



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

## THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Lent  
Sunday 16th 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

Telephone: 01563 521832 • Web: [www.rckilmarnock.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk)

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 15th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	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	
Monday 17th	10.00 am	Mass	Mary McGowne (Ann) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 – 6.30 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	6.30 – 8.00 pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting in St Joseph's Hall	
Tuesday 18th	10.00 am	Mass	Neil Laird (Ann) / Maureen Baird (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	First Reconciliation for P4 children	
	8.00 – 9.00 pm	Young Adults (16-30) Lenten Evening (Online)	
Wednesday 19th	10.00 pm	Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph	Mgr Eddie Traynor (Ann) / Donnie Steele (RIP)
	After Mass	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
Thursday 20th	6.00 pm	Mass	Margaret Bunten (RIP) / Murdoch McGuire (Ann)
	6.30 pm	RCIA in St Joseph's Church	
Friday 21st	10.00 am	Mass	Brenda Szumlakowski (Ann) and Bob McCloskey (Ann) /
	10.30 – 10.50 am	Stations of the Cross	
	10.50 – 4.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	4.00 pm	Solemn Benediction	
	7.00 pm	St Patrick's Night in St Joseph's Hall	
Saturday 22nd	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Galloway Youth
Sunday 23rd	11.00 am	Mass	Murdoch McGuire (Ann) / For the Parish
	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.

**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:** 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. We continue to remember the children and their families in our prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist.

**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:** £1,438.55. **Building Fund:** £5.

**Ecuador Trust:** £120. **SCES:** £10.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

**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 DIOCESE  
of GALLOWAY**

**"IT'S OKAY TO BE HOLY!"**

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




**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)**

R.C. Diocese of Galloway - SC010576    www.rcdg.org.uk    R.C. Diocese of Galloway - @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.

**EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:** When we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, one of the conditions for validity is that we have made a good examination of conscience prior to celebrating the sacrament so that we can truly give an account of ourselves and our sins to God. To help you prepare to celebrate the sacrament, a guided examination of conscience is available to pick up outside both confessionals.

During the season of Lent we're encouraged in a particular way to follow Christ more closely – to conform our lives to him – and one of the ways in which we do this especially is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through our sins, both venial and mortal, we distance ourselves from God – venial is smaller ways, but nonetheless significant; and mortal through which we turn away from God – we are encouraged to be aware of our sinfulness, and, being aware of it, to attend the sacrament regularly but especially during the season of Lent.

**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](mailto:vocations@rcdg.org.uk) or 01563 521832.

## 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).

**The final numbers must be confirmed at the end of this week. Please submit forms and deposits ASAP and by Wednesday, and let Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin know that you will take part.**

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 Wednesday 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



**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**

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

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

**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.

## MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

**GALLOWAY YOUTH (P7-S6) NIGHTS:** Following a very successful first youth evening, the next Galloway Youth evening takes place tonight, beginning with Mass at 5pm. During the evening 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.



**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.

**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.

**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 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.

## 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.



**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 Gleniffer 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.



**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.

## 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.

## 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.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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
- Sacramental Preparation Mass – Sunday 16th April, 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
<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
<b>Saturday 22 March 6pm</b>	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
<b>Sunday 23 March 11am</b>	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 Dorrian, L Dorrian	Theresa, Alan	M McGrath