

November: A Month In Honour of the Holy Souls in Purgatory

In the Catholic Church, the month of November holds special significance as it is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. During this month, the faithful are encouraged to commemorate and pray for all who have departed from this life yet have not reached the eternal joys of Heaven. This observance springs from both scriptural roots and the deep compassion of the Church for those souls who are undergoing purification. By understanding this dedication, we can engage in meaningful prayer, sacrifices, and acts of charity that benefit both the souls in purgatory and our spiritual growth.

Biblical and Theological Foundations of Purgatory

St. Paul, in his letters, implores Christians not to “be ignorant concerning the dead,” reminding the faithful that death is not the end but a transition for those who die in Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The Church teaches that purgatory is a state of purification for those who have died in a state of grace but still require purification before entering the fullness of Heaven. The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms this belief by explaining that souls undergo a “final purification” necessary to attain the perfection required for Heaven (CCC 1030-1032). This teaching is drawn from Scripture, Tradition, and centuries of theological reflection.

Why Pray for the Souls in Purgatory?

Praying for the souls in purgatory is an act of charity, as these souls can no longer pray for themselves and depend on the prayers of the living to aid their final journey. The efficacy of our prayers, alms, and sacrifices on behalf of the Holy Souls is a testimony to the profound interconnectedness of the Church—what is known as the Communion of Saints. Our prayers assist the souls in their journey, bringing them closer to the beatific vision of God.

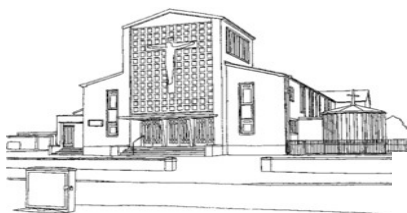
St. John Chrysostom emphasized the importance of these prayers: “Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.” By praying for the deceased, we manifest our love for them and deepen our awareness of our own mortality and eternal destiny.

Praying for the Dead

The most traditional and accessible way to help the souls is through prayer. Prayers such as the Eternal Rest Prayer (“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them”) and the De Profundis (Psalm 130) are commonly recited for this purpose.

*Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most powerful prayer that can be offered for the dead. Attending Mass and offering it for the repose of souls in purgatory is a profound act of charity.



SUNDAY
BULLETIN

Sunday 26th October, 2025



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL & ST MATTHEW’S



PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Jim Hayes
Fr Jim’s Telephone: 01563 533587 or 01563 523822.
Address: The Parish Office, St Matthew’s, Grassyards Road, Kilmarnock. KA3 7SH
Fr. Jim’s Email: kilmarnock.stmatthew@rcdg.org.uk or kilmarnock.olmc@rcdg.org.uk
Parishes of the RC Diocese of Galloway. Charity Number: SC 010576

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS: Sr. Mary Rose Confidence Maduka IHM, Sr. Mary Mabel Chukwu IHM & Sr. Marilyn Juliet Obiorah IHM
Contact Details: 01563 523822 Email: ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk



Liturgy:	30th Sunday of the Year (C)
Divine Office:	Sunday: Vol. 3, week 2.
Mass texts in other languages:	virc.at/unit/virc/en/massreadings
Sunday Masses:	9.30am at St Matthew’s, Grassyards Road. KA3 7SH. 11.30am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kirkton Road. KA3 2DF.
Psalm 34 Response:	The lowly one called, and the LORD heard him.
Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia, Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia.
Memorial Acclamation:	When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

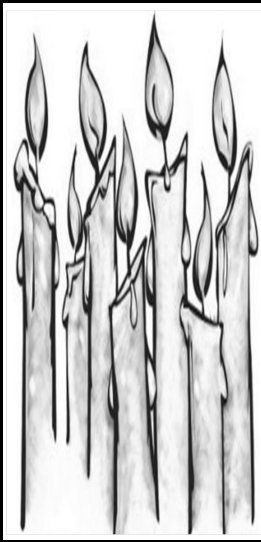
Please, ask your child(ren) to return to you immediately after the Children’s Liturgy if you do not wish them to be captured on the live-stream recording. **LIVESTREAM MASSES:** [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgUgUgUgUg) *Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Matthew’s Kilmarnock*

Service Schedule for the coming week:

30th Sunday in OT (C) 26th October	9.30am at St. Matthew’s Intention: Jean Little (RecDec).	11.30am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Intention: George Benedetti (RecDec) and Shaun Doherty (12th Ann).
Monday 27th October	The Parish Office is closed on Mondays. We have no services on Mondays.	10am Mass in St Joseph’s, Hill Street.
Tuesday 28th October	9.30am Adoration (with Confession) in OLMC. 10am Mass in Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Intention: Archie Pryce (RecDec).
Wednesday 29th October	10am Mass in St Matthew’s	Intention: Archie Pryce (RecDec-Birthday remembrance).
Thursday 30th October	9.30am Rosary in St Matthew’s 10am Mass in St Matthew’s	Intention: Humberto Guevara RIP and Pablo Guevara RIP.
Friday 31st October	9.30am Rosary 10am Mass in Our Lady of Mount Carmel.	Intention: Sp.Int.
Saturday 1st November	11am: Cemetery Mass	Kilmarnock Cemetery, Grassyards Road. 6.00pm Vigil Mass at St. Joseph’s
ALL SAINTS 2nd November	9.30am at St. Matthew’s Intention: For the Parish.	11.30am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Intention: For the Parish.

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Rec. Deceased: Jean Little, George Benedetti, William Jones Boyd. May they rest in peace.
Anniversaries/B’day Rem: Archie Pryce and all those we ourselves have known and loved.
The sick: Baby Clay Lobban, Isobel Connolly, Margaret Cassidy, Davey Spiers, Marion McGonagle, Gerda Devlin, Stephen Montgomery, Janette McConnell, Fiona Fulton, Briege Abbott, Tommy Wood, Eleanor McCluskey, Margaret Fleming, Lily Kelly, Tom Currie, Mary McLaughlin, Dougie Black, Anne Johnston, Pat McKenna, Matt Connelly, Janice McCrae, Ashley Kenny, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Eimear Callaghan, David O’Callaghan, Michelle Hanlon, Michelle Dunne, Leona McAllister, Donald Gibon, Frank Mullen, Helen O’Donnell, Frances O’Neil, Helen McClure, James Hughes, Max McLean, Mary Rea, Carolanne Gallagher, Charlie Smith.



A time of remembrance by Stephanie Van Koevering

In the heart of autumn, as the leaves turn to vibrant shades of red and gold, a solemn and sacred season begins in the Catholic calendar: the Month of the Holy Souls. Every November offers us a time of deep reflection, prayer and remembrance for the faithful. It is a period when we can come together to honour and pray for the souls of the departed, particularly those who may still be in purgatory, awaiting their entry into the eternal glory of heaven.

The Month of the Holy Souls, also known as the Month of All Souls, finds its roots in the ancient Christian tradition of praying for the deceased. The specific dedication of November to the Holy Souls began in the early 11th century when St. Odilo, the abbot of Cluny, established a special day of prayer for the departed within the monastic community. Over time, this practice expanded beyond the monastery walls and became a widespread tradition throughout the Church.

The feast of All Souls anchors the Month of the Holy Souls and is transferred this year to Monday 3rd November. The day's liturgy is marked by hope and trust in God's mercy and forgiveness. It is a time to remember those who have gone before us and entrust their souls to God's loving care.

SACRAMENTS	
Marriage	By arrangement with Fr. Jim. The Diocese of Galloway requires that couples give a minimum of six months’ notice of their intention to marry
Baptism	By arrangement with Fr. Jim on a mutually suitable date and time
Reconciliation	Tuesdays and Saturdays during Exposition and at any other time on request at suitable times.
	Community Support at St Matthew’s. A Donation’s box is located at the Church entrance. Thank you for your continuing generosity. ‘Bags for Life’ are always welcome.
	OLMC SSVP Conference. All donations are most welcome and needed. Please use the Donations Box as you leave the church. Email: olmc_ssvp@icloud.com

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS. With grateful thanks we acknowledge the following generosity	
OLMC	1st: £ 244.38 and the 2nd collection: £403.39 for Missio and the SSVP Box: £
ST MATTHEW’S	1st: £447.75 and the 2nd collection: £760.35 for Missio and The Community Box: £155.30.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE/EMAIL ADDRESES	
KILMARNOCK RC CHURCHES: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk	
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/OurLadyOfMountCarmelKilmarnock / https://facebook.com/stmatthewschurchkilmarnock	
St Matthew’s Hall Bookings: Margaret Merrick - 07765715798 or Email: margaret.merrick@btinternet.com	
OLMC Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: olmc_ssvp@icloud.com	Mount Carmel Primary School: 01563 525897
St.Andrew’s Primary School & Early Childhood Centre: 01563 549549	St. Joseph’s Academy: 01563 526144
Diocese of Galloway: 01292 266750 www.rcdg.org.uk 8 Corsehill Road, Ayr. KA7 2ST.	SPRED: 01292 738068 / Email: office.ayr@spredgalloway.org.uk Facebook: SPRED Galloway/www.spredgalloway.org.uk
Crosshouse Hospital Chaplaincy: St Joseph’s - 01563 521832	Ayr Hospital Chaplaincy: Fr. Benjamin Mkeri – 01655 882145
ITEMS FOR THE SUNDAY BULLETIN: Parish/Diocesan based info/news will be given priority. If room allows we will gladly include items from other organisations. Please Email the Parish Office on either: kilmarnock.olmc@rcdg.org.uk OR kilmarnock.stmatthew@rcdg.org.uk. Deadline: Thursdays 10am.	

Ministry Rota for 26th October 2025– 30th Sunday of the Year (C).				
Scripture	Sirach 35:15b-17; 20-22b.	Psalm 34	II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18.	Luke 18:9-14
St. Matthew’s	Readers: Anne Gillion, Brian Gilhooley and Cherry Stacey. Euch.Ministers: Maureen Bradley (L), Madaline Musilli (L), Stephen Duff (L), Clare Gordon (R), Philip Brown(R).			
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Readers: Colin Cox and Marie Wilkie. Euch.Ministers: Suzy Hollywood, Stuart Clark and Sister.			

Ministry Rota for 2nd November 2025– Solemnity of All Saints.				
Scripture	Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14	Psalm 24	I John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12a
St. Matthew’s	<u>Readers:</u> Susan Faulds, Kenny Ainsworth and Philip Brown. <u>Euch.Ministers:</u> Martin Dempster (L), Cherry Stacey (L), Laura Vernon (R), Clare Gordon (R), Sister(R).			
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<u>Readers:</u> Gretta McNeil and Helen Kennedy. <u>Euch.Ministers:</u> Linda Hefron, John Hefron and Agnes Starrs.			
The new rota for November and December for Our Lady of Mount Carmel is now available in the Church porch and online.				

Altar Lists of the Dead	As the Month of the Holy Souls begins on Saturday you are invited to gather the names of your deceased family and friends to add them to the Altar Lists of the Dead in each of our churches. Envelopes and lists are available in the Church porch for you to write and return your list, of course you may hand in your own list and envelope too. Any offering you are able to make will go to help families in need with their Christmas preparations.
The Sunday Club for our 1st Holy Communion children	We welcome the boys and girls who will prepare and celebrate the Sacrament of their first holy communion in May/June next year to Mass today. As they begin their parish preparation we are delighted to have them among us for this special time of preparation. Please keep the boys and girls, their families and our schools in your prayers.
Youth Office Events	Join Youth from across the cluster for their next monthly Youth Evening in St Joseph’s, Kilmarnock on Sunday 26th October. Open to all young people in P6-S4, and led by their S3 Junior Leaders, the evenings offer young people an opportunity to come together and to grow in friendship and faith through Mass, games, activities, pizza, and a talk. The theme this month is “Mary”. The evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm, following which they’ll continue in the Hall, finishing at 7.00 pm. See @rcdgyouth on social media for the other opportunities organised by the Diocesan Youth Service for our children and young people.
Annual Cemetery Mass	This annual event will take place on Saturday 1st November at 11am in Kilmarnock Cemetery on Grassyards Road. Please note this Mass replaces 10am Saturday Mass usually taking place in St Matthew’s. Please dress for the weather and a garden seat would be handy to bring along too!
	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 at Mass to mark this special occasion. Please use the link or QR code below to register your attendance. We look forward to seeing you then. Mrs Donna Shearer, Depute Head Teacher. https://forms.office.com/e/08LyWEVDy8
Freespace Group (A prayer space for all)	The Freespace Group will meet in St Matthews Church on Wednesday 29th October at 7.30pm. The Group meets once a month for quiet prayer and reflection and new members are always welcome. Contact gordon_mcgowne@hotmail.com with any enquiries.
U R Welcome Seniors Club	The next meeting (with Sugar craft modelling) is scheduled for Wednesday-5th November from 1.30pm till 3.30pm. Join them in the Norbert Room at OLMC-All seniors, friends and neighbours are most welcome!
OLMC St Vincent De Paul Afternoon Teas	Our parish SSVP at OLMC will be hosting another two afternoon teas in the Norbert Room at OLMC. The dates to choose from are 15th and 22nd November from 1pm until 3pm and anyone over 60 is invited to attend. Please indicate preferred date by adding your name to the list in the Norbert Room, by speaking to one of the SSVP members or by email to OLMC_SSVP@icloud.com. We look forward to seeing you there-great company, great chat, great fun and great food!
Aid to the Church In Need (CAN) “Red Wednesday”	On Wednesday 19th November, our Scottish cathedrals will join Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) in remembering Christians across the world who suffer for their faith. 80% of all religious persecution in the world is directed against Christians, and our brothers and sisters in Christ desperately need our prayers and support. Will you help us ‘break the silence on Christian persecution’? Come along to Evening Prayer in St Margaret’s Cathedral, Ayr at 7pm Contact scotland@acnuk.org or call the office at 01698 337 470.
Mount Carmel Primary School Christmas Fayre	You are invited to join the children, staff and families to the Mount Carmel Primary School Christmas Fayre in the school on Friday 28th November from 6.30pm. Donations for the Tombola/bottle stall would be gratefully received-hand into school or Marion will gladly take the form you at Church (you can catch her in the Church stall. The school children will also sell raffle tickets in the week’s before at the back of Church.
Foodbank Information	St Matthew’s Foodbank are short of bags-if you could hand your used bags in they’d appreciate it very much. In need of support from the Foodbank at Our Lady of Mount Carmel or St Matthew’s Churches? Telephone 01563 574000 to try to book an appointment (before 12noon to be sure) so they can be prepared to assist you. The Foodbank at OLMC is on Monday evenings at the Church (SSVP front entrance) from 7.30pm till 8.15pm. At St Matthew’s the Foodbank is on Tuesdays and Thursday from 3.30pm till 5.30pm.
Thank you.	Thanks to all who have supported fund raising for the Ecuador Trust in the month of the missions. The Trustess pass on a great big thank you for all your support!