



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

5th Sunday of Easter  
Sunday 18th May 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](http://www.rcdg.org.uk)). Charity number SC010576. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

## LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 18th – 25th MAY 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 17th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	10.00 – 2.00 pm	Retreat Day for Children preparing for First Communion	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 18th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Special Intention
	11.00 am	Solemn Dedication of St Joseph's Church	For the Parish / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 19th	5.00 pm	Youth Mass (followed by evening in the Hall)	/ GallowayYouth
	10.00 am	Mass	Special Intention / Special Intention
Tuesday 20th	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	10.00 am	Mass	Alice & Jim Lynn (Ann) / Kevin O'Brien (RIP)
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 21st	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
Thursday 22nd	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Mary Haggarty, RIP	Mary Haggarty (RIP) / Mary Haggarty (RIP)
Friday 23rd	6.00 pm	Mass	Eddie Johnston (RIP) /
Saturday 24th	10.00 am	Mass	Thomas & Margaret McKinstry (Ann) /
	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 25th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Helen Thomas (RIP) /
	11.00 am	Mass	For the Parish /
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	

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.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** The Requiem Mass of Mary Haggarty will be on Wednesday 21st May at 10 am.

**SOLEMN DEDICATION (CONSECRATION) OF ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH IN 2025:** Welcome to Bishop Frank Dougan who will dedicate the church and altar today at 11 am Mass. This is a moment of joy and celebration for St Joseph's parish, especially in the Jubilee Year.

**GALLOWAY YOUTH (P7-S6) EVENING:** The next Galloway Youth evening takes place tonight, beginning with Mass at 5pm. This month we'll be reflecting on Prayer: why and how we pray. 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.

**MINIBUS TRIPS:** Due to driver availability, we've no trips in May, but in June we've got two! If you'd like to take part in either (or both) please sign up in the porch.

**Monday 2nd June – Culzean Castle:** We will leave St Joseph's after morning Mass and travel to Culzean Castle. On arrival in there we will have time to explore the Castle and Gardens, as well as to get lunch (not included). We will then return to St Joseph's for approximately 5.00 pm. The cost per person, payable on the day, is £15 (National Trust Members) or £25 (Non-Members).

**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:** £868.69. **Weekly collection:** £1,605.15. **Building Fund:** £17.

**Church Students Fund:** £758.52.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

**Friday 13th June – Cowden Japanese Gardens:** We will leave St Joseph's after morning Mass and travel to Cowden Japanese Gardens near Dollar. On arrival, we will have a guided tour of the grounds followed by an opportunity for lunch (not included) in the tearoom. We will then return to St Joseph's for approximately 5.00 pm. The cost per person, payable on the day, is £25.

**ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK—THE RESTORED  
HARRISON & HARRISON ORGAN (1903, 2023)**



*Recitalist:*  
**Hans Uwe Hielscher**  
*(Wiesbaden Marktkirche  
Lutheran Cathedral, Germany)*

Tuesday 27 May at 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 1903 Harrison & Harrison pipe organ.

**Admission Free**  
*Retiral Collection*

No booking required - Just come along

**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 several 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.

**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.

**THE ASSISTED DYING FOR TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS (SCOTLAND) BILL:** This Bill has passed its first test in the Scottish Parliament. Following several hours of debate in Holyrood, the Bill, which could eventually legalise doctor-assisted suicide in Scotland, passed the first of three parliamentary stages by 70-56 votes.

Bishop John Keenan, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland and Bishop of Paisley, said he was "deeply disappointed" that the Parliament had "taken the first step to permit the state to provide vulnerable people with the means to end their lives prematurely." He did, however, refer to the many MSPs who, during the debate, "expressed significant reservations about the Bill" and said that he hopes and prays that MSPs will "take time to reflect very carefully on these concerns and reject the Bill before it is passed into law." It is clear from the debate that many MSPs voted in favour of the Bill to give them more time to consider a very difficult and challenging issue, and that support for the Bill at this stage does not necessarily mean MSPs will vote for it in future. That is why it is important to remember that yesterday's vote was not an endorsement of assisted suicide, but a vote to continue the conversation.

The Bill will now proceed to the next stage of parliamentary scrutiny, including consideration of amendments, before a final version is put before the Parliament for a vote. If passed at that stage, the Bill will become law. The Catholic Parliamentary Office will publish a call to further action in due course. In the meantime, individuals may wish to take the opportunity to contact their MSPs.

**RACE NIGHT FUNDRAISER:** Our Young Adults who are walking the Camino de Santiago in October are organising a Race Night on Friday 6th June at 7.30 pm in St Joseph's Hall to raise funds towards their fare. Tickets £5, Horses £10, on sale from the porch after Mass.

Are you a local business owner? Could you like to sponsor a race? Speak to Fr Kevin or email [youth@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdg.org.uk) for more details.

**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.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Organ Recital by Hans Uwe Hielscher – Tuesday 27th May, 12.00 pm
- Young Adults (18-30) Evening – Sunday 1st June, 6.00 pm
- Minibus Trip to Culzean Castle – Monday 2nd June
- Race Night – Friday 6th June, 7.30 pm
- Minibus Trip to Cowden Japanese Gardens – Friday 13th June
- Youth (P6-S4) Evening – Sunday 15th June, 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 17 May</b> 6pm	K McGhee, H Rameckers, M Kirk	F Donachie, A Gorman, M McGrath, C Power, M Steele	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Matthews	
<b>Sunday 18 May</b> 11am	M Cunningham, M Walker,	H Matthews, A Neil, J Shields, F McCann, M Andrew	All altar servers	Alice Murphy	-	Theresa, Alan	H Matthews	
<b>Saturday 24 May</b> 6pm	F Donachie, A Davidson, E Heron	Sr Mabel, C McGowan, K McGhee, J Lennon, A Gorman	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Anne, Michael	IHM Sisters	
<b>Sunday 25 May</b> 11am	M Andrew, An Davidson, R Doak	P Dorrian, D Custodio, M Walker, P Chigbo, E Cunningham	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anne & Gerry Smith	M McGrath, E O'Connell	Paul, Libby	IHM Sisters	