



# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 7th December 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 7th – 14th DECEMBER 2025

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
<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	
<b>Monday 8th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for Mark Dignon, RIP	Mark Dignon (RIP)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession	
<b>Tuesday 9th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	John McCulloch (Ann)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
11.00 – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Café	
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Kilmarnock Parishes Penance Service	
<b>Wednesday 10th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Molly Brailsford (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
12.00 pm		Requiem Mass for Fr John Kinsler, RIP	(St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)
<b>Thursday 11th</b>			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	John McCann (Ann)
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA in St Joseph's Presbytery	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA in the Norbert Room	
<b>Friday 12th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for Isabella Harper, RIP	Isabella Harper (RIP)
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Camino de Santiago: Hear Their Story (Open to all)	
<b>Saturday 13th</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Nancy McCloskey (Ann)
<b>Sunday 14th</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 with the Academy of Sacred Music	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	
12.45 pm	St Matthew's	Community Lunch	
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.



# RC KILMARNOCK

St Joseph's - Our Lady of Mount Carmel - St Matthew's

## PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

St Joseph's - Tuesday 9th December, 7.00 pm

#### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

St Joseph's  
Sunday 7th, 2.00 pm

#### CAROL SERVICE

St Joseph's  
Monday 15th, 1.00 pm

#### CAROLS BY CANDLIGHT

Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
Sunday 14th, 7.00 pm

#### OUR WELCOME CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
Wednesday 17th, 1.30 pm

## CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

Our Lady of Mount Carmel - 5.00 pm

St Matthew's - 7.00 pm

St Joseph's - 9.00 pm

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

St Matthew's - 10.00 am

St Joseph's - 11.00 am



## GENERAL NOTICES

**MASSES THIS WEEK:** This week, because of in-service training commitments, there will be one Mass on weekdays in Kilmarnock – please see the Mass schedule for details.

Moving forward, the regular weekday pattern of Masses will be:

**Monday:** St Joseph's and St Matthew's at 10 am

**Tuesday:** St Joseph's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel at 10 am

**Wednesday:** St Joseph's and St Matthew's at 10 am

**Thursday:** St Joseph's at 6 pm

**Friday:** St Joseph's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel at 10 am.

The schedule will be subject to change, depending on pastoral needs.

**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.

**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.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Our three parishes share a common website, [rckilmarnock.org.uk](http://rckilmarnock.org.uk). Following Monday evening's meeting with PPC representatives from St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, from Monday the three parishes will move to having a common presence on social media. Recognising the important history that is captured on each of the existing pages, the three existing pages will be retained as archives, with all new content going forward being posted to Facebook and X at: RC Kilmarnock. Please like and share our new pages. Please note that it is not possible to automatically move followers to our new page: to keep receiving news through social media you must 'Like' our new page.

**YOUTUBE:** The separate YouTube channels for the parishes will come together on a new channel: RC Kilmarnock from Monday. If you are already 'Subscribed' to either YouTube channel your subscription will be moved over to the new common channel. Each weekday, Mass will be livestreamed from one of our three parishes, with all three Sunday Masses continuing to be livestreamed.

**APPEAL FOR WRITERS OF THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:** At Mass, the Prayer of the Faithful (also known as Bidding Prayers or the Universal Prayer) is the intercession before God, after the Creed, which responds to the Word of God the faithful has received. Fr Stephen invites those from all parishes who would be interested in preparing/writing these prayers for Sunday Mass to contact him to extend the group of four from St Joseph's who already prepare the prayers.

## 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 Crookedholt 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.

**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, followed by an interment in Newmilns Cemetery at 2.30 pm. His mortal remains will be received to the Cathedral on Tuesday 9th November at 5 pm.

## 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.

**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.

**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.

**CATHOLIC FAMILIES FOR LIFE:** Newsletter from the National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life - latest version can be found at [www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk](http://www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk).

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

**REQUIESCANT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers the souls of Mark Dignon, Isabella Harper, and Pauline Clarke 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. Pauline's arrangements will be announced in due course. May they rest in peace.

**FR JOHN MCCLUSKEY MHM:** Please remember in your prayers the eternal repose of the soul of Fr John McCluskey, a son of St Joseph's, who was a Mill Hill Missionary priest whose funeral liturgies took place this week. Requiescat in pace.

**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 St Joseph's church on Monday 15th December at 1.00 pm followed by tea coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** This 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:** Next 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.

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT:** On Sunday 14th December, from 5-6.30 pm, there will be a time of quiet reflection in Our Lady of Mount Carmel church lit by candles, followed by a service of Carols by candlelight from 7.00 - 8.00 pm.

**U R 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:** This Sunday, 7th December, after Mass, the children preparing for First Holy Communion should stay for the "I Belong" Sunday Club 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 2.00 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" Sunday Club in the church hall.

**COMMUNITY LUNCH:** Join the group on Sunday 14th November for the regular community lunch at 12.45 pm 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 tonight 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).



**CAMINO DE SANTIAGO  
HEAR THEIR  
STORY!**

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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, 1.30 pm (Our Lady of Mount Carmel)
- Diocesan Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas – Wednesday 18th December, 7.30 pm (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)
  - Altar Server's Christmas Panto Trip – Saturday 27th December
- 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 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	<b>R:</b> L Vernon, C Gordon, <b>L:</b> N McKenna, F Stacey, M Musilli	Luca, David, Rebecca				M McGrath
<b>Sunday 7 Dec</b> St Joseph's 11 am	L Hand, T Murphy, P Nicholson	H Matthews, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorian, I Love	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Marilyn, Jason, Kamili, Bianca	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	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	S Hollywood	Marion	Irene Roy, Marie Wilkie	M McGrath
<b>Saturday 13 Dec</b> St Joseph's 6 pm	K McGhee, H Rameckers, M McGrath	Sr Mabel, C Power, C McGowan, F Donachie, J Lennon	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Matthews
<b>Sunday 14 Dec</b> St Matthew's 9.30 am	Margaret Merrick, Kenny Ainsworth, Caron Bias	<b>R:</b> C Brown, M Gordon <b>L:</b> Sr, C Stacey, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca				H Matthews
<b>Sunday 14 Dec</b> St Joseph's 11 am	G Smith, H Matthews, G McGee	F McCann, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Marilyn, Jason, Kamili, Bianca	Alice Murphy	Anne & Lucie Dorrian	Theresa, Alan	H Matthews
<b>Sunday 14 Dec</b> OLMC 11.30 am	Marion Smith, Donna Shearer, Donna Shearer	John Hefron, Linda Hefron, Luke Shearer	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	S Hollywood	Maria	Alice Brown, Martin Duffy	H Matthews

### Useful Contacts

	Hall bookings	Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators
St Joseph's	Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)	Margaret McGrath (psc.kilmarnock.stjoseph@rcdg.org.uk)
Our Lady of Mount Carmel		Alice Brown (alice.brown@rcdg.org.uk) Charles Harper (charles.harper@rcdg.org.uk)
St Matthew's	Margaret Merrick (07765 715798)	Marjorie McInnes (marjorie.mcinnnes@rcdg.org.uk)
<b>Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals:</b> In emergencies ask hospital staff to page the on-call priest. 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)

### Collections

St Joseph's	<b>Standing orders:</b> £834.08. <b>Weekly collection:</b> £1,316.51. <b>SCES:</b> £15.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<b>Weekly collections:</b> £215.94; £147.20. <b>SSVP:</b> £111.40.
St Matthew's	<b>Weekly collections:</b> £320.46; £221.49. <b>Community Box:</b> £140.55. <b>Ecuador Trust:</b> £12.74.

Thank you for generously supporting our parishes.

## 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**



## FOLLOW US ONLINE

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

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock