseph's, Kilmarnock, however there will also be the option to attend online for interested people who are unable to attend in person. Further details, including how to sign up to attend online, will follow, but in the meantime please contact Helena at prolife@rcdg.org.uk or on 07961 130493 for more information.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY: Fr Stephen, Fr Kevin, and the Sisters visit Catholic patients in Crosshouse Hospital typically



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

twice weekly. If you know of anyone in the hospital, please let us know by email (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 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:

- 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
Saturday 28 December 6pm	K McGhee, G McIntyre, H Rameckers	Sr Juliet, D Casey, F Donachie, J Lennon, C Power	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravinda, Maia			Anne, Michael	H Rameckers
Sunday 29 December 11am	G McGee, M Andrew, M Walker	P Dorian, D Custodio, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	-		Theresa, Alan	H Rameckers
Saturday 4 January 6pm	F Donachie, M McGrath, Amélie Davidson	K McGhee, M Steele, Sr Mabel, D Casey, C McGowan	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravinda, Maia			Clare, Margaret	M McGrath
Sunday 5 January 11am	Annette Davidson, E Bohan, M Cunningham	H Matthews, I Love, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	-		Paul, Libby	M McGrath