



# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The First Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 30th November 2025

St Joseph's – Our Lady of Mount Carmel – St Matthew's  
Catholic Parishes, Kilmarnock

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

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

**Pastoral Assistants:** Sisters Mary Rose Confidence, Mary Mabel and Marilyn Juliet (ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk)

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

Web: [www.rckilmarnock.org.uk](http://www.rckilmarnock.org.uk)

Parishes of the R C Diocese of Galloway ([www.rcdg.org.uk](http://www.rcdg.org.uk)). Charity number SC010576. ONE LICENCE #A-632895.

## LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER – 7th DECEMBER 2025

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
<b>Saturday 29th</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Faithful Departed
<b>Sunday 30th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Faithful Departed
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	People of the Parishes
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
6.15 pm	St Joseph's	Choir Practice	
<b>Monday 1st</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass on the Solemnity of St Andrew	Josephine, Michael & Msgr Edward Traynor (Ann)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession	
<b>Tuesday 2nd</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Lewis Orr (Ann)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	OLMC	Requiem Mass for Lynn Callaghan, RIP	Lynn Callaghan (RIP)
11.00 – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Café	
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	Deanery Pastoral Council	
<b>Wednesday 3rd</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Neil Rieley (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession	
<b>Thursday 4th</b>			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Pauline Robb (Ann) & Jim Steele (RIP)
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA in St Joseph's Presbytery	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA in the Norbert Room	
<b>Friday 5th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Margaret Fulton (RIP)
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass with Mount Carmel Primary School	Special Intention
After Mass	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
<b>Saturday 6th</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Roy McCluskey (RIP)
<b>Sunday 7th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	People of the Parishes
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	People of the Parishes
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	People of the Parishes
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
2.00 – 3.30 pm	St Joseph's	Children's Christmas Party	
5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Diocesan Young Adults Mass & Gathering	Galloway Youth
6.15 pm	St Joseph's	Choir Practice	

St Joseph's 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.

## PASTORAL CARE OF THE PARISHES

From today, Fr Stephen McGrattan and Fr Kevin Rennie will have pastoral care for the three parish communities in Kilmarnock. Although we are not strangers to many of you, it will take time for us to get to know each other better and to learn more about the life of the communities. Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours.

On Monday 1st December, to find out more about the structures and groups within the parishes, Fr Stephen will meet with those who have participated in the Parish Pastoral Council meetings in Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Matthew's parishes.

Sunday Mass times will remain the same. The weekday liturgy schedule will be published in the newsletter. We will move towards a more settled weekday schedule during the coming weeks.

Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin will be resident at St Joseph's Presbytery, and the Parish Office will be based there. Please direct telephone calls to 01563 521832. By email, Fr Stephen can be reached on [stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk), Fr Kevin on [kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk), and the new parish office address (covering all three parishes) is [rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk).

## GENERAL NOTICES

**DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The Deanery Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday 2nd December at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's Church Hall. This meeting will focus on the question of the importance of the Eucharist in our lives.

**ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE:** In preparation for Christmas, the Kilmarnock Parishes Penitential Service will be celebrated on Tuesday 9th December at 7.00 pm in St Joseph's Church, where a number of priests will be available for Confession. As we prepare for Christmas it can be easy to lose sight of Christ among the busyness and preparations, this is an important opportunity to seek to restore our relationship with Christ by seeking forgiveness for our sins.

**PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS:** This year, the "Advent Extra" magazine takes the form of "Praying with the Psalms" which offers a three-minute daily devotion based on the Psalms for the days of Advent and Christmas. There should be sufficient copies for one to be taken per household. Please collect these after mass this weekend.

**91ST AYRSHIRE ST JOSEPH'S SCOUT GROUP CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY:** The 91st Ayrshire (St Joseph's) Scout Group will be delivering Christmas cards within the Kilmarnock town area, Hurlford and Crookedholm only. All cards must be correctly addressed to ensure delivery. The cost is 50 pence per card. Collection points are Beaver, Cub and Scout gatherings on 3rd and 4th December; then at all Masses at St Joseph's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Matthew's Churches on 6th and 7th December. Deliveries will take place over the weekend of 13th/14th December. This fundraising effort is very important for the success of our Scout Group throughout the year. Thank you for your support.

**CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS:** A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday 17th December at 7.00 pm, accompanied by the Diocesan Choir. The service provides an opportunity to come together as a diocesan community to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

**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.

**ST ANDREW'S PRIMARY & EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE CHRISTMAS FAIRE:** The St Andrew's Primary & ECC Christmas Fayre takes place on Friday 5th December from 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm in the school. Please come along and support one of our local primary schools.

**CAROLS AT THE CROSS:** The annual carol singing service, organised by the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches and accompanied by the Salvation Army brass band, will take place outside the Burns Mall on Saturday 20th December at 11 am, followed by hot drinks in the New Laigh Kirk at 12 noon. Please come along and share the real meaning of Christmas in the town centre.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** These will be published for the three parishes in next weekend's newsletter.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** When asking for a Mass to be offered, please indicate the parish you would prefer it to be offered in. Every effort will be made to offer the Mass in your preferred parish and on your preferred date, but this is not always possible. Where a Mass is offered for someone who is living, this will be listed as 'Special Intention' rather than listing their name to respect the privacy of the individual.

**FR JOHN KINSLER, RIP:** The Requiem Mass for Fr John Kinsler will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Wednesday 10th November at 12 noon. The other associated liturgies are detailed below.

**Rev Fr John Kinsler, RIP**  
Funeral Arrangements

Rev Fr John Kinsler's mortal remains will be received into **St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Tuesday 9th December at 5.00 pm.**  
Bishop Frank will then offer his Requiem Mass on **Wednesday 10th December at 12.00 pm.**  
Thereafter, his mortal remains will be interred at **Newmilns Cemetery at 2.30 pm.**  
Fr John's Vigil Reception and Requiem Mass will be livestreamed on our Diocesan YouTube channel. You are invited to gather in the Cathedral or to follow online.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.  
Our Lady, Queen of priests, pray for him.*

RC Diocese of Galloway - SC010576      [www.rcdg.org.uk](http://www.rcdg.org.uk)      RC Diocese of Galloway - @rcdgalloway

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

**REQUIESCANT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers the souls of Mark Dignon and Isabella Harper who died recently. Mark's Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 8th December at 10.00 am, followed by a committal service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium at 11.30 am. Isabella's Requiem Mass will take place on 12th December in St Joseph's at 10 am followed by a committal service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium at 11.30 am. May they rest in peace.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** will take place on Sunday 7th December from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm. All children from our parishes are invited to come along for games and snacks, as well as a visit from Santa himself!

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE:** A Carol Service will take place in the church on Monday 15th December at 1.00 pm followed by tea coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards.

**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 4th December, at 6.30 pm in the parish house.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** Next Sunday, 7th December, parents/carers and their children will 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 soup and crusty bread will be provided for all those participating.

Because of the need to use different areas of the hall, those taking part in the Sunday teas are kindly asked to make the hall available by 12.30 pm next Sunday.

**FUNDRAISING RAFFLE FOR SCOUTS, CUBS AND BEAVERS:** To help raise some funds for the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, they have organised a Christmas raffle. Tickets will be on sale on the weekend of 6th-7th December after Masses.



**ACADEMY OF SACRED MUSIC:** On Sunday 14th December, Gaudete Sunday and the Third Sunday of Advent, the Academy of Sacred Music will sing at the 11 am Mass. The Academy of Sacred Music provides young people with an environment in which they can make the most of their musical and other gifts. Committed to the pursuit of excellence, The Academy offers specialist programmes for young people, aged between 5 and 25, that draw out their talent and provide a rich source of inspiration for their personal lives and careers.

It will be a privilege to host the Academy at St Joseph's on 14th December.

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers the soul of Lynn Callaghan who died recently. Lynn's Requiem Mass will take place in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on Tuesday 2nd December at 10.00 am, followed by an interment in Kilmarnock Cemetery at 11.15 am. May she rest in peace.

**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 on Thursday 4th December, at 7.00 pm in the Norbert Room.

**UR WELCOME:** The Christmas party takes place on Wednesday 17th December from 1.30 – 3.30 pm in the Norbert Room. And, of course, you are welcome!

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** Next Sunday, 7th December, after Mass, the children preparing for First Holy Communion should stay for the "I Belong" lesson in the Norbert Room.

**HILLHOUSE CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL FOR CHILDREN:** Last year Hillhouse gave 3270 presents to 1635 young people in East Ayrshire aged 16 and under. They would be delighted to receive donations of brand new and unwrapped pyjamas, toys, and toiletries. Please donate items in the box in the porch. Many thanks for your support.

## ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers the soul of Dan Cassidy who died recently. Dan's Funeral Service will be offered on Monday 15th December at 2.30 pm, following which he will be interred in Grassyards Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** Next Sunday, 7th December, after Mass, the children preparing for First Holy Communion should stay for the "I Belong" lesson in the church hall.

**COMMUNITY LUNCH:** Join the group on Sunday 14th November for the regular community lunch at 12.45pm in St Matthew's Hall. The meal is free and all are welcome.

## MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

**YOUNG ADULTS EVENING:** The next Diocesan Young Adults evening takes place next Sunday when Fr Mark Kelly will be speaking on the Parables of Jesus. The evening begins with Mass at 5.45 pm, followed by a talk to both the northern and southern groups from 6.30 pm.

**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](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).**

**YOUTH OFFICE CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** The Youth Office is selling a range of Christmas gifts to raise funds to support their ministry to young people in Galloway. Samples of their products: a 2026 Calendar featuring pictures from all of their events this year (£10), Mugs (£8), Pens (£4) and Christmas Cards (£1/ 6 for £5) will be available shortly in all parishes along with an order form to order any of their products. Alternatively, you can shop online: <https://youth.rcdg.org.uk/shop> for collection from your parish.

**YOUTH (P6-S4) EVENING:** The next Cluster Youth Evening takes place on Sunday 21st December, beginning with Mass at 5.00 pm. The evening will focus on the theme of Christmas as we reflect on the meaning and importance of Christ's Nativity. New members welcome! Complete a parental consent form online: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk) and click on 'Youth (P6-S4)'.

**DIOCESAN YOUTH CHRISTMAS GATHERING:** Join with Youth (P6-S4) from across the Diocese as we celebrate Christmas at St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, on Saturday 10th January. We'll have a great selection of our favourite games and activities, as well as talks, pizza, sweets and lots of fun! The day is completely free of charge, just sign up online so we know you're coming! Go to: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).

**DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Celebrate Christmas with Young Adults (S5-30) from across the Diocese over a fantastic Christmas Dinner on Sunday 11th January. All welcome, the meal is free of charge – just sign up online so we know you're coming! Go to: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).

**SANTIAGO: HEAR THEIR STORY (EVENT FOR ALL):** On Friday 12th December at 7.00 pm in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, Young Adults who took part in the Camino de Santiago will be speaking about their experiences. They'll be sharing photos, stories, and taking questions about why it was so significant for all of those who took part. The evening is free of charge, but the bar will be open and donations are welcome towards the Young Adults' pilgrimage fund.



## CAMINO DE SANTIAGO HEAR THEIR STORY!

**FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER - 7.00 PM  
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL,  
KILMARNOCK  
FREE ENTRY**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- St Andrew's Primary Christmas Fayre – Friday 5th December, 6.00–8.00 pm (St Joseph's Academy)
  - I Belong Sunday – Sunday 7th December, After Mass (All Parishes)
  - Children's Christmas Party – Sunday 7th December, 2.00 – 3.30 pm (St Joseph's)
- Kilmarnock Parishes Advent Penance Service – Tuesday 9th December, 7.00 pm (St Joseph's)
  - Carol Service – Monday 15th December, 1.00 pm (St Joseph's)
- U R Welcome Christmas Party – Wednesday 17th December (Our Lady of Mount Carmel)
  - Altar Server's Christmas Panto Trip – Saturday 27th December
- Diocesan Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas – Wednesday 18th December, 7.30 pm (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)
  - Senior Parishioners Christmas Dinner – Sunday 11th January, 12.00 – 3.00 pm (St Joseph's)
  - Diocesan Youth Christmas Day – Saturday 10th January, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm (St Joseph's)
    - Diocesan Young Adults Christmas Dinner – Sunday 11th January (St Joseph's)

## MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers (1st, 2nd, Intercessions)	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
<b>Saturday 29 Nov</b> St Joseph's 6 pm	M McGrath, F Donachie, A Davidson	L Rankin, K McGhee, M Steele, C Power, Sr Juliet	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Rameckers
<b>Sunday 30 Nov</b> St Matthew's 9.30 am	Veronica Kelly, Philip Brown, Margaret Merrick	R: Sr, A Gillion, L: S Duff, M Dempster, M Thomson					
<b>Sunday 30 Nov</b> St Joseph's 11 am	L Hand, M Cunningham, R Doak	F McCann, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo, Jason, Kamili	-	-	Paul, Libby	H Rameckers
<b>Sunday 30 Nov</b> OLMC 11.30 am	Colette Lamberth, Charlie Harper, Charlie Harper	Marie Urquhart, Josephine McCrossan, Stuart Clark					
<b>Saturday 6 Dec</b> St Joseph's 6 pm	M Kirk, E Heron, G McIntyre	J Lennon, F Donachie, M McGrath, A Gorman, K McGhee	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	M McGrath
<b>Sunday 7 Dec</b> St Matthew's 9.30 am	Fran Boyle, Gerry Coyle, Catherine Brown	R: L Vernon, C Gordon, L: N McKenna, F Stacey, M Musilli					
<b>Sunday 7 Dec</b> St Joseph's 11 am	L Hand, T Murphy, P Nicholson	H Matthews, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love	Ryan, Marilyn, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo, Jason, Kamili	E Cunningham, L Heron	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Eileen, Devlin	M McGrath
<b>Sunday 7 Dec</b> OLMC 11.30 am	Owen Jones, Kathleen Jones, Kathleen Jones	Charlie Harper, Colette Lamberth, Marie Urquhart					

### Collections

St Joseph's	<b>Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,201.81. SCES: £791.38.</b> <b>Building Fund: £10.</b>
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<b>Weekly collection: £320.82. SCES: £238.25.</b>
St Matthew's	<b>Weekly collection: £446.77. SCES: £274.67. Community Box: £146.10. SSVP Box: £94.30.</b>

Thank you for generously supporting our parishes.

### Useful Contacts

	Hall bookings	Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators
St Joseph's	Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)	Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel		
St Matthew's	Margaret Merrick (07765 715798)	
<b>Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals:</b> In emergencies ask hospital staff to page on-call priest chaplain. For regular visiting: Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan ( <a href="mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk">stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk</a> or 01563 521832) Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri ( <a href="mailto:benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk">benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk</a> or 01655 882145)		
<b>St Andrew's Primary:</b> 01563 549549 <b>Mount Carmel Primary:</b> 01563 525897 <b>St Joseph's Academy:</b> 01563 526144		

### Parish Office & Presbytery Contact Details:

St Joseph's Presbytery, 15a Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB – Telephone: 01563 521832

### Convent Contact Details

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mount Carmel Convent, 14 Kirkton Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 2DF  
Telephone: 01563 523822 • Email: [ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk)

## SUPPORT OUR PARISHES

You can now support our parishes by giving online, just scan the QR code to donate or go to our website and click the link.

**St Joseph's**



**Our Lady of Mount Carmel**



**St Matthew's**

