



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 26th October 2025

Parish Priest: Reverend Stephen G. McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Reverend Kevin J.A. Rennie (kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk)

St Joseph's Presbytery, 15a Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB

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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

Telephone: 01563 523822 • Email: ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk

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

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER – 2nd NOVEMBER 2025

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 25th	10.00 am	Mass	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Special Intention /
Sunday 26th	11.00 am	Mass	John & Eileen McGill (RIP) / Laura McLeish (RIP)
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	12.30 pm	Sacramental Preparation Meeting in St Joseph's Hall	
	5.00 pm	Youth Mass (followed by gathering in the Hall)	
	6.15 pm	Choir Practice in St Joseph's Church	
Monday 27th	10.00 am	Mass	Ian Mair (RIP) / For the Parish
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Reception for James Chalmers, RIP	
Tuesday 28th	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for James Chalmers, RIP	/ James Chalmers (RIP)
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
Wednesday 29th	10.00 am	Mass	/ Special Intention
	After Mass	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
Thursday 30th	6.00 pm	Mass	Adrian Holloway (RIP) / Special Intention
	6.30 pm	RCIA in St Joseph's House	
Friday 31st	10.00 am	Mass	Philomena McKee (RIP) / Elizabeth McEvoy (Ann.)
	7.00 pm	Halloween Quiz Night in St Joseph's Hall	
Saturday 1st	11.00 am	Kilmarnock Parishes' Cemetery Mass	Deceased Parishioners / Deceased Parishioners
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 2nd	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Special Intention
	11.00 am	Mass	Rose Walker (RIP) / For the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	12.30 pm	Sacramental Preparation Meeting in St Joseph's Hall	
	5.45 pm	Young Adults' Mass (followed by gathering in the Hall)	
	6.15 pm	Choir Practice in St Joseph's Church	

The church is open for prayer Monday to Friday from 9.30 am until 4 pm. Enter through the small side door.



Please switch mobile phones to silent when in the church and especially during Mass.

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: £834.08. **Weekly collection:** £1,070.22. **Building Fund:** £20. **Hall Roof Fund:** £2,665.18.

Holy Places: £10. **Mission Sunday:** £1,195.27.

Thank you.

Hall Roof Fund total (see climbing total on the bar below): £62,414.54.

£0 £15,000 £30,000 £45,000 £60,000

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

HALL ROOF FUND: Thank you to everyone who has supported the fundraising efforts to replace the hall roof, windows and external lighting. £62,414.54 has been raised which will all be spent on the planned work associated with the hall. Thank you also to the Renewable Energy Trust of East Ayrshire Council for the grant funding of £50,000.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS: This year, the Solemnity is translated to the Sunday and, as such, the usual Sunday obligation applies. The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls) will be celebrated on Monday 3rd November when we pray for all of the faithful departed who have died.

MASS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED SINCE LAST NOVEMBER: At 11.00 am Mass on Sunday 9th November, the faithful departed of our parishes who have died during the last year will be prayed for and remembered by name. A letter will be sent to their families inviting them to attend.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: *"I would go as far as to say that if there was no purgatory, then we would have to invent it, for who would dare say of himself that he was able to stand directly before God. And yet we don't want to be, to use an image from Scripture, 'a pot that turned out wrong,' that has to be thrown away; we want to be able to be put right. Purgatory basically means that God can put the pieces back together again. That he can cleanse us in such a way that we are able to be with him and can stand there in the fullness of life. Purgatory strips off from a person what is unbearable and from another the inability to bear certain things, so that in each of them a pure heart is revealed, and we can see that we all belong together in one enormous symphony of being."* (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)

During November, the weekend and weekday Masses will be offered in the parishes for departed priests, friends and family. (For this reason particular Mass intentions requested will be carried forward to December.) Please take a November List from the back of the church and add the names of those you would like to pray for, and place it in the basket beside the altar. If you are able you may make a Mass offering with your November list. The names of your loved ones whom you wish to be remembered this month will be inserted within the album at the altar.

All the faithful can seek to obtain a plenary indulgence for a soul in Purgatory. And if we help get someone to Heaven, you can be sure that they will help us and pray for us before the Throne of God.

Requirements for Obtaining a Plenary Indulgence on All Souls Day: Piously visit a church to pray for the faithful departed; - Say one "Our Father" and the "Creed" in the visit to the church; - Say one "Our Father" and one "Hail Mary" for the intentions of the Pope; - Worthily receive Holy Communion (ideally on the same day); - Make a Sacramental Confession within a week of (before or after) All Souls Day; - That one be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin.

Requirements for Obtaining a Plenary Indulgence from November 1st to 8th: Devoutly visit a cemetery and pray for the dead; - Say one "Our Father" and one "Hail Mary" for the intentions of the Pope; - Worthily receive Holy Communion (ideally on the same day); - Make a Sacramental Confession within a week of (before or after) All Souls Day; - That one be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin.

CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME FOR ALTAR SERVERS: Altar servers are invited to "Sleeping Beauty" in the Galleon, Kilmarnock on the afternoon of Saturday 27th December. Details of the outing will be given nearer the time, but to reserve tickets the altar servers are asked to let Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin know whether they would like to go by 9th November.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 3rd November at 6.30 pm in the hall. There will be Eucharistic Adoration from 6.00 pm in the church for those who can manage. Should parishioners wish an item to be discussed, please email kilmarnock.stjoseph@rcdg.org.uk or pass the item to the parish house.

CHOIR PRACTICES. Choir Practices for Christmas commenced on Sunday 19th October, 6.15 - 8.15 p.m, and continue each Sunday. This is an opportunity to contribute to the longstanding choral tradition in our parish. New members in all voice parts are welcome. The ability to read music is helpful but is not an essential requirement.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: With sadness we inform you that our parishioner James Chalmers has died. May he rest in peace.

James' funeral Mass will take place on **Tuesday 28th October** at 10 am in St Joseph's.

INVITATION FOR NEW ALTAR SERVERS: Would you like to join our fantastic team of Altar Servers who assist at weekend Masses, Christmas and Easter? If you've made your First Communion, you're able to do so, contact Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin for more details. Full training and support will be provided.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN: Today after Mass, parents/carers and their children should gather in the church hall after Mass, and at 12.30 pm the catechesis groups will begin. This will finish at 1.45 pm and lunch snacks will be provided for all those participating.

RCIA: RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and is the programme followed by adults to become full members of the Catholic Church. The next meeting is after the 6 pm Mass on Thursday 30th October, at 6.30 pm in the parish house.

HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT: The annual Halloween Quiz Night will take place on Friday 31st October, starting at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall. So come along on your own or get a team together and see if you've got what it takes to answer the quiz master's questions! Tickets are on sale now from the church stall, priced £5.00. There will also be a raffle on the night, if you are able to give any donations of raffle prizes, please hand these into the sacristy or the Church stall after any Mass, or hand them into Margaret at the Community Café on a Tuesday.

KILMARNOCK PARISHES ANNUAL CEMETERY MASS: The annual Kilmarnock Parishes Cemetery Mass will take place on Saturday 1st November at 11.00 am in Grassyards Cemetery. All are invited to join us in praying for all of those from our parish community who are buried there.

YOUTH (P6-S4) EVENINGS: The new series of Youth Evenings **continues tonight.** The evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm and continues afterwards in the hall for games, activities, a talk and pizza – all led by S3/4 Junior Leaders from St Joseph's Academy. This month we'll be reflecting on the theme of Mary. Open to all youth in P6-S4. The event is free.



ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT: Now only £100 for the weekend! Register today to join youth (P7-S4) from across the Diocese as we gather at Gowanbank SU Centre (outside of Darvel) for our 2025 Advent Retreat. We'll spend the weekend together taking part in various different outdoor activities including archery tag, crate climbing, and an escape room (among other activities). We'll also have talks from a number of different people about their own faith and advent, as well as spending time in prayer and growing in friendship with Jesus and one and other. The retreat runs from 6.00 pm on Friday 28th to 4.00 pm on Sunday 30th November and costs £100 per person (all inclusive). Places are limited, for more details or to register scan the QR code or going to our website: youth.rcdg.org.uk. When registering, you will be asked to pay a £60 deposit to secure your child's place, with the balance due by Sunday 19th October.

YOUTH OFFICE 200 CLUB: This provides support for young people who otherwise would struggle to participate in events. Membership is £5 per month, with a monthly draw giving you the chance to win cash prizes. **Pick up a form in the stall to register, or go to their website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.**

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY, GRASSYARDS ROAD: We invite you to join us for a celebration Mass in St Joseph's Academy Assembly Hall on Saturday 22nd November at 11am. We are honoured to have Bishop Dougan presiding over Mass to mark this special occasion. Please use the link (<https://forms.office.com/e/08LyWEVDy8>) or QR code below to register your attendance. We look forward to seeing you then. Donna Shearer, Deputy Head Teacher.



SPRED KILMARNOCK PARISHES GROUP: Meetings have now recommenced for the new session of SPRED which supports adults with Special Needs in their faith journey and personal development. The fun, friendly, small group meetings are held fortnightly on Tuesday evenings during term time. If you or someone you know would like to come along, please, in the first instance, contact Kathleen Jones (07513048722).



ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

**THE RESTORED
HARRISON & HARRISON
ORGAN (1903, 2023)**

**ORGAN RECITAL SERIES
2025**

Recitalist:
ANDREW FORBES
(Glasgow Cathedral)

**Tuesday 11 November
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

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. 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.**



Galloway Youth Evening (P6-S4)

MARY

**THE MOTHER OF JESUS, AND
A MOTHER TO US TOO.**

WHO IS MARY?

**WHY SHOULD WE
PRAY TO HER?**

WILL MARY HELP US?

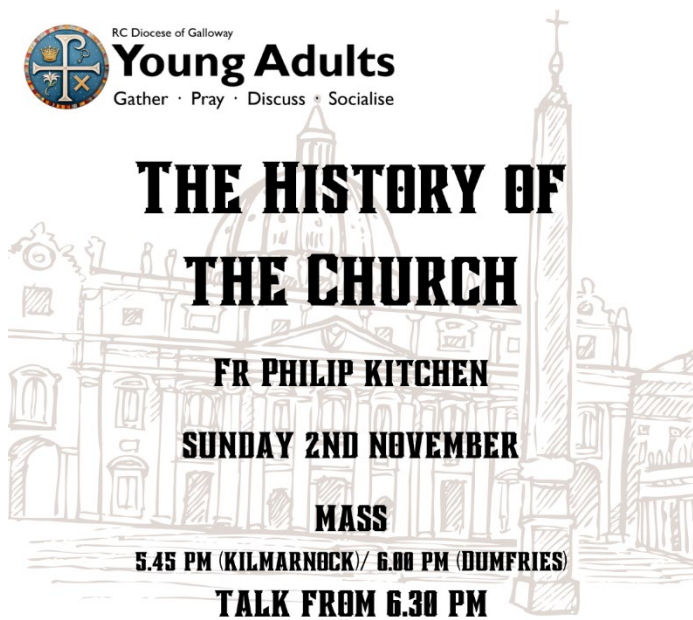
MASS . GAMES . TALK . ACTIVITIES . PIZZA. SOCIAL

**SUNDAY
26TH OCTOBER**

5.00 PM

ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES | ST PETER-IN-CHAINS, ARDROSSAN | ST MARGARET'S, AYR | ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rcdg.youth) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rcdg.youth) | Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdg.youth



RC Diocese of Galloway
Young Adults
Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

**THE HISTORY OF
THE CHURCH**

FR PHILIP KITCHEN

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

MASS

5.45 PM (KILMARNOCK) / 6.00 PM (DUMFRIES)

TALK FROM 6.30 PM

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rcdg.youth) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/rcdg.youth) | Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdg.youth

YOUNG ADULTS EVENING: The next Young Adults evening takes place on Sunday 2nd November when Fr Philip Kitchen will be speaking on the History of the Church. The evening begins with Mass at 5.45 pm, followed by a talk to both the northern and southern groups from 6.30 pm.

APPEAL FROM THE SOCIETY OF 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.

WEEKDAY MISSAL NOW AVAILABLE: A people's Weekday Missal with the new translation of the Lectionary has now been published: a Daily Missal with all the Sunday and weekday readings (£70), and a Weekday Missal with the weekday readings only (£55). Enquire at the stall to order these books.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Kilmarnock Parishes' Cemetery Mass – Saturday 1st November, 11.00 am (Grassyards Cemetery)
- Young Adults' Evening on the History of the Church – Sunday 2nd November, 5.45 pm.
- St Joseph's Academy, 70th Anniversary – Saturday 22nd November
- Advent Youth Retreat – Friday 28th – Sunday 30th November

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 25 Oct 6 pm	H Rameckers, M McGrath, F Donachie	C Power, K McGhee, G Rankin, L Rankin, Sr Juliet	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	IHM Sisters
Sunday 26 Oct 11 am	M Andrew, An Davidson, M Walker	A Neil, J Shields, F McCann, P Dorrian, D Custodio	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo, Jason, Kamili	E Cunningham, Liz Heron	Anne & Lucie Dorrian	Eileen, Devlin	IHM Sisters
Saturday 1 Nov 6 pm	A Davidson, E Heron, M Kirk	Sr Mabel, F Donachie, M McGrath, J Lennon, M Steele	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Rameckers
Sunday 2 Nov 11 am	R Doak, L Hand, M Cunningham	M Walker, P Chigbo, M Andrew, F McCann, E Cunningham	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo, Jason, Kamili	Alice Murphy	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Theresa, Alan	H Rameckers

GALLOWAY YOUNG ADULTS WALK THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

12th – 19th October 2025

Last week, a group of eleven Young Adults from across the Diocese set out on a pilgrimage to walk the final section of the Camino de Santiago, following the French way. They walked from Sarria to Santiago, a distance of approximately 115km over 5 days.



The group included 7 parishioners from St Joseph's, alongside parishioners from Auchinleck, Dumfries, and Largs and was led by Fr Kevin, Fr Stephen, and Margaret.

Each day, the group walked between 19km and 30km, taking between 6 – 10 hours with stops. On their longest day, Wednesday, they covered 30km, setting out at 0730 and arriving at 1830. Whilst the distance each day was long, and at times the terrain very challenging, the group weren't walking the Camino simply for exercise. Each member of the group was on a spiritual journey, walking the Camino for their own reasons, and carrying with them their own intentions, and the intentions of the wider Diocesan community.

Over the course of the week the group grew not only in faith, but also in friendship with one and other, and it was both this faith and friendship which helped to carry them through each day – when members struggled, others helped, when members felt it was too much, they were encouraged by the group around them. Over the five days, each member of the group was on a spiritual journey seeking Christ with great clarity in their lives: asking for help in some ways in their lives, some for healing, some to come to a deeper knowledge of him. For many of the group, they set out seeking or asking for one grace, but receiving innumerable others in different areas of their lives. As the group were reminded throughout the week, God knows that which we need the most, and at times that means he'll answer our prayers in a way that we do not expect.

THE IRON CROSS

Traditionally, at the highest point on the Camino pilgrims leave a pebble or a stone at the Iron Cross. This pebble or stone has been carried by them from wherever they started their journey and represents all of those things which distract them from Christ: their worries, concerns, distractions and vices – all of those things which separate them from Christ and which they're seeking healing for on their pilgrimage.



The group also carried with them two pebbles from Whithorn representing the needs and intentions of the wider Diocesan community, one of which was left as part of the stone cairn. Many of the group found the Iron Cross service to be hugely moving, representing not just a momentary change of heart, but a genuine desire for conversion and a transformation of heart in Christ. The group celebrated their Iron Cross on the Thursday morning, having walked over 80km, and, following the

service were encouraged to make the focus of their day's prayer a desire to see Christ more clearly: to hear, to know, and to love him in their lives.

ARRIVING INTO SANTIAGO

Whilst the Camino is a pilgrimage walked seeking Christ, there was nonetheless a tremendous elation on first reaching the Mount of Joy – a hill just outside Santiago from where the group first saw the spires of the Cathedral rising up in the distance – and then again walking into the Cathedral square. The group of 14 started out the week as a group, and whilst over the course of the week they'd sometimes walked at different paces, they had always walked as a group – and the end was no different. Walking into the heart of Santiago the group paused so that, as they set out as one group, so too would they arrive as one group. Arriving into the square, the group were accompanied by the sound of bagpipes: not the traditional Scottish type, but the smaller Galician type, however they were nonetheless a wonderful reminder of home.



The following day the group enjoyed the Pilgrims' Mass in the Cathedral as well as a tour of the old city and the Cathedral. The second Whithorn pebble which had been carried by the group was left at the tomb of St James, alongside any intentions which had been handed in, and representing those intentions carried in the group's hearts and from the wider Diocesan Community.

The pilgrimage was a transformational and once in a lifetime experience for many of the group, with the group remarking how much they had enjoyed it, and encountered Christ through it. While their Camino ended in Santiago, their journey continues: Santiago was the end of the beginning, but the journey that they embarked on from Sarria continues in their lives as they seek to continue to daily grow in knowledge and love of Christ.

The group is extremely grateful to all of those who donated to support their fundraisers and events in making the pilgrimage possible, and look forward to hosting an evening to share their stories in the near future – watch this space for more details.

For all of the photos and videos from their pilgrimage, search for @rcdgyoung on Facebook or Instagram. Read the full story in the Advent edition of the Galloway News.