



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Holy Trinity Sunday
Sunday 15th June 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 15th – 22nd JUNE 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 14th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ For the Parish
Sunday 15th	11.00 am	Mass	/ John McGill (Ann) & Brian McDonald (RIP)
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	5.00 pm	Youth (P6-S4) Mass followed by evening in the Hall	/ Galloway Youth
Monday 16th	10.00 am	Mass	David & Alice Dempster (Ann) / Spec. Int.
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 17th	10.00 am	Mass	Gerry Flynn (RIP) / Mary McCluskey (RIP)
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
Wednesday 18th	10.00 am	Mass	Morag Elliot (RIP) / Special Intention
Thursday 19th	6.00 pm	Mass	Kevin O'Brien (RIP) / Robert Fraser (RIP)
Friday 20th	10.00 am	Mass	Peter Thomson (Ann) / Peter Maxwell (RIP)
Saturday 21st	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Michael Gallagher (RIP)
Sunday 22nd	11.00 am	Mass	People of the parishes / 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.

RUN FOR SANTIAGO! Fr Kevin and Margaret McGrath successfully completed Roon the Toon last Sunday in 1:07 and 1:20 respectively – personal bests for both! There's still time to donate to support the Young Adults' pilgrimage to Santiago later this year. You can support them at the stall, or online by searching for @rcdgyouth and clicking the link. Thank you to everyone who has donated to date – your support is greatly appreciated.

CORPUS CHRISTI (Next Sunday): Next Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus (et Sanguinis) Christi, or of the Body and Blood of Christ. Christ instituted the Eucharist, the

gift of himself, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity for all of us at the Last Supper as his continuing presence among us. When we receive him in the Eucharist we are truly receiving him and we are strengthened and sustained by him for our journey through life. It is this gift of the Eucharist which we give thanks for and celebrate in a particular way next Sunday.

At our 11.00 am Mass, we will celebrate the Sacrament of First Communion for 10 of our young parishioners who have been preparing all year for this most joyous occasion. We look forward to welcoming them and their families on this most special day.

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:

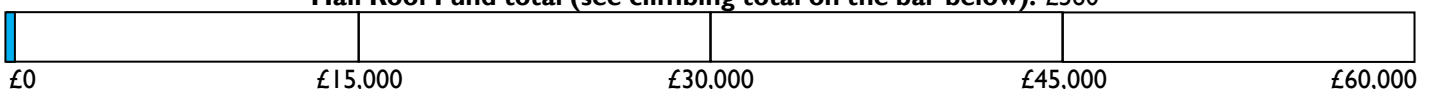
Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk or 01563 521832)

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: £841.00. **Weekly collection:** £1,312.04. **Communications:** £98. **Church Students Fund:** £10.

Hall Roof Fund total (see climbing total on the bar below): £560



Thank you for generously supporting our parish, and for the individual donation of £500 towards the Hall Roof Fund.

Please be aware when you arrive at the church next Sunday that the front 10 rows in the centre of the church will be reserved for the First Communicants and their families.

Following the 11.00 am Mass we will have a Eucharistic procession (weather permitting) from the Church and through the grounds, ending with Solemn Benediction in the garden. To allow for the procession, parts of the car park will be closed, however for next week only additional car parking will be available in the Microtech car park next door to the church.

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

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES 2025



Recitalist:
Tiffany Vong
(Jordanhill Parish Church)

Tuesday 24 June 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 1903 Harrison & Harrison pipe organ.

Admission Free - Retiral Collection

Soup, sandwiches and cakes available in the church hall from 11 am

No booking required - Just come along

GALLOWAY YOUTH (P6-S4) EVENING: The next Galloway Youth evening takes place **tonight**, beginning with Mass at 5pm. This month we'll be reflecting on the Holy Spirit: who the Holy Spirit is and how he helps us in our 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.

CHOIR PRACTICE: Choir members who sang at the Solemn Dedication on 18 May are requested to attend a rehearsal in the church on Monday 23 June at 7 pm in order to prepare for a reprise of some of the music at Evening Prayer with the Papal Nuncio on Thursday 26 June.

VISIT OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO TO GALLOWAY DIOCESE: Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, will visit Galloway Diocese from 24th – 27th June. He will meet with the faithful and clergy at events in each deanery. There will be two public gatherings during his visit and an open invitation is extended to everyone. On Wednesday 25th June at 7.00 pm, the Nuncio will celebrate Mass with the diocesan clergy in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. On Thursday 26th June at 7.00 pm, Sung Evening Prayer will be celebrated in St Joseph's Church, Hill Street, Kilmarnock with ecumenical and civic guests present. All are welcome.

In addition to these gatherings, all members of Parish Pastoral Councils and Diocesan Pastoral Councils are invited to meet with the Nuncio before Evening Prayer on Thursday 26th June at 6.00 pm in St Joseph's Church Hall, Hill Street, Kilmarnock.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: The minutes of the most recent Parish Pastoral Council meeting are available

on the rckilmarnock.org.uk website and at the back of the church.

DAY FOR LIFE SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next Sunday we mark our annual Day for Life. This year's theme, **Hope Does Not Disappoint: Finding Meaning in Suffering** invites us, in this Holy Year of Hope, to pray for those who suffer to unite their crosses with Jesus and so to find some hope; and for society to find ways to come closer to those suffering and lighten their burden. The Day for Life Collection fosters human life in every stage and condition, with particular attention to pro-life causes along with other aspects of life deserving consideration. The collection is split fifty percent between national and diocesan initiatives.

URGENT: APPEAL TO YOUR MP TO VOTE AGAINST ABORTION UP TO BIRTH: On Tuesday 17 June MPs will debate proposals to decriminalise abortion. If either of the two amendments tabled by MPs are passed, it will be the most massive expansion of abortion since 1967, effectively permitting abortion for any reason up until birth. Please contact your MP urgently, asking him/her to vote against New Clauses 1 & 20 to the Crime & Policing Bill. Go to the following web address to quickly and easily send a message to your MP using SPUC's webtool: www.spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation/

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The term of the PPC is coming to a close and Fr Stephen invites nominations of adults (16+) of all ages who would like to be members, or of people whom others think would be good members of the PPC. It is important that those who wish to be considered have the good of the parish at heart and are willing to meet up to six times a year (in the evening) and would be pleased to take on some small tasks to build up the life of the parish. (Members of the former PPC are welcome to offer to serve again.)

Nominations are open until 22nd June. Around twelve people will be selected, in a way that represents the whole parish, from the nominations to form the new PPC which we hope to be in place before the summer, for a first meeting in Autumn. Names should be given/sent to Fr Stephen.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REHEARSAL: There will be a short rehearsal for First Holy Communion after the 6 pm Vigil Mass and after the 11 am Mass this weekend. Parents and children are asked to attend one of them.

PARISH FUN DAY: On **Sunday 10th August** there will be a Parish Fun Day after 11 am Mass with a bouncy castle and games for the children, face-painting, home baking, hot rolls and more. All welcome.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SISTERS FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS: The IHM Sisters will celebrate their patronal feast, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on Saturday 28th June at beginning with 10 am Mass at St Joseph's Church and followed by a buffet celebration in the hall where there will be a presentation on the mission of the sisters and entertainment and music. All are very welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- First Holy Communion Day – Sunday 22nd June, 11 am Mass
- Organ Recital by Tiffany Vong – Tuesday 24th June, 12 noon
- Visit of Papal Nuncio to Galloway Diocese – 24th – 27th June
- IHM Sisters Feast day celebrations – Saturday 28th June, 10 am
- Young Adults Evening (S5-30) – Sunday 6th July, 6-8 pm
- Parish Fun Day – Sunday 10th August, 12 noon
- Minibus Trip – Monday 21st July

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK							
	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 14 June 6pm	M Kirk, K McGhee, M McGrath	G Rankin, L Rankin, Sr Juliet, F Donachie, C Power	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Claire, Margaret	IHM Sisters
Sunday 15 June 11am	Annette Davidson, M Cunningham, L Hand	J Shields, F McCann, P Dorrian, D Custodio, M Walker	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Alice Murphy	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Paul, Libby	IHM Sisters
Saturday 21 June 6pm	H Rameckers, F Donachie, G McIntyre	J Lennon, M McGrath, Sr Mabel, A Gorman, C McGowan	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Anne, Michael	H Rameckers
Sunday 22 June 11am	P Nicholson, T Murphy, F McCann	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, H Matthews	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	E Cunningham, Lizzie Heron	-	Eileen, Devlin	H Rameckers

**Day for Life 2025
Sunday 15 June**

Hope Does Not Disappoint – Finding Meaning in Suffering

For as long as history has been written, the world has never been without struggle and suffering. Through the lens of television and social media, however, the suffering of the whole world appears on our personal devices. Many of us find it hard to make sense of a world in which suffering seems to press down from every direction: pandemic; war; homelessness; violence in our streets, addiction. Then, often without warning, we find ourselves caught up in the struggle when serious illness comes into our own lives.

Suffering touches every person at some point in their lives. It is often associated with illness, grief, and loss. It is not only caused by physical pain but includes emotional suffering as well as ‘soul pain’, such as depression and despair. Christians are not immune to this mystery and we often struggle to know how best to respond to it, and where we can find hope.

“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us” (Rom 5:5-6). St. Paul invites us to see that Christian hope is not just naïve optimism but, rather, an unshakeable trust in the power and presence of God who is with us always. This hope can endure the darkness of human suffering and even see beyond it. That is because Christian hope is anchored in God who is Love and whose love reaches out to us and lifts us up day after day.

Care for the sick and suffering was central to the ministry of Jesus. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan as a way of explaining what it means to be a “neighbour” to another person. The Good Samaritan is someone who sees and *is moved to compassion* (while others turn away), who *draws close*, who *“binds up wounds”*, who accompanies the person in need, and who *continues to care* for as long as it is needed. Often the healing Jesus offered was much more than just a physical cure; it included emotional and spiritual healing as well, because for Jesus, the human person is more than just a body needing to be fixed. Jesus invites us to *“Go and do likewise”* (Lk. 10:29-37).

The alleviation of suffering is good and must always be part of our focus. But there remains, for many people, a suffering that cannot be taken away and has to be endured. How do we make sense of that? The claim that it is better to die than to suffer leads some people to suggest that euthanasia or assisted suicide might be more compassionate. As Christians, however, we follow Jesus who lived his entire life, including his suffering, in the confident hope that His Father loved him and would raise him up, and He did! The cross, which Jesus did not ask for and did nothing to deserve, has become a sign of hope for countless millions of people in every generation.

The death and resurrection of Jesus leads us to believe that, far from being futile or absurd, a life marked by suffering, when it is lived with generosity and patience, is full of meaning. People like Simon of Cyrene (who helped carry the cross), or St. Veronica (who wiped the face of Jesus) literally accompanied Jesus on the Way of the Cross. Modern saints like Therese of Lisieux and the young Saint Carlo Acutis understood that when we unite our suffering with the suffering of Christ for the good of the world, it is transformed through his grace. Most of us have known people like them. Far from being the end of hope, their suffering, when accepted and embraced, has shown itself to be a path to growth and ultimately to Resurrection.

This year’s Day for Life is an invitation to pray for those who suffer and to remain with them like the Good Samaritan, bearing witness to their unique and unrepeatable value. We see this closeness in the generous and fruitful service of healthcare professionals, whose mission continues even when there is no longer any prospect of physical healing. We see it in another way in families, carers and chaplains who support their brothers and sisters who are sick or frail or struggling with the many burdens of life. As Christians, we affirm them and hold out to them the hope of Jesus Christ who does not disappoint us.

Most Reverend John Sherrington Archbishop of Liverpool England and Wales
Right Reverend Kevin Doran Bishop of Elphin and Achonry Ireland
Right Reverend John Keenan Bishop of Paisley Scotland