



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Sunday 30th 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))

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

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

## LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 30th MARCH – 6th APRIL 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
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	
Monday 31st	6.15 pm	Choir Practice for Easter	
	9.30 am	Minibus Trip to New Abbey departs	
	10.00 am	Mass	
Tuesday 1st	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	10.00 am	Mass	Maureen Baird (RIP) / Rosemary Grant (RIP)
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 2nd	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Young Adults (16-30) Lenten Evening (Online)	
	10.00 pm	Mass	John Boyle (Ann) / Special Intention
Thursday 3rd		The Rosary will not be recited after Mass today	
	11.00 am	Easter Service for Park School (All are welcome to this beautiful service)	
	6.00 pm	Mass	Special Intention / Robbie McDaid (RIP)
Friday 4th	6.30 pm	RCIA in St Joseph's Church	
	10.00 am	Mass	Special Intention / Catherine Lynn (RIP)
	10.30 – 10.50 am	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 5th	10.50 – 4.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	4.00 pm	Solemn Benediction	
	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
Sunday 6th	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Alex McDaid (Ann) /
	11.00 am	Mass	People of the parishes / Kevin Ginnity (RIP)
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	5.45 pm	Young Adults' Mass (followed by talk in the Hall)..... / GallowayYouth	
	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.

**HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY:** Today we congratulate all our mothers giving thanks for all the love shown us by them, and we remember the mothers who are deceased praying that they will be with Mary, Jesus and the Saints in heaven.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** The second collection taken up at both Masses this weekend is for SCIAF.

**SCRUTINIES OF THE ELECT:** This weekend we continue our scrutinies of the Elect. The Elect are the people, either catechumens (unbaptised) and candidates (baptised but not

**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:** £776.77. **Weekly collection:** £1,627.30. **Building Fund:** £40. **SCIAF:** £110. **Retired Priests:** £5.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

confirmed) who have been preparing over the last year to be received into the Church at Easter. The scrutinies take place over a three week period, having started last weekend. Each scrutiny invites them to pray for a particular detachment from sin and grace necessary for them to fully prepare for their reception into the church at Easter. They also invite and remind the wider community to pray for those who are preparing.

The scrutiny prayers reflect the readings from Year A and so during these weeks we hear the readings from then rather than our current year, Year C. This means that the Gospel reading printed on the back of the newsletter is not correct. The weekend we will hear John 9:1-41 – the parable of the man born blind.

**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.

**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.

## 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.

**SUPPORT SCIAF THIS LENT:** On this SCIAF Sunday, we pray for all mothers around the world. We thank you, Lord, for giving us this precious gift – and we thank our mothers for the love and care they provide. We especially give thanks for mothers in Colombia, who, despite the challenges they face, provide their children with the love and support they need to survive. Please give what you can in today's collection for SCIAF. You can also donate to SCIAF at [sciaf.org.uk/donate](http://sciaf.org.uk/donate) or by calling 0141 354 5555. Thank you!

**PLEASE REMEMBER SCIAF ON THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**SCIAF**  
Living for a just world  
Caring for all

[sciaf.org.uk/weebox](http://sciaf.org.uk/weebox)

**WEE BOX**  
10 years of change

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

**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.

## MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

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 · Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

**YOUNG ADULTS (18-30) NIGHT:** The next Young Adults night will take place next Sunday, 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 · Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

**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.

**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 @rcdg youth online or speak to Fr Kevin.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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.

## STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDRAISING



**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 "trusty 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.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES:** If you use weekly collection envelopes and haven't yet collected then, please collect them from the stall in the porch this weekend.

## PILGRIMAGES

**UPDATE ON IONA PILGRIMAGE:** Thank you to those who have registered to join the Iona Pilgrimage from 18th – 20th September. The pilgrimage is confirmed and will go ahead. More details to follow. There may be some more places available on a

twin/double room basis, however all the single occupancy rooms are filled. Please speak to one of the priests for more details.

**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.

### 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](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.**

Saturday 5th April at 3.00 pm, Parish Centre, St Peter in Chains, Ardrossan, KA22 8DU. All welcome!



### JOURNALS FROM JERUSALEM

RECENT STORIES FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY LAND  
TOLD BY JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND

SAT 5TH APRIL | ST PETER IN CHAINS, ARDROSSAN, PARISH CENTRE | 3.00PM



**CELEBRATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI'** The Care for Creation Office of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland will host a Zoom event to mark the tenth anniversary of the acclaimed encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. The event will provide resources and encouragement to the faithful to put the visions of this encyclical into practice. To register, scan the QR code.



### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES

**Palm Sunday, 12th/13th April**  
Vigil Mass 6 pm, Sunday Mass 11 am

**Mass of Chrism, Tuesday 15th April**  
St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, at 7 pm

**Holy Thursday, 17th April**  
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 pm

**Good Friday, 18th April**  
Stations of the Cross for children at 12 noon  
Ecumenical Good Friday Vigil, 12 – 3 pm, New Laigh Kirk  
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 3 pm  
Stations of the Cross at 7 pm

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**  
Easter Vigil, 19th April at 8.30 pm  
Easter Sunday, 20th April at 11 am

**WASHING OF THE FEET:** Volunteers are requested to have a foot washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. If you would like to volunteer, please add your name to the list in the porch.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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

### OTHER NEWS



It starts and ends with God!

Bishop Frank reflects on his first year in the Diocese



**GALLOWAY DIOCESE NEWS:** The lent issue of the Galloway Diocese News is now available and will be distributed at the end of the weekend Masses. There is sufficient for one copy per household.

**JOURNALS FROM JERUSALEM – A TALK ON THE HOLY LAND:** Anne-Marie Clements from Justice & Peace Scotland will present a talk on her recent journey to Jerusalem while accompanying Archbishop Bill Nolan for the Holy Land Coordination 2025. The

afternoon will feature stories heard first hand from the Christian communities in Jerusalem and the West Bank with an opportunity for discussion and Q&A. Tea and coffee provided.

### MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
<b>Saturday 29 March 6pm</b>	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
<b>Sunday 30 March 11am</b>	G McGee, F McCann, M Andrew	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, R Murphy	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	A Smith, G Smith	E Boyd, K Cassidy	Paul, Libby	H Matthews
<b>Saturday 5 April 6pm</b>	G McIntyre, M McGrath, H Rameckers	C McGowan, C Power, M Steele, K McGhee, G Rankin	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Anne, Michael	IHM Sisters
<b>Sunday 6 April 11am</b>	M Walker, An Davidson, E Bohan	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, H Matthews	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	E Cunningham, L Heron	M McGrath, E O'Connell	Eileen, Dennis	IHM Sisters