



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

First Sunday of Lent  
Sunday 9th March 2025

**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.rcdg.org.uk](http://www.rcdg.org.uk)). Charity number SC010576. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

## LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 9th – 16th MARCH 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 8th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Elizabeth Black (RIP)
Sunday 9th	11.00 am	Mass	Maire McCaffery (RIP) / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	3.00 pm	Rite of Election Mass in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr	
	6.15 pm	Choir Practice for Easter	
Monday 10th	10.00 am	Mass	Michael Josephine & Edward Traynor (Ann) / Margaret Cairns (RIP)
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 11th	10.00 am	Mass	Marie Bryden (RIP) / Jimmy McCann (RIP)
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Retreat for Extraordinary Ministers in St Joseph's Hall	
Wednesday 12th	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Young Adults (16-30) Lenten Evening (Online)	
	10.00 pm	Mass	Baby Rory Hodge (RIP) / Maureen Baird (RIP)
	After Mass	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
	10.30 am	Parish Finance Committee Meeting in St Joseph's House	
Thursday 13th	6.00 pm	Mass	Angelo Bordone (RIP) / Peter Maxwell (RIP)
	6.30 pm	RCIA in St Joseph's Church	
	10.00 am	Mass	Peter Maxwell (RIP) / Special Intention
Friday 14th	10.30 – 10.50 am	Stations of the Cross	
	10.50 – 4.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
Saturday 15th	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Kathleen Long (RIP) /
Sunday 16th	11.00 am	Mass	For the Parish / For the Parish
		P4 Sacramental Preparation Mass	
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	5.00 pm	Youth Mass (followed by evening in the Hall)	/ Galloway Youth
	6.15 pm	Choir Practice for Easter	

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

**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 Jubilee Year.

**DO THIS IN MEMORY:** Next Sunday (16th March) 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.

**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:** £751.85. **Weekly collection:** £1,678.87. **Building Fund:** £35. **Justice & Peace:** £10.

**Youth Pilgrimage:** £500. **Santiago Ceilidh:** £399.80.

**Contactless & Online Donations (February) – Collection:** £172. **Building Fund:** £5.

**Total February income:** £13,757.57. **Total February Expenditure:** £9,886.32.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

**RITE OF ELECTION:** The rite of election will take place this afternoon in the Cathedral. During the Mass, the Catechumens and Candidates (those already baptised but not confirmed) who will be received into the church at Easter will be presented to Bishop Frank. The Mass is the first official step on their journey towards receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. This year St Joseph's is presenting several catechumens and candidates, in addition to Ewan and Katie who were received into the church last weekend.

We would ask that you please pray for all of those who will be received into the church at Easter. If you would like to attend the Rite of Election, you are welcome to do so, the Mass takes place on Sunday 9th March in the Cathedral at 3.00 pm.

**LUMEN GENTIUM STUDY DAY:** As part of the Diocesan Jubilee Year celebrations Bishop Frank has asked each of the four deaneries to reflect on one of the four principal documents of Vatican II and to organise an event reflecting on the document for the Diocese.

The first event, looking at Dei Verbum, was held by St Andrew's Deanery (Dumfries and Galloway) in January when they published a video reflecting on the document and the thoughts of people from across the Deanery concerning it. This video can be viewed online on our Diocesan YouTube channel (@rcdgalloway).

The next event, hosted by our own deanery, will take place on Saturday 29th March, beginning with Mass at 10.00 am. The day will focus on the theme of: "It's okay to be holy!: A study day on Lumen Gentium" with different parishes and clusters presenting on different sections of the document, followed by an opportunity to prayer, discernment and discussion in the spirit, following the model of the synod.

**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO THE PRIESTHOOD?** If you sense a vocation to be a Priest and would like support to discern this call, please contact Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Stephen McGrattan, at vocations@rcdg.org.uk or 01563 521832.

**RETREAT FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** Those who exercise this ministry are invited to a retreat evening on Tuesday 11th March in the church at 7 pm to finish by 8.30 pm.

#### STATEMENT FROM BISHOP FRANK DOUGAN:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You may have seen news in the past week of a civil action taken by a survivor of abuse against the Diocese. Firstly, it is essential that the survivor's anonymity is preserved, so I can only say so much. I have made the following statement:

"No words of mine can erase the suffering of the survivor in this case. But I hope and pray that they will be able to find some healing following the resolution of this case. While the events of the past may be beyond our control, as a Church we can and must ensure that children and vulnerable groups are kept safe, and I renew our commitment to do so."

Please keep everyone involved in your prayers.

+ Francis Dougan

Bishop of Galloway

### PILGRIMAGES

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:** This year takes place from the 7th to the 14th July and will be led by Bishop Frank. The pilgrimage costs £1,045 based on two people sharing, and includes all flights, transfers, food and accommodation. For more details see the poster in the porch, or collect a booking form from the stall.



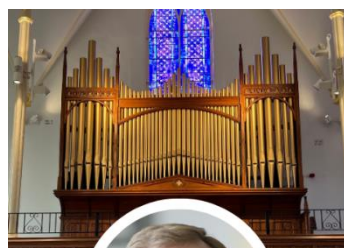
**IONA PILGRIMAGE:** A pilgrimage to Iona has been proposed from Thursday 18th September to Saturday 20th September 2025. Accommodation in the 3\* Royal Hotel, Oban. Cost £400 per person (single supplement £44). Included is:

- Return coach transfer from Kilmarnock to Oban
- Return ferry crossings Oban-Mull, Mull-Iona with coach crossing Mull in between crossings
- En-suite accommodation
- Three-course dinner both nights, full Scottish breakfast on final day, continental breakfast on Friday (due to early departure for Iona)
- Full spiritual programme, entry to the Abbey, Mass in the Abbey, Mass in Oban Cathedral.

If you would like to take part, please collect a booking form from the stall in the porch and return it with a deposit of £100 before Tuesday 19th March.

For many centuries, Iona has been an island of special significance for all Christians. In AD 563, Columba and his followers arrived here from Ireland to spread the gospel in Scotland and the north of England. St Oran's Chapel and Reilig Odhran is reputed to be the burial place of 48 kings of Scotland, including Macbeth.

### SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



A one hour organ recital featuring a programme of music on the church's recently restored Harrison & Harrison pipe organ.

Admission free - Retiral collection

No booking required - just come along

ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

THE RESTORED  
HARRISON & HARRISON  
ORGAN (1903, 2023)

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES  
2025

Recitalist:  
RAYMOND MCCLUSKEY  
(St Joseph's, Kilmarnock)

Tuesday 25 March  
12 noon

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

[www.rcdkilmarnock.org.uk/outreach/organ-recitals](http://www.rcdkilmarnock.org.uk/outreach/organ-recitals)

**ST PATRICK'S NIGHT:** The next parish social will be St Patrick's Night on Friday 21st March, 7.00 – 10.30 pm (with a bar and light supper). Tickets are now on sale in the shop in the church porch.

**MINIBUS TRIP:** Following the success of our 2024 minibus trips, the first minibus trip of 2025 will take place on Monday 31st March to New Abbey.

We will leave St Joseph's at 9.30 am and celebrate Mass in St Mary's Chapel, New Abbey on arrival. After Mass we will have an afternoon tea lunch in the Abbey Cottage Tea Room and then an opportunity to explore New Abbey. We will return to St Joseph's for approximately 5.00 pm.

The cost per person is £22, payable on the day and includes transport and lunch. If you would like to take part, please sign-up in the porch. If this trip is over-subscribed, those on the waiting list will be given first priority for the next trip in April.

### MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

**YOUNG ADULTS (18-30) PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA:** Limited places remain. Join 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). Email [youth@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdg.org.uk) to register, or speak to Fr Kevin.

**YOUTH FOR LOURDES:** Is recruiting young people aged S4-23 who would like to volunteer in Lourdes this summer. For more information, see the poster in the porch or "Youth for Lourdes" on Facebook.

**GALLOWAY YOUTH (P7-S6) NIGHTS:** Following a very successful first youth evening, **the next Galloway Youth evening takes place next Sunday.** At our next meeting we'll be reflecting on Lent and how we're called to live it in our own lives. The evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm, and is followed by a short talk, activities, pizza and time to socialise, all led by S3 students from St Joseph's Academy. Interested? Collect a parental consent form from the porch or email [youth@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdg.org.uk) for details.

**YOUNG ADULTS (18-30) NIGHT:** The next Young Adults night will take place on Sunday 6th April, starting with Mass at 5.45 pm, when Fr Kevin Rennie will be speaking on the theme of The Paschal Triduum: Understanding Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross. Why did Christ have to die for us? Why did he accept death on a cross? Join us to find out. New members welcome.

**LENTEN RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS:** Aged 16-30? Join Galloway Young Adults for our online Lenten retreat, meeting Tuesdays during Lent from 7-8pm on Microsoft Teams. We'll be reflecting on the call of Christ to all of us to follow him in our own lives: how do we do this, and what tools does Christ give us to help us on our journey. For more information or to join the group, search for @rcdgyouth online or speak to Fr Kevin.

## LENT

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Stations of the Cross will be prayed after Mass on Fridays.

**LENT PRO-LIFE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Pray the Stations of the Cross every Monday in Lent: 7.45pm, on Zoom. We will be praying for the unborn, their mothers and all pro-life intentions. Includes brief reflection from a member of the clergy each week. Starts 10 March. Register here: <https://bit.ly/stations25>

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DURING LENT:** The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after morning Mass on Fridays during Lent until 4 pm. A list will be on the notice board inviting people to watch for half-hour long periods during the day. People are also welcome to drop in for quiet prayer during the day.

**LENT, WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?** The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday and continues through to Holy Week, ending with the beginning of the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday. During this season we're invited to unite ourselves with Christ spiritually who spent forty days in the desert prior to the beginning of his public ministry.

The season is a time when we're invited to reflect on our lives and to identify and seek to work with a renewed vigour on those aspects of our lives which take us away from Christ or which prevent us from giving of ourselves as fully as we ought.

Typically, our Lenten observance is highlighted by our choosing to abstain from something during Lent – this may be food, unhealthy practices or similar, uniting ourselves with Christ who fasted for forty days in the desert. Through our personal observance, we are enabled to give of ourselves more fully.

In addition to fasting, we're also called to renew our commitment to prayer and almsgiving. In St Joseph's, there will be additional opportunities for prayer – walking the journey to Calvary with Christ through the Stations of the Cross on Friday mornings, and also all day Adoration on Fridays from 10.50 am – 4.00 pm. These opportunities invite us to renew our relationship with Christ – to talk to him in prayer, as a friend, seeking to re-enliven our relationship with him.

There will also be added opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation through which we admit of our own faults, failings, and sinfulness, and seek God's forgiveness – which is boundless, if only we are prepared to ask him for it. Through the Sacrament, we apologise to God as we would to a friend if we hurt them and have our relationship with God, a relationship rooted in love, refreshed and restored. Whilst we may not be guilty of serious, mortal sin, we are all guilty in our daily lives of venial sin, which, whilst it doesn't destroy our relationship with God, nonetheless harms it and, over time, if we don't seek to address and restore it, draws us further away from God, weakening that relationship further.

In almsgiving we're invited to reflect on our own situation and to ask ourselves whether we can do more to support those in poverty and those in need. If we are unable to do so, we're not required to do anything, but we are encouraged to give of what we can to support those in need.

For Youth (P7-S6) and Young Adults (18-30) there are also events on to allow them to explore the question of Lent and to grow in their understanding of it. The next Youth night takes place on Sunday 16th March, and the Young Adults Lenten Talk takes place on Sunday 6th April. There will also be a weekly retreat evening for Young Adults taking place online from 7-8 pm every Tuesday on Microsoft Teams – for more information see the poster in the porch.

Let us therefore seek to truly enter into this Lenten Season with open hearts, to invite Christ into our hearts to transform them in his love, so that when we reach the end of this journey, the beginning of the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday, we may truly enter into the celebrations with our hearts open to Christ and to his transforming presence in our lives.

## PASTORAL OUTREACH

**ASSISTED DYING WEBINAR:** Following on from the Diocesan Assisted Dying Study Day on 8th February, a webinar will take place on Wednesday 19th March at 7pm. Campaign Against Assisted Dying (CAAD) will provide an update for attendees on the proposed legislation, and will supply attendees with information to assist in engaging with MPs and MSPs. Please email [prolife@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:prolife@rcdg.org.uk) to register to attend the webinar, or use the form <https://forms.office.com/e/LadQbXgCjw>.

**ASSISTED DYING PETITION:** Care Not Killing have launched a new petition aimed at MPs. Everyone who signs the petition will be taken to a page where they can email their own MP. The link to sign the petition is <https://carenotkilling.uk/petition/>

**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.

SSVP FINANCES	November	December	January	February
Box collections	£829.04	£1,328.68	£992.75	£775.30
Purchase of Food bags	£473.09	£848.24	£966.69	£1,025.51
Surplus/Deficit	£355.95	£480.44	£26.06	-£250.21

SVDP are grateful for any and all support parishioners are able to provide. They note that a drop in donations of bags in February resulted in them having to draw from reserves to fund the foodbank. If you are able, they are grateful for any donations of food or money received to support the work of the foodbank.

**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.**

**JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND:** March-May 2025 newsletter. Catch up with all the latest activities, campaigning and events across the J&P network. The latest edition includes a report from the recent Holy Land Coordination trip, and details of petitions to support over debt justice in this Jubilee Year and the need for the Scottish Government to revitalise their actions

on climate commitments. Available at <https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/#1037>

## STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP:** At the start of February, Fr Stephen issued a booklet about Income/Expenditure for 2024 with an analysis of stewardship and proposals to increase weekly income by £500 per week. An increase in income will be necessary to continue the repair and maintenance work scheduled from previous years (mainly re-pointing of the church and presbytery). The booklet is available from the porch if you didn't get one.

To increase weekly income by £500 (by £25,000 per year) we invite 100 people to increase their weekly donation by £5. Standing Order forms are available from the stall in the porch, or a change can be made using internet banking.

If you have paid tax on your donations, please consider completing a gift aid form whereby the parish can reclaim the tax paid on your donation (a further 25%). Thank you for the generous response to the recent appeal to increase weekly donations.

**GALLOWAY DIOCESE LOURDES HOSPITALITE RAFFLE:** Raffle tickets are on sale from today in the stall in aid of Galloway Diocese Lourdes Hospitalite fund raising. The tickets are £1 each and the 1st prize is £200 - 2nd prize £100 with a further 3 prizes. The draw will take place in St Joseph's Hall on Sunday 1st June so get your tickets fast. Our pilgrimage this year is from 7th-14th July 2025 and our fund raising will help to give our pilgrims a wonderful time in Lourdes. Thank you.

**LOURDES FUNDRAISING:** The Diocesan Lourdes hospitalite volunteers from our parishes are holding a BYOB Brunch Fundraiser on **Saturday 6th April from 2pm until 6pm** in St Matthews Church Hall. Tickets on sale at the stall from today at £10 each which includes a savoury brunch, entry to the special prize draw and giveaways. Raffle tickets are also on sale at the stall for this fundraiser. Thank you.



### 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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sacramental Preparation Mass – Sunday 16th March, 11.00 am
- First Reconciliation – Tuesday 18th March, 7.00 pm
- St Joseph's Day – Wednesday 19th March
- St Patrick's Dinner & Ceilidh – Friday 21st March, 7.00 pm
- Organ Recital by Raymond McCluskey – Tuesday 25th March, 12 noon
- Lumen Gentium Study Day – Saturday 29th March, 10.00 am
- Minibus Trip to New Abbey – Monday 31st March, 9.30 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
<b>Saturday 8 March 6pm</b>	E Heron, M Kirk, K McGhee	F Donachie, A Gorman, J Lennon, C McGowan, C Power	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Anne, Michael	IHM Sisters
<b>Sunday 9 March 11am</b>	Annette Davidson, E Bohan, M Cunningham	F McCann, M Andrew, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anne & Gerry Smith	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Paul, Libby	IHM Sisters
<b>Saturday 15 March 6pm</b>	G McIntyre, H Rameckers, M McGrath	K McGhee, G Rankin, L Rankin, Sr Juliet, C Power	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Rameckers
<b>Sunday 16 March 11am</b>	R Doak, L Hand, T Murphy	I Love, H Matthews, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	E Cunningham, Liz Heron		Eileen, Dennis	H Rameckers