



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Lent
Sunday 23rd March 2025

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
Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mount Carmel Convent, 14 Kirkton Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 2DF
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A parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway (www.rcdg.org.uk). Charity number SC010576. ONE LICENCE #A-632895.

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 23rd – 30th MARCH 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 22nd	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 23rd	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Galloway Youth
	11.00 am	Mass	Murdoch McGuire (Ann) / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 24th	6.15 pm	Choir Practice for Easter	
	10.00 am	Mass	Hugh McCluskey (RIP) /
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 25th	10.00 am	Mass	Special Intention /
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	12.00 – 1.00 pm	Organ Recital by Raymond McCluskey	
	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Young Adults (16-30) Lenten Evening (Online)	
Wednesday 26th	10.00 pm	Mass	Sarah Hall (Ann) /
	After Mass	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
Thursday 27th	6.00 pm	Mass	Agnes Nicholson (Ann) / Special Intention
	6.30 pm	RCIA in St Joseph's Church	
Friday 28th	10.00 am	Mass	Robert John Mulhern (RIP) / Louie Grier (RIP)
	10.30 – 10.50 am	Stations of the Cross	
	10.50 – 4.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	4.00 pm	Solemn Benediction	
Saturday 29th	10.00 am	Mass in St Joseph's Church (This week only)	/ For the Parish
	11.00 – 3.00 pm	Diocesan Study Day on Lumen Gentium	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 30th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Raymond Porelli (RIP) /
	11.00 am	Mass	Lexi Alexander Campbell (Ann) / Special Intention
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	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.



Please switch mobile phones to silent when in the church and especially during Mass.

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.

SCONES FOR SCIAF: At tea and coffee after Sunday Mass today fresh homemade scones will be available in the hall. All funds raised are in aid of SCIAF's Lenten Appeal.

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

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: £751.85. **Weekly collection:** £1,420.81. **Building Fund:** £39.20.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

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 DIOCESE of GALLOWAY

“IT’S OKAY TO BE HOLY!”

A STUDY DAY ON LUMEN GENTIUM (JESUS IS THE) LIGHT OF THE NATIONS

JUBILEE 2025

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Saturday 29 March
10.00 – 3.00 PM

St Joseph's Church
Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB

Mass – 10.00 am, Day begins – 11.00 am

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF DISCUSSION AND
DISCERNMENT IN THE SPIRIT AS WE REFLECT ON
LUMEN GENTIUM AND ITS RELEVANCE IN THE
CHURCH AND OUR LIVES TODAY.**

ORGANISED BY ST JOSEPH'S DEANERY (EAST AYRSHIRE)
PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH.

RC Diocese of Galloway - SC010576 www.rcdg.org.uk [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RCDioceseofGalloway) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rcdgalloway/)

St Joseph's Deanery (East Ayrshire) will host a Day Conference on the Vatican II Constitution *Lumen Gentium* ([*Christ is the*] Light of the Nations). The Conference will take place in St Joseph's Church Hall, Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB, on Saturday 29 March from 11 am – 3 pm. For those who wish, Mass will also be celebrated at 10 am. The day will consist of several presentations on the key themes of *Lumen Gentium* by lay and ordained people from the deanery, group discussion and listening, and concluding with a period of prayer. The theme: “It's okay to be holy!” reflects on the nature of the Church and celebrates our call through Baptism to live as saints by entrusting our lives to Jesus Christ. Please bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee will be served. All are welcome.

APPEAL FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY LEADERS: We are extremely grateful to the committed team of children's liturgy leaders who facilitate children's liturgy each week. As a number of leaders have had to step back in recent months we are looking to recruit more leaders to help us continue providing this invaluable ministry to the young people of our parish. If you would be interested in becoming part of this highly rewarding ministry, please speak to Margaret McGrath for more information.

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.

MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

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 @rcdgouth online or speak to Fr Kevin.

RC Diocese of Galloway
Young Adults
Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

UNDERSTANDING CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

FR KEVIN RENNIE (KILMARNOCK)
FR UCHENNA ODENIGBO, CSSP (DUMFRIES)

WHY DID CHRIST HAVE TO DIE FOR US?
WHY DID CHRIST ACCEPT DEATH FOR YOU AND I?
JOIN US TO FIND OUT.

Sunday 6 April 2025, 5.45 pm
St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock (KA3 1HB)
St Teresa's Church, Dumfries (DG2 9DE)

@youth@rcdg.org.uk [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RCDioceseofGalloway) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rcdgouth/) Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgouth

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.

RC Diocese of Galloway
Youth Office
Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

MASS . GAMES . TALK . BBQ . SOCIAL

EASTER YOUTH DAY

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN
AND GAMES AS WE GATHER
TO CELEBRATE EASTER!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER.

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL, 11.00 – 4.00 PM
ST TERESA'S CHURCH, DUMFRIES (DG2 9DE)

Free event for young people in P6-S6.
Free transport available from Saltcoats, Ayr, and Kilmarnock.

@youth@rcdg.org.uk [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RCDioceseofGalloway) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rcdgouth/) Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgouth

DIOCESAN YOUTH (P6-S6) EASTER CELEBRATION: Come and join with youth from across the Diocese for our Easter celebration on Saturday 26th April from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm in St Teresa's Church, Dumfries (DG2 9DE). Throughout the day we'll have different games, activities, and prayer as we celebrate Easter together. Free transport is available from Kilmarnock. Interested? Scan the QR code to register and secure your place.

YOUTH LEADERS, WE NEED YOU!: Are you passionate about supporting young people in growing in their faith in a fun and friendly environment? Could you spare three hours a month? Why not become a Youth Leader with the Diocesan Youth Office and help us to run a Youth Evening in your deanery? Full training and support will be provided as you work alongside our experienced leaders to help young people grow in friendship and faith. Interested? Speak to Fr Kevin or email: youth@rcdg.org.uk.

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 to register, or speak to Fr Kevin.

YOUTH FOR LOURDES: Is recruiting young people aged 14-23 who would like to volunteer in Lourdes this summer. For more information, see the poster in the porch or "Youth for Lourdes" on Facebook.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SANTIAGO QUIZ NIGHT: On Saturday 5th April the Young Adults travelling on pilgrimage to Santiago will be hosting a Quiz Night in St John's Church Hall in Cumnock. Come and join them for an evening of fun and challenges as you test your knowledge against the quiz master – have you got what it takes to take home the prize? BYOB and snacks, cash prizes to be won. Raffle on the night. Tickets £3 on the door.

If you are able to donate any raffle prizes to the group these would be gratefully received and can be left in the stall, sacristy or dropped off at the church house anytime.

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES 2025: Join us for the opening recital by our own organist and choirmaster, Dr Raymond McCluskey on Tuesday 25 March at 12 noon. The Community Café will be open in the hall from 11 am.



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

Admission free - Retrial 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.rekilmarnock.org.uk/outreach/organ-recitals

The recital has a varied programme, with works by J.S. Bach (1685-1750), Alexandre Boely (1785-1858), Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-81), Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901) and Albert Renaud (1855-1924), amongst others. On the great Solemnity of the Annunciation, several pieces will have a Marian connection, including the Magnificat Primi Toni (BuxWV 203) by Dietrich Buxtehude (c.1637-1707) and, in this Year of Jubilee for the Universal Church, the recital will open with the music of the Silver Trumpets of St Peter's, Rome, as arranged for organ by Edward Rimbault (1816-76).

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.

STEWARSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

SUPPORT SCIAF THIS LENT: In Colombia, many people are impacted by ongoing violence and conflict. With your help, we can give shelter, food and water for those caught up in violence, provide safe havens for children affected by conflict, and help communities rebuild their lives, long into the future. For more information on how you can support communities in Colombia, please visit SCIAF's website sciaf.org.uk.

Next weekend is SCIAF Sunday and there will be a special collection for SCIAF at both Masses.

A PEACEFUL WORLD IS POSSIBLE



SCIAF
Uniting for a just world
Caritas Scotland

sciaf.org.uk/weebox

Fausto, Colombia



FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE MARTIN CHAMBERS ECUADOR TRUST: 10th April marks the first anniversary of the death of Fr Martin Chambers. In his memory and to support the Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust, our parishioner Danny Gorman will undertake a challenging 100 km journey on his 26 year-old, 49cc, 2-stroke Vespa moped on Sunday 6th April. Danny describes the route below.

Outline

The annual Pip Squeak Rally is organised by the Glasgow Section of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club (VMCC). It is a rally for low powered moped and motorcycles under 100cc. The journey is approximately 60 km around country back lanes of Ayrshire where we will encounter rough roads (untarmacked), steep slopes and the occasional water hazard. A stiff test of endurance for both rider and machine. Needless to say, a fair proportion of the participants do not complete the rally. My "rusty steed" is a 26 year old, 49cc, 2-stroke Vespa moped complete with Italian livery. In addition to the actual rally I will travel an extra circa 50 km return trip to the start/finish at Lochwinnoch. A significant proportion of the participants take the opportunity to use the rally as a source of fundraising for various charities. I will take the opportunity to raise funds for the **Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust**.



Accordingly, I will start by leaving St Joseph's at 9.00am to commence the **25 km** journey to join the Pip Squeak Rally at the starting point in Lochwinnoch.

Pip Squeak Rally: Beginning at Route 760 heading east through Lochwinnoch then a right to Howood. We then take the uphill Switchback (Bowfield Road) to Lochwinnoch past the reservoir on nice wee roads. At Uplawmoor we turn right onto Tannoch road continuing into East Ayrshire through many twists and turns to Dunlop. From Dunlop we head to Lugton on the main road then the Beith Road taking the right turn on the Glennifer Road. We then take first left onto more twisting small roads which eventually brings us downhill to the roundabout approaching the finishing point at Lochwinnoch.

Actual Rally distance **approximately 50 - 60km.**

Assuming I successfully complete the rally (!!!), I will then be required to ride back the **25km journey to Kilmarnock.**

TOTAL DISTANCE – APPROXIMATELY 100 km.

The Vespa records distance in km. Accordingly, I will take photographic records of the odometer at the beginning and the end of the journey.

All proceeds to the Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust. If you would like to sponsor Danny's venture, please complete the form at the shop in the porch. Also, if you would like a sponsor form to gather more support please speak to Frances McCann at the stall in the porch.

GALLOWAY DIOCESE LOURDES HOSPITALITE RAFFLE:

Raffle tickets are on sale from today in the stall in aid of Galloway Diocese Lourdes Hospitalité 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.

PILGRIMAGE

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.

LENT

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE: During the season of Lent we're encouraged to reflect on our lives and recognise those areas where we have distanced ourselves from God, either by action, or omission. To aid in reconciling ourselves with God, a Penance Service will take place here in St Joseph's for the Kilmarnock parishes at 7.00 pm on Monday 7th April.

This is in addition to the regular opportunities for Confession on Mondays and Saturdays. Please make an effort to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Lenten period to prepare yourself to truly welcome the risen Christ this Easter.

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.

PASTORAL OUTREACH

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.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Lumen Gentium Study Day – Saturday 29th March, 10.00 am
- Minibus Trip to New Abbey – Monday 31st March, 9.30 am
- Young Adults (18-30) Evening – Sunday 6th April, 6.00 pm
- Lenten Penance Service – Monday 7th April, 7.00 pm
- Sacramental Preparation Mass – Sunday 13th April, 11.00 am
- Diocesan Youth (P6-S6) Easter Celebration – Saturday 26th April, 11.00 – 4.00 pm (St Teresa's, Dumfries – free transport available, please register online)
- Solemn Dedication of St Joseph's – Sunday 18th May, 11.00 am
- Youth (P6-S6) Evening – Sunday 18th May, 5.00 pm

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 22 March 6pm	F Donachie, A Davidson, E Heron	A Gorman, Sr Mabel, M Steele, M McGrath, J Lennon	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Anne, Michael	M McGrath
Sunday 23 March 11am	P Nicholson, G Smith, H Matthews	P Dorian, F McCann, M Andrew, D Custodio, M Walker	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	A Timmons, M Timmons	A Dorian, L Dorian	Theresa, Alan	M McGrath
Saturday 29 March 6pm	M Kirk, K McGhee, G McIntyre	C McGowan, F Donachie, K McGhee, Sr Juliet, Sr Mabel	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Matthews
Sunday 30 March 11am	G McGee, F McCann, M Andrew	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorian, I Love, R Murphy	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	A Smith, G Smith	E Boyd, K Cassidy	Paul, Libby	H Matthews