



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 15th 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 SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER – 22nd DECEMBER 2024

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 14th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Peter Kapczuk (Ann) & Stephen Harrison (Ann.)
Sunday 15th	11.00 am	Mass	People of the Parish / People of the Parish
		P4 Sacramental Preparation Mass	
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 16th	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Choir Practice for Christmas	
	10.00 am	Mass	James Dourish (Ann) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 17th	1.00 pm	Parish Carol Service followed by Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies	
	10.00 am	Mass	Special Intention / Special Intention
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 18th	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	10.00 am	Mass	Maureen McKay (RIP) / John Lennon (RIP)
Thursday 19th	After Mass	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
	7.30 pm	Service of Readings and Carols in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr	
	6.00 pm	Mass	McCloskey & Mills families, Rory Hodge (RIP) /
Friday 20th	6.30 – 7.30 pm	RCIA in St Joseph's Church	
	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Molly Brailsford, RIP	Molly Brailsford (RIP) / Molly Brailsford (RIP)
	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
Saturday 21st	11.00 am	Carols at the Cross at Kilmarnock Cross	
	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 (RIP) / People of the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Choir Practice for Christmas	

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

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** With sadness we inform you of the death of Molly Brailsford. Her funeral Mass will be on Friday 20th December at 10 am. We extend our condolences to her family and friends, may she rest in peace.

**DO THIS IN MEMORY:** Today our young parishioners continue their preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion with another of the special "Do this in Memory" Sundays. Children, please bring your candles and gather in the sacristy a few minutes before Mass to walk in the procession.



**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.

**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:** £1,301.09. **Building Fund:** £160. **SCES:** £5.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

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.

**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: @rcdg youth.

**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. There will be an extra cleaning rota on Friday 20th December after 10am mass to prepare for Christmas masses.

**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.

**CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS:** A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30 pm, accompanied by the Diocesan Choir. The service provides an opportunity to come together as a diocesan community to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE:** A Carol Service will take place in the church on Monday 16th December at 1.00 pm followed by tea, coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards.

**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.

**CAROLS AT THE CROSS:** The annual Salvation Army Carolling will take place on Saturday 21st December from 11.00 – 12.00 pm at the Kilmarnock Cross. Come along and join us for a wonderful hour of carols followed by tea, coffee and mince pies from 12.00 pm in the New Laigh Kirk. Can't stand outside for the carolling? You can still come along to the New Laigh Kirk at 12.00 pm.

**"CATHOLIC FAMILIES FOR LIFE" NEWSLETTER:** from the National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life - latest version can be found at [www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk](http://www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk)

**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.

**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.

During November, an average of 35 parcels were distributed each week.

SSVP FINANCES	August	September	October	November
Box collections	£756.73	£910.75	£751.99	£829.04
Purchase of Food bags	£1,212.59	£1,275.71	£1,069.56	£473.09
Surplus/Deficit	-£455.86	-£364.96	-£317.57	£355.95

The SSVP are grateful for the recent uptake in donations of foodbags from parishioners, these, combined with donations from St Joseph's Academy, resulted in significantly lower running costs for the Foodbank in November.

**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:

- Parish Carol Service – Monday 16th December, 1.00 pm
- Diocesan Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas – Wednesday 18th December, 7.30 pm (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)
- 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

### MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
<b>Saturday 14 December 6pm</b>	H Rameckers, M McGrath, F Donachie	K McGhee, Sr Mabel, D Casey, A Gorman, J Lennon	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Anne, Michael	M McGrath
<b>Sunday 15 December 11am</b>	R Doak, L Hand, T Murphy	D Custodio, M Walker, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anna Mackie, Alice Murphy	-	Paul, Libby	M McGrath
<b>Saturday 21 December 6pm</b>	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 11am</b>	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