



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Sunday 6th April 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

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 6th – 13th APRIL 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 5th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Alex McDavid (Ann) /
Sunday 6th	11.00 am	Mass	People of the parish / 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)	/ Galloway Youth
Monday 7th	6.15 pm	Choir Practice for Easter	
	10.00 am	Mass	Peter Maxwell (RIP) /
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 8th	7.00 pm	Deanery Penance Service	
	10.00 am	Mass	Special Intention / Christopher Stephens (RIP)
	7.00 – 8.00 pm	Young Adults (16-30) Lenten Evening (Online)	
Wednesday 9th	10.00 pm	Mass	Sr Imelda James (Ann) / Catherine Gallagher (Ann)
Thursday 10th	6.00 pm	Mass	Fr Martin Chambers (Ann) /
Friday 11th	10.00 am	Mass	Hugh Gallacher (Ann) /
	10.30 – 10.50 am	Stations of the Cross	
	10.50 – 4.00 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday 12th	4.00 pm	Solemn Benediction	
	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 13th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Murdoch McGuire (Ann) /
	11.00 am	Palm Sunday Mass	People of the parish / Emmett King (RIP)
		P4 Sacramental Preparation Mass	
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.15 pm	Choir Practice for Easter	

The church is open for prayer Thursday and Friday only 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.

**REQUIESCANT IN PACE:** We were sorry to hear of the death of our parishioner Kevin O'Brien this week. We offer our condolences to Kevin's family and friends and assure them of our prayers at this time. Kevin's funeral arrangements have still to be announced.

**DAYTIME CHURCH CLOSURE:** Please note that on Monday – Wednesday this week the church will be closed outside of scheduled liturgy times to allow for the reinstatement of the Sacred Heart stained glass window and the replacement of the sanctuary carpet. To facilitate this work being completed, there will not be Tuesday Adoration or Wednesday Rosary this week only.

**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:** £1,572.56. **SCIAF:** £1,746.95.

**Annual Mission Appeal:** £45. **Organ Recital:** £347.40.

**Contactless & Online Donations (March) – Collection:** £306. **Building Fund:** £10.

**Total March income:** £12,828.81. **Total March Expenditure:** £10,566.20.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.



**FR MARTIN CHAMBERS, RIP:** The first anniversary of the journey through death of Fr Martin Chambers is on Thursday 10th April. Mass will be offered for his eternal repose in St Joseph's on Thursday evening at 6 pm. Bishop Frank will offer Mass for Fr Martin in Our Lady of the Assumption and St Meddan's, Troon on Thursday at 7 pm. All are welcome.

**DO THIS IN MEMORY:** Next Sunday (13th April) 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.

**SCRUTINIES OF THE ELECT:** This weekend the final scrutiny of the Elect takes place. The Elect are the people, either catechumens (unbaptised) and candidates (baptised but not confirmed) who have been preparing over the last year to be received into the Church at Easter. The scrutinies take place over three weeks with each one inviting 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.

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

## LENT



ST JOSEPH'S DEANERY

# PENANCE SERVICE

JOIN PRIESTS AND FAITHFUL FROM ACROSS THE DEANERY AS WE CELEBRATE OUR LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE.

GOD IS INVITING US ALL TO JOIN HIM IN THE SACRAMENT. TO BE FORGIVEN OUR SINS, AND TO BE RESTORED IN HIS LOVE.

DO NOT FEAR THE SACRAMENT OF HIS LOVE AND MERCY.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, KILMARNOCK  
MONDAY 7TH APRIL, 7.00 PM

**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.

## 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 **takes place tonight**, 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.

**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 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.

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.

## SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

**COMMUNITY CAFÉ BREAK:** The cafe will not be running for the next two weeks due to the school holidays. It will reopen as normal on Tuesday 22nd April.



**MINIBUS TRIP:** We had a great day out on Monday on the first of this year's Parish Minibus Trips to New Abbey where we enjoyed Mass and an Afternoon Tea. The next minibus trip, this month going to Moffat, takes place on Friday 25th April.

The buses will leave St Joseph's after 10.00 am Mass, arriving around lunchtime. There will then be time for everyone to get lunch (not included) and to explore the historic and beautiful tourist town, prior to returning to St Joseph's for approximately 6.00 pm.

The cost per person is £20, payable on the day. 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 May.

## 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.**

## OTHER NEWS



**RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH AT EASTER:** Please pray for all who will join the Church over the Easter season, some of whom are pictured with Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin at the final RCIA session last Thursday.

**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. 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 on Thursday 3rd April at 7 pm 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.



**STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDRAISING**

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** On the weekend of 1st – 2nd February, Fr Stephen distributed an analysis of the stewardship of the parish with the 2024 accounts. He also appealed for support to increase the weekly collection by £500.

In 2024, the average weekly expenditure was £4,209 per week and the average weekly income was £3,308 per week. The difference has been subsidised by savings in the parish account. These savings are now depleted. To continue the essential maintenance of the estate, it will be necessary to increase the weekly collection by £500. This is the equivalent of 100 people increasing their weekly donation by £5.

We are pleased to report that, since the appeal, the weekly collection has increased. Standing orders have increased by about £135 per week. Envelope donations have increased by around £200 per week. **The total increase is around £335 per week.** Thank you to everyone who has responded generously to this appeal.

If you haven't yet responded to the appeal to contribute £5 more per week and would like to do so, please alter your weekly standing order or increase your envelope donation. If another 33 people contribute £5 more per week we will reach the target needed of a £500 weekly increase.

It is also important to make clear that no-one should feel burdened to give more than they can afford, recognising that there are many financial demands on people today.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of the parish. A further update on this weekly collection appeal will be provided at the end of May.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION:** A special collection will be taken on Good Friday (18th April at 3 pm liturgy) for the Holy Places - places of pilgrimage in the Holy Land - to assist the welcome and hospitality of pilgrims. This collection also assists Christians who are persecuted in the Holy Land. An envelope is included in the box set. Thank you.

**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.

**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

**Saturday at the Tomb of the Lord, 19th April**  
Blessing of Easter Baskets, Swięconka, 11 am

**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**

- 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)
- Young Adults (18-30) Evening – Sunday 4th May, 6.00 pm
- 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
<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, Ethan			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, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	E Cunningham, L Heron	M McGrath, E O'Connell	Eileen, Dennis	IHM Sisters
<b>Saturday 12 April 6pm</b>	M Kirk (1 <sup>st</sup> ), A Davidson (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), F Donachie (Prayers); Passion: E Heron (N), H Rameckers (C), Choir (C)	Sr Mabel, M McGrath, A Gorman, L Lennon, K McGhee	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia, Ethan			Claire, Margaret	H Rameckers
<b>Sunday 13 April 11am</b>	P Nicholson (1 <sup>st</sup> ), L Hand (2 <sup>nd</sup> ), G Smith (Prayers); Passion: T Murphy (N), E Bohan (C), Choir (C)	R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, F McCann, M Andrew	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anne & Mike Timmons	-	Theresa, Alan	H Rameckers