



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Baptism of the Lord
Sunday 12th January 2025

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

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

St Joseph's Presbytery, 15a Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB

Telephone: 01563 521832 • Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

Facebook: St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock • Twitter: @RCStJosephs

Parish office email and for newsletter items (by 10 am Thursday): kilmarnock.stjoseph@rcdg.org.uk

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

Telephone: 01563 523822 • Email: ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk

A parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway (www.rcdg.org.uk). Charity number SC010576. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 12th – 19th JANUARY 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 11th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 12th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Bob Bordone (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass	Patricia Dougan (RIP) / Morag Rae (RIP)
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 13th	10.00 am	Mass	Hugh Walsh (RIP) / For the Parish
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 14th	10.00 am	Mass	/ Nancy McCloskey (RIP)
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 15th	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	10.00 am	Mass	/ Special Intention
Thursday 16th	After Mass	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
	6.00 pm	Mass	/ Peter Maxwell (RIP)
Friday 17th	6.30 pm	RCIA in St Joseph's Church	
	10.00 am	Mass	/ Fr Gordon Brown (RIP)
Saturday 18th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 19th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Molly Brailsford (RIP)
	11.00 am	Mass	/ For the Parish
	After Mass	P4 Sacramental Preparation Mass Tea and Coffee 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.

DO THIS IN MEMORY: Next Sunday (19th January) 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.

CHILDRENS' RETREAT FOR CONFIRMATION: The retreat for the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in February will take place on **Saturday 1st February from 10.00 – 2.00 pm** (followed by a short parents' meeting from 2.00 – 2.30 pm) in St Joseph's Hall. **Please note the change of date** from those published at the beginning of the Sacramental Programme. All children due to receive the

sacrament in February are expected to attend this important part of their preparations.

BISHOP FRANK DOUGAN WILL MAKE A PASTORAL VISIT TO ST JOSEPH'S: Bishop Frank will make a pastoral visit to St Joseph's on the weekend of 8th-9th February and will be the main celebrant at the Vigil and Sunday Masses. Fr Stephen invites you to make a special effort to be at one of these Masses so the bishop can experience the best of this faith community at worship, and the faith community has the opportunity to be encouraged and upbuilt by him. At the Sunday 11 am Mass, Bishop Frank will confirm the children receiving the Sacraments of Initiation this year.

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: £608.46. **Weekly collection:** £1,014.77. **Building Fund:** £10. **Justice & Peace:** £689.90. **Crib Collection:** £66.28. **St Anthony's box:** £52.82. **Contactless & Online Donations:** November – £294.00, December - £399.00.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

BURNS SUPPER 2025: The popular parish Burns' Supper will return on Saturday 25th January, starting at 7.00 pm in the Hall. Come and join us for a delicious meal of Haggis, Neeps, and Tatties, and some entertainment afterwards too! Tickets on sale this weekend.

PRIMARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: For children who turn age of 5 years between 1 March 2025 and 28 February 2026 and whose parents and carers wish them to attend school should be registered for education during the week Monday 13 January 2025 until Friday 17 January 2025. To register you should complete an online application and submit no later than Friday 17 January 2025. Register at: - <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

As a parish, we have close ties with St Andrew's Primary and Mount Carmel Primary for both Sacramental preparation and Catholic education and would strongly encourage you to choose these schools for your child.

To register your child you will require to upload a copy of your child's birth certificate and two proofs of your residence in the catchment area in the form of a Council Tax Notice or Utility Bill. Should you require a copy of your child's birth certificate for Registration, this can be obtained at www.certificates.scot

If you are unable to register online then please phone your local school who will assist you to register your child. 01563 549549 (St Andrew's) or 01563 525897 (Mount Carmel).

There is also an opportunity for a brief tour of **St Andrew's Primary** school on Monday 13th January at 11 am, Wednesday 15th January at 5 pm and Thursday 16th January at 2 pm. Any parent or carer wishing to attend should contact the school office (01563 549549) to confirm their attendance.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Thank you to Kevin, Margaret, and all of the team who prepared, cooked, served and assisted at the Senior Parishioners Christmas Lunch last Sunday. Everyone had a great time and we can't wait for the next one.



If you enjoyed the lunch, why not join us for our next parish social. Our annual Burns' Supper takes place on Saturday 25th January at 7.00 pm. Tickets on sale this weekend.

SUNDAY COFFEES AND CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sunday coffees resume today after Mass. Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 26th January).

HCPT GROUP 138 QUIZ NIGHT AND RAFFLE: Saturday 22nd February in St Joseph's church hall at 7 pm for a

7.30 pm start. £3 per person and under 16s free entry. Pay at the door. Maximum team size of 6 with cash prizes to be won. BYOB and snacks. Raffle donations welcomed. Benefitting children and young people from across Ayrshire and Glasgow on pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter. Organised and supported by parishioners Mark and Kieran O'Neill.

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 27th January at 6.30 pm in the church hall. There will be a time of Eucharistic Adoration from 6.00 pm in the church for those who can manage. Should parishioners wish an item to be discussed, please email kilmarnock.stjoseph@rcdg.org.uk or pass the item to the parish house.

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.

DAY SEMINAR ON ASSISTED DYING LEGISLATION AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: This event is being 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 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.**



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.

SOLEMN DEDICATION (CONSECRATION) OF ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH IN 2025: Bishop Frank Dougan will preside over the Mass of Dedication of St Joseph's Church and Altar on Sunday 18th May at 11 am. This is a moment of joy and celebration for St Joseph's parish, especially in the context of the Jubilee Year.

The rite for the dedication of a church and an altar rightly should be considered among the most solemn liturgical actions. In these days, we can bring to mind the magnificent December 2024 dedication, filled with hope for good in future times, of the Cathédrale de Notre Dame de Paris following the restoration after destruction by fire.

The Church's ritual for the Dedication of a Church and an Altar speaks profoundly about its significance: "For the place where the Christian community is gathered to hear the Word of God, to offer prayers of intercession and prayers to God, and above all to celebrate the sacred mysteries and where the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist is reserved is a special image of the Church, which is God's temple built from living stones. Moreover, the altar, around which the holy people gather to participate in the Lord's Sacrifice and to be refreshed by the heavenly banquet, is a sign of Christ, who is the Priest, the Victim, and the Altar of his own Sacrifice."

One might ask why the church is only now being dedicated when it is almost 178 years old. Although a church is blessed as a sacred place when Mass is first celebrated there, it was the custom that the solemn dedication of a church did not take place until the cost of building the church had been met, which often meant repaying the debt of construction over a long period of time.

Records and reports of St Joseph's as a historic church, the second post-Reformation parish in Ayrshire, provide no evidence that a major event like the dedication of a church and an altar ever took place. In contrast, so much evidence about the significant events in the history of our parish was brought to light in the publication of a book to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the parish in 1997, by Dr Raymond McCluskey's book "St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, 1847-1997 (A Portrait of a Parish Community)." Further investigation after the publication of the 150th anniversary book convincingly suggests that St Joseph's church, Kilmarnock, was never solemnly dedicated. This is one reason to liturgically dedicate the church.

The ritual for the Dedication of a Church and an Altar requires that the altar has not previously been dedicated. The 1995 altar has never been solemnly dedicated. Major restoration of the exterior and interior of the church and its organ in recent years are further reasons which encourage the liturgy of solemn dedication to be celebrated.

In some way, the solemn dedication will be a fitting conclusion to the 175th anniversary celebrations of 2022. At that time, our diocese did not have a bishop. Having Bishop Frank allows us to celebrate the dedication liturgy which is always presided over by a bishop.

The beautiful liturgy of dedication includes a Litany of Saints, the Anointing of the Altar and Walls with oil of Chrism, an Incensation of the Altar and the Church, the Lighting of the Altar and the Church – with dedication candles on sconces on the walls. The choir will sing the repertoire of beautiful music for the dedication.

This major celebration will be an uplifting experience of liturgy and worship as well as a significant moment in the long and interesting history of St Joseph's parish. Few people experience the Dedication of a Church and Altar, and this generation will have the opportunity to witness these solemn rituals on Sunday 18th May. Please add the date to your diary.

YOUNG ADULTS (18-30) PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA: Join the Galloway Youth Office and Young Adults from across the Diocese for the experience of a lifetime and spend 5 days walking the last 108km of the Camino de Santiago, followed by 2 days in Santiago. The pilgrimage runs from 12th – 19th October and costs £700 per person (we will support you in fundraising to reduce this). A programme of meetings and walks will take place in advance to help you in your preparations. Interested? For more information or to sign up scan the QR code on the poster, search for @rcdgyouth on social media, or speak to Fr Kevin – but places are limited so don't delay!

YOUNG ADULTS (18-30) EVENINGS: Join Young Adults from across the Diocese for their monthly talks at St Joseph's on the first Sunday of each month from 6.00 – 8.00 pm. Find the full programme of talks on the noticeboard or on social media: @rcdgyouth.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sacramental Preparation Mass – Sunday 19th January, 11.00 am
- Burns Night – Saturday 25th January, 7.00 pm
- PPC Meeting – Monday 27th January, 6.30 pm
- DPC Meeting – Tuesday 28th January, 7.00 pm
- Children's Retreat for Confirmation – Saturday 1st February, 10.00 – 2.00 pm (St Joseph's)
- Diocesan Day for Life – Saturday 8th February
- Bishop Frank's Pastoral Visit – Saturday 8th – Sunday 9th February
- Confirmation Mass – Sunday 9th February, 11.00 am
- Choir Practices commence – Sunday 16th February, 6.15 pm
- Sacramental Preparation Mass – Sunday 16th March, 11.00 am
- Solemn Dedication of St Joseph's – Sunday 18th May, 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
Saturday 11 January 6pm	E Heron, M Kirk, K McGhee	C Power, A Gorman, M McGrath, G Rankin, L Rankin	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Anne, Michael	H Matthews
Sunday 12 January 11am	R Doak, L Hand, T Murphy	M Andrew, P Dorrian, D Custodio, M Walker, P Chigbo	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anna Mackie, Alice Murphy	-	Eileen, Dennis	H Matthews
Saturday 18 January 6pm	G McIntyre, H Rameckers, M McGrath	Sr Mabel, D Casey, F Donachie, J Lennon, C McGowan	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Claire, Margaret	IHM Sisters
Sunday 19 January 11am	T Murphy, P Nicholson, G Smith	E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, H Matthews, R Murphy	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anne & Gerry Smith	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Theresa, Alan	IHM Sisters



RC Diocese of Galloway

Young Adults

Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

Winter/ Spring Schedule



2nd February

Walking the Camino

Canon Patrick Keegans



2nd March (*Mass begins at 5.45 pm*)

Understanding the Mass

Fr Stephen McGrattan



6th April (*Mass begins at 5.45 pm*)

The Paschal Triduum

Fr Kevin Rennie



4th May

Vocation - What's your story?

Mrs Helena Rameckers



1st June

The Lives of the Saints

Msgr Peter Magee



6th July

Prayer - What's the point?

IHM Sisters, Kilmarnock

St Joseph's, Kilmarnock (KA3 1HB)

6.00 - 8.00 pm

MORE INFORMATION

@youth@rcdg.org.uk



Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth



Walk the CAMINO DE SANTIAGO



12TH-19TH OCTOBER - £700

Join Galloway Young Adults (18-30) for the experience of a lifetime walking the last 108 km of the Camino de Santiago.

For more information and to register scan the QR code.

COST INCLUDES:

- ✓ Flights and airport transfer
- ✓ 5 days walking
- ✓ 2 days in Santiago
- ✓ Breakfast and Dinner
- ✓ All Accommodation



MORE INFORMATION

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk



Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

ITINERARY

12th - 19th October 2025



DAY 1 TRAVEL TO SARRIA

Coach transfer from Kilmarnock to Edinburgh Airport from where we fly to Madrid. On arrival in Madrid, we will take a coach to Sarria, the start point of our Camino.

DAY 2 WALKING SARRIA TO PORTOMARIN (22KM)

DAY 3 WALKING PORTOMARIN TO PALAS DE REI (24KM)

DAY 4 WALKING PALAS DE REI TO ARZUA (28KM)

DAY 5 WALKING ARZUA TO O'PINO (17KM)

DAY 6 WALKING O'PINO TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (21KM)

We hope to arrive in Santiago around lunchtime and after taking our group photo in front of the Cathedral there will be time to explore the city individually before dinner together in the hotel.

DAY 7 DAY IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

We will have a leisurely morning before a guided tour of the Cathedral after which we will take part in the pilgrim's Mass, celebrating the end of our Camino. After Mass, we will have a celebratory lunch together as a group. The afternoon is free for participants to explore the city.

DAY 8 RETURN TRAVEL TO KILMARNOCK

We will travel by coach from Santiago to Porto from where we'll fly back to Edinburgh. On arrival in Edinburgh, a coach will take us back to Kilmarnock, arriving approximately 9.30 pm.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Accommodation throughout is in hotels, rooms vary in size each night and will be shared with other group members from our own group. In Santiago, all rooms are en-suite twin rooms.
- The total cost for the pilgrimage is £700, this includes: airport transfers, flights, baggage (20kg check-in and a small carry on), breakfast and dinner in Spain, tours, and full ATOL Protection. At time of booking, a non-refundable deposit of £250 is required. A further payment of £250 will be required by 1st May 2025, and the final payment of £200 will be required by 1st July 2025.
- Whilst preparing in Scotland, the group will be supported in doing fundraising to reduce the cost for participants. More information about fundraising activities will be provided at our first meeting.
- Preparatory meetings will be hybrid in-person and online to enable all group members to take part. There will also be a series of walks arranged to help with team building and physical preparation for the Camino.
- The Camino is a very spiritual experience however it is also physically very demanding, you must be physically able for the distances being walked. As a group, support will be available to help you prepare.

**TO REGISTER
YOUR INTEREST
AND REQUEST A
BOOKING FORM,
PLEASE SCAN
THE QR CODE.**



The pilgrimage is being organised by the Diocese of Galloway Youth Office in collaboration with ALBA Tours (annemari Cairns@yahoo.co.uk). It is open to Young Adults aged 18-30. For further information, please contact the Youth Chaplain, Fr Kevin Rennie (youth@rcdg.org.uk).

MORE INFORMATION

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk



Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth