

## St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

**Dedication of the Lateran Basilica** Sunday 9th November 2025 (Remembrance Sunday)

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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Parish office email and for newsletter items (by 10 am Thursday): kilmarnock.stjoseph@rcdg.org.uk

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 9th - 16th NOVEMBER 2025

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

Date	Time		Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie
Saturday 8th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	,
Sunday 9th	I I.00 am	<b>Mass</b> for those who have died since last November	Faithful Departed/
•	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.15 pm	Choir Practice in St Joseph's Church	
Monday 10th	10.00 am	Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	Robbie Hollywood (RIP) and Faithful Departed /
,	10.30 - 10.45 ar	m Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	, , , , , ,
Tuesday 11th	10.00 am	Mass	Faithful Departed/ Faithful Departed
,	11.00 – 1.00 pm	. Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	12.00 noon	Organ Recital by Andrew Forbes (of Glasgo	w Cathedral)
Wednesday 12th	10.00 am	Mass	Faithful Departed 7 Faithful Departed
	After Mass	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	10.30 am	Parish Finance Committee meeting in St Jos	eph's house
Thursday 13th	6.00 pm	Mass	Faithful Departed / Faithful Departed
	6.30 pm	<b>RCIA</b> in St Joseph's House	
Friday 14th	10.00 am	Mass	Faithful Departed / Faithful Departed
Saturday 15th	5.30 – 5.45 pm.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ Faithful Departed
Sunday 16th	I I.00 am	<u>M</u> ass	Faithful Departed / Faithful Departed
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee 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	



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

**CLERGY CHANGES:** Fr Jim Hayes will be leaving Kilmarnock after Masses on Sunday 23rd November to take up an appointment as Parish Priest of St Winin's, Kilwinning. At the same time, Fr Stephen and Fr Keyin will become the Parish Priest and Assistant Priest to all three Kilmarnock parishes. The Sunday Mass times in the three parishes will remain the same. Over the coming months, it will be important to reflect as a Deanery on our pastoral vision for the future as the priestly resource is shared among an increasing number of communities. Please pray for all of the priests involved in these changes at this time.

WELCOME TO FR EDDIE McGHEE: Fr Eddie will celebrate the 6 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 8th November while Fr Kevin is on leave and Fr Stephen is attending a Seminary Applicants Meeting.

**NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS:** 

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 prove for and please it in the backet begin to be proved. 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.

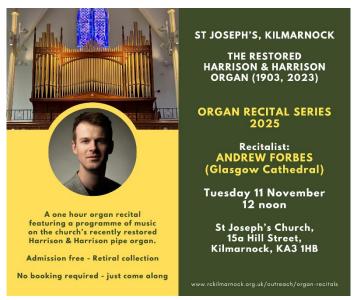
Hall bookings: Margaret McGrath (01563 542130). Safeguarding co-ordinator: Margaret McGrath (01563 542130) Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals: In emergencies ask hospital staff to page on-call priest chaplain. For regular visiting: Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk or 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: £1,464.35. Building Fund: £30. Mission Sunday: £25. SCES: £15. Ecuador Trust: £200. Thank you.





DIOCESAN MASS FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN EDUCATION: The annual Mass for Those Involved in Education will be celebrated in St Margaret's Cathedral, John Street, Ayr on Wednesday 26th November at 6.30 pm. All staff who teach and work in our schools are warmly invited, including those who have retired. The faithful of the diocese, especially school pupils, are welcome to join in the Mass. After Mass, there will be a light buffet in the hall and an opportunity to socialise.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH: Saturday 22 November 2025 from 11.30am to 3pm in St Matthews Hall, Grassyards Rd, Kilmarnock.

Profits on the day going to SHS – Stuart's Haematoma Support, <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/IEWKv8UAV9/">https://www.facebook.com/share/IEWKv8UAV9/</a> to help support survivors of Haematomas and their families/loved ones.

Free entry, with lots of different crafters selling some amazing goods on the day, bake sales, a tombola stand and raffle stall. PLUS there will be a Sing-Along with Santa from Ipm in his Grotto with a little take home gift for the children too. Children can also bring along their letters for Santa and his elves will make sure they get to his office at the North Pole just in time for his deliveries on Christmas day!

**ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY CHRISTMAS FAYRE:** Saturday 29th November, II – I pm. If you are able to contribute donations towards the bottle and chocolate stalls, the tombola and raffle, they will be gratefully received. There is a box in the porch for donations. Thank you.

HILLHOUSE CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL FOR CHILDREN: Last year Hillhouse gave 3,270 presents to 1,635 young people in East Ayrshire aged 16 and under by providing Christmas gifts to those most in need. When you are buying Christmas presents, can you please remember the Hillhouse outreach?



- toys for children aged 7-16 years,
- pyjamas for 0 16 year olds,
- boxer shorts and socks for teenage boys,
- toiletries for teenage girls (e.g. perfume, deodorant and make up)
- toiletries for teenage boys (e.g. shower gel, after shave, deodorant).

Please donate items in the box in the porch unwrapped before the beginning of December.

**HILLHOUSE CHRISTMAS FAYRE:** In St Joseph's Hall after II am Mass on Sunday 30th November. All are welcome.

**UR WELCOME CLUB:** At Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in the Norbert Room, there will be a St Andrew's Day

celebration with Scottish songs on Wednesday 26th November from 1.30 - 3 pm. All are welcome.

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.

**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.

**RCIA:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) 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 13th November, at 6.30 pm in the parish house.

MASS FOR COP30 CLIMATE SUMMIT: Monday 10th November at 1pm. Hosted by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland's Care of Creation Office and supported by Justice & Peace Scotland, SCIAF, and SCES, this Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Nolan in St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, to pray for

the success of the COP30 climate summit in Brazil. After Mass, join us for refreshments at 2pm in Eyre Hall and a live video update from SCIAF's Ben Wilson, reporting from COP30. All are welcome.

are and what we can learn from them.

YOUTH EVENING (P6 to S4): The next Youth Evening for young people aged P6-S4 will take place at St Joseph's Church on Sunday 16th November, beginning with Mass at 5 pm and followed with games, a talk, activities, pizza and social time in the church hall. The topic will be the Saints – who they

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.

**YOUTH (P6-S4) EVENINGS:** The next monthly Cluster Youth Evening for young people in P6-S4 takes place in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock **next Sunday**, 16<sup>th</sup> November. The next evening will reflect on 'The Saints: Who are they and why do they matter?'. Young people are invited to come dressed up as their favourite saint with a prize for the best costume. The evening runs from 5.00 – 7.00 pm, beginning with Mass at 5.00 pm. See you there!

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 1 Iam. 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, Depute 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).

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.

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.

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.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- Organ Recital by Andrew Forbes Tuesday 11th November, 12.00 pm Youth Evening Sunday 16th November, 5.00 pm
- St Joseph's Academy, 70th Anniversary Saturday 22nd November, 11 am
- St Matthew's Church Christmas Fayre Sat 22nd November, II.30 am 3 pm
- St Joseph's Academy Christmas Fayre Sat 29th November, II am I pm
- Hillhouse Christmas Fayre Sun 30th November, 12 noon in St Joseph's Church hall

ANNUAL CEMETERY MASS: Last Saturday, people from our parish communities gathered in Kilmarnock Cemetery to pray for those who are buried there during this month of the Holy Souls.







# LAUNCH OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EVANGELISATION

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has established a new Office of Communications and Evangelisation to support our common efforts in proclaiming the Gospel and witnessing to the life of the Church in our nation.

The Office will work to:

- Manage and distribute statements for the Bishops' Conference
- · Share the Good News of the Gospel confidently and clearly
- Highlight the positive impact of Catholic life across Scotland
- Strengthen communication and collaboration across dioceses, parishes, schools, religious communities and lay apostolates
- Engage constructively with secular media and public discourse
- Support and develop digital evangelisation initiatives at a national level

As part of this mission, Being Catholic TV will now serve as the official digital platform of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. It will provide video content, livestreamed events, features from around the country, and faith formation resources to assist our parish communities in their work of evangelisation and outreach. To access these resources, visit beingcatholic.org or sign-up to the BCTV social channels.

The Bishops have appointed Fr Michael Kane as Director of this new Office. He will be supported by a small team of staff who will coordinate national communications, distribute official statements, and assist with the wider evangelising mission of the Church.

Commenting on the establishment of the Office, Bishop John Keenan, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, said: "We're thrilled at the launch of this new office and we hope everyone across the Church will be involved in its work. It's good for us to be positive about our message, and to pass-on and share our Good News to others. There is so much happening across Scotland to build up the family of faith, and this office will help us tell that story."

Bishop Frank Dougan, with episcopal responsibility for Communications, added: "We are launching this new initiative because evangelisation is at the heart of the Church's mission. We are called to be missionaries, using every means available to reach everyone we can — including the opportunities offered by digital media."

### How Clergy Can Support This Work

We ask that you:

- Let people know about this new office via your website or social channels
- Help populate our digital output by sharing your parish good news stories with the new office by sending in your contributions to media@bcos.org.uk
- Consider how digital media can further your local evangelisation efforts
- Encourage parishioners to engage with Being Catholic TV and the resources it provides
- Make use of materials and announcements circulated by the Office when appropriate

We commend this new initiative to your prayers, and we ask the intercession of Our Lady, Star of Evangelisation, that our work may bear fruit in drawing hearts to Christ.

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK										
	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers			
Saturday 8 Nov 6 pm	K McGhee, H Rameckers, A Davidson	G Rankin, L Rankin, C Power, Sr Juliet, Sr Mabel	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	M McGrath			
Sunday 9 Nov 11 am	P Nicholson, G Smith, T Murphy	L Dorrian, I Love, H Matthews, R Murphy, A Neil	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo, Jason, Kamili	-	-	Paul, Libby	M McGrath			
Saturday 15 Nov 6 pm	E Heron, A Davidson, F Donachie	A Gorman, K McGhee, M McGrath, M Steele, C Power	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Matthews			
Sunday 16 Nov 11 am	G McGee, F McCann, H Matthews	J Shields, M Andrew, P Dorrian, D Custodio, M Walker	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo, Jason, Kamili	Anne & Mike Timmons	Anne & Lucie Dorrian	Eileen, Devlin	H Matthews			



# GALLOWAY YOUTH NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025



GALLOWAY YOUTH COMES TO THE ST MATTHEW'S ACADEMY CLUSTER!: On Sunday 26th October young people from across the St Matthew's Academy cluster (North Ayrshire) gathered for the launch of our monthly Youth Evenings in North Ayrshire in St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan. The launch event saw 16 young people gather from across the cluster in spite of the poor weather. The group were supported by five new adult leaders from across North Ayrshire, and led by our new Junior Leaders from St Matthew's Academy. During the course of the evening, the young people enjoyed exploring the question of Mary and her significance in their lives, as well as taking part in a wide range of different games and activities — some of our favourites, and a few new ones introduced by our new Junior Leaders. The next Youth Evenings take place on Sunday 16th November in all four clusters.







() Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

THE SAINTS: WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THEM?: The next monthly Youth Evenings take place in all four clusters on Sunday 16th November. This month, young people will explore the theme of The Saints and their importance in our lives. Young people are invited to come dressed as their favourite saint, with a prize available for the best costume (please note, only costumes themed around the Saints are permitted). We'll have our usual selection of games and activities led by our Junior Leaders centred around the theme of the Saints. The evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm before continuing in the hall at 5.30 pm in all four clsuters. Haven't been to a Youth Evening before? Fill in a Consent Form online, go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk. There is no charge to take part in the Youth Evenings.

**ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT:** Please note that the Advent Youth Retreat, taking place from 28th -30th November is now fully booked. We look forward to welcoming the 32 young people who have registered to take part along – don't worry if you haven't managed to register for this year, we'll be repeating the retreat at a similar time next year. Keep an eye out in Lent for dates and early-bird registration.

**GENERATION HOPE:** Generation Hope is now in its forth year. Founded with a vision of helping young people in \$1-\$3 encounter Christ through time spent with friends in different outdoor activities, times of faith witness, prayer, Mass, and reflections. The week long summer camps have grown and gone from strength to strength – and now you can take part too if you are a Catholic and attend a non-Catholic secondary school. If you would be interested in attending camp alongside young

people from all four Diocesan Catholic Secondary schools register your interest on our website: youth.rcdg.org.uk by Sunday 30th November. Subject to sufficient interest being received, we hope to work with the Education Authorities to seek permission to bring you to camp next year as part of the Galloway Youth group.

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk

CHRISTMAS YOUTH DAY – SAVE THE DATE: Our Christmas Youth Day for P6-S4 takes place on Saturday 10th January from 11.00 am – 4.00 pm in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock. Join us for a fantastic day of games, activities, talks and food as we gather to celebrate Christmas as Galloway Youth. Registration opens in late November.

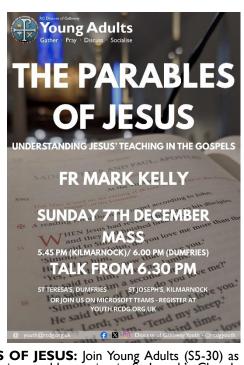
ADULT LEADERS - WE NEED YOU: Our Youth Evenings have grown significantly in recent months in all four clusters, with 63 young people taking part in October, supported by 13 adult leaders with almost 30 now involved across the Diocese. To continue to support the running and growth of these groups particularly in St Andrew's Deanery (Dumfries and Galloway) we need more adult leaders. What does an adult leader do? Our adult leaders are responsible for supervision, safeguarding, and cooking the pizza. You don't have to prepare anything in advance, and you don't have to run anything on the night – all of this is done by our S3 Junior Leaders supported by the Youth Office team. No experience is necessary, and full Safeguarding Training will be provided. All that we need you to do is to attend to supervise and to cook. Evenings normally take place from 5.00-7.00 pm on the third Sunday of each month. Could you help? Email youth@rcdg.org.uk for details and to register.



## **YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30)**







**CAMINO DE SANTIAGO:** Over 5 days in October, II young adults from the Diocese walked the final II5km of the Camino de Santiago. All of the group who set out walked through heat, blisters, and at times injury to complete the distance and walk into the Cathedral Square on Friday. It was a transformational and once in a lifetime experience for many of the group who took part. You can read all about it in the December edition of the Galloway Diocese News, or join us for an evening of presentation and discussion as the Young Adults themselves share their story.

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO: HEAR THEIR STORY: Join our Diocesan Young Adults for an evening of presentation and discussion they share their experience of walking the Camino de Santiago. The evening takes place on Friday 12th December at 7.00 pm in St Joseph's Church Hall, Kilmarnock. There's no charge for the evening, but donations towards the Young Adults' pilgrimage fund are welcome. There will also be a bar and light food available.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS: Join Young Adults (S5-30) as they gather for their monthly evening in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock and St Teresa's Church, Dumfries. This month they'll be joined by Fr Mark Kelly who'll be speaking on 'The Parables of Jesus: Understanding Jesus' teaching in the Gospels. Whether you're a regular or this would be your first time all are welcome to come along and take part. If you live outside of East Ayrshire or Dumfries you can now also join online via Microsoft Teams just to go youth.rcdg.org.uk and click on 'Young Adults' to register and we'll send you a link each month to take part.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – SAVE THE DATE: The Young Adults Christmas Dinner will take place in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock on Sunday 11th January. More details and registration opens soon, but save the date and come and join us. There's no charge for this event.

## SUPPORT OUR WORK

These products are available to everyone — not just those who've attended events or are youth/ young adults themselves — and by buying Youth Office products you're helping support our work.



GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS: with some fantastic stocking filers from the Youth Office! We've a range of items on sale from our online store including our 2026 Youth Office calendar, featuring a great selection of photos from our events in 2025, as well as a full calendar of dates for Youth and Young Adults events for 2026. These products are available to anyone – not just those who've attended events – and by buying Youth Office products you're helping support our work.

BUY OUR CHRISTMAS CARD: available now, show your support for Youth ministry in Galloway by sending your friends and family a Youth Office

Galloway by sending your friends and family a Youth Office Christmas Card this year. Cards are £1 each, or 6 for £5 with 41p from each card going towards supporting our work.

JOIN THE 200 CLUB: For only £5 per month you can join the Youth Office's 200 Club and be in with a chance to winning monthly

cash prizes: 20%, 10% and  $2 \times 5\%$  of that month's draw. Join the growing number of people from across the Diocese and beyond who are helping support our work, and taking home cash prizes at the same time. For details, and to register, go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk/200-club or email us for a registration form.