



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Easter Sunday
Sunday 20th April 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
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A parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway (www.rcdg.org.uk). Charity number SC010576. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 20th – 27th APRIL 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 19th	11.00 am	Blessing of Easter Baskets (Święconka)	
	8.30 pm	Vigil Mass of Easter Sunday	Isabel Hanlon (Ann) / Eileen McCrossan (RIP)
Sunday 20th	11.00 am	Mass of Easter Sunday	For the Parish / For the Parish
Monday 21st	10.00 am	Mass	Helen Thomas (RIP) / Betty McCann (Ann)
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 22nd	10.00 am	Mass	Agnes Lennon (Ann) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
Wednesday 23rd	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Kevin O'Brien, RIP	Kevin O'Brien (RIP) /
Thursday 24th	6.00 pm	Mass	Ernie Guy (Ann) / Fr Peter Kelly (RIP)
	6.30 pm	Vigil Reception for Anna Kerr, RIP	
Friday 25th	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Anna Kerr, RIP	Anna Kerr (RIP) / Anna Kerr (RIP)
	10.45 am	Minibus Trip to Moffat departs	
Saturday 26th	8.45 am	Coach to Galloway Youth Easter Day departs	
	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Agnes & Hugh Ward (Ann) /
Sunday 27th	11.00 am	Mass	For the Parish / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Reception for James Murphy, RIP	

The church will be 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.



EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DOUGAN:

"The death and resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith and the basis of our hope". So, the Holy Father reminded us when he invited us to be Pilgrims of Hope in the Holy Year. Once again in Holy Week, we have been privileged to make the journey of faith from hearing the horrible cry of Jesus on the cross "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" to listening

to the message of the angel at the empty tomb "He is not here, but has risen". We know this.

But do we make it known? Our faith in the risen Lord is not a treasure to be held close and nurtured in private. It is Good News that must be celebrated and proclaimed out loud. In the Church's liturgy, our Alleluia has been silenced for the 6 weeks of Lent. This is so we can sing and shout it out even more in Easter. But it is a word not to be reserved to our churches. Many of those who need to hear it most are unlikely to be inside our churches. So we need to take it to them, to our families and our communities.

As I wish you and your families a happy and holy Easter, I encourage you all to be Pilgrims of Hope who are not afraid to share the message of the risen Christ with your neighbour. Let your Alleluia ring in the ears of others.

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: £779.08. **Weekly collection:** £1,606.56. **Ecuador Trust:** £1,120.

SCIAF: £60. **Annual Mission Appeal:** £10.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: With sadness we announce the deaths of our parishioners Kevin O'Brien, Anna Kerr, James Murphy, and Stephanie Hollywood. We offer our condolences to their family and friends and assure them of our prayers at this time. Kevin O'Brien's funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 23rd April at 10 am. Anna Kerr's funeral Mass will be on Friday 25th April at 10 am with a Vigil for the Deceased on Thursday 24th April at 6 pm. James Murphy's funeral Mass will be on Monday 28th April at 10 am with a Vigil for the Deceased on Sunday 27th April at 6 pm. Stephanie Hollywood's funeral will be on Monday 12th May at 10 am.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated in St Paul's Church, Hurlford on Sunday 27th April at 2 pm. This service will include the Sacrament of reconciliation, veneration of the Divine Mercy image and mass. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to attend.

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.

Choir practices for the Dedication Mass will take place on Sundays 4th and 11th May at 6.15 pm, and on Thursday 15th May at 7 pm.

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: A special collection will be taken up at Masses next weekend in aid of the Parish Building Fund.

DIOCESAN YOUTH (P6-S6) EASTER CELEBRATION: Places are filling up fast – register now to secure yours! 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.

YOUNG ADULTS (18-30) NIGHT: The next Young Adults night takes place on Sunday 4th May, starting with Mass at 5.45 pm, when Mrs Helena Rameckers will be speaking on the theme of Celebrating Vocation: What's your story? She'll be speaking about her own vocation to marriage and motherhood, discernment, and her own life. 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.

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.

MINIBUS TRIP: The next minibus trip, this month going to Moffat, takes place on Friday 25th April. The buses will leave St Joseph's after the 10.00 am Requiem 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.

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

- 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, 5.45 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
Easter Vigil 19 April 8.30pm	P Nicholson, H Matthews, F McCann, E Heron, K McGhee	F Donachie, A Gorman, J Lennon, M Steele, [G Rankin & A Neil - Choir]	Joseph, Ryan, Luca, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	H Matthews
Easter Sunday 20 April 11am	T Murphy, M Cunningham, L Hand	P Dorrian, D Custodio, M Walker, P Chigbo, E Cunningham	Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	-	-	Dennis, Eileen	H Matthews
Saturday 26 April 6pm	A Davidson, M Kirk, F Donachie	M McGrath, C Power, M Steele, K McGhee, C McGowan	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Anne, Michael	IHM Sisters
Sunday 27 April 11am	R Doak, M Walker, G McGee	L Dorrian, I Love, R Murphy, J Shields	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anna Mackie, Alice Murphy	-	Theresa, Alan	IHM Sisters