



# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph  
Sunday 28th 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 Secretary:** Mariella Hoekstra Berry (rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk)

Items for the newsletter to the Parish Secretary (by 10 am Thursday please): rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk

Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

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

## LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER 2025 – 4th JANUARY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
<b>Saturday 27th</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Angela Hutton (RIP)
<b>Sunday 28th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	For the Parishes
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Pauline Clarke (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Special Intention
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
<b>Monday 29th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	John Dixon (Ann)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Peter Dourish (Ann)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession	
<b>Tuesday 30th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Mark Dignon (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Mark Dignon (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions	(until 10.50 am)
<b>Wednesday 31st</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Mary Wynne (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Requiem Mass for Ryan-Lee Dineen, RIP	Ryan-Lee Dineen (RIP)
<b>Thursday 1st</b>			
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Jim Steele (RIP)
Church closed after 11 am Mass and no evening Mass in St Joseph's today			
<b>Friday 2nd</b>			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Margaret Brennan (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Agnes Colgan (Ann)
<b>Saturday 3rd</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Mrs Mullen (RIP)
<b>Sunday 4th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	People of the Parishes
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Maria & Angelo Bordone, Daniel Alonzi (Ann)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Special Intention
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	

**St Joseph's is open for prayer Monday to Friday from 9.30 am until 4 pm. Enter through the small side door.**

Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin will be overseeing all eight of the East Ayrshire parishes from after Christmas and during much of January to accommodate annual leave. The pastoral needs in the other parishes may effect changes to the Kilmarnock weekday Mass schedule. We are grateful to the retired clergy who are making the weekend Mass cover possible in all of the churches at this time.



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

**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.**

## GENERAL NOTICES

**MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY:** Mass on New Year's Day will be celebrated in St Joseph's at 11 am. This will be the only Mass in Kilmarnock on Thursday 1st January.

**PASTORAL VISIT FROM BISHOP FRANK:** Following the clergy changes in Kilmarnock, over the weekends of the 11th/12th and 18th/19th January Bishop Frank will visit our communities to speak to parishioners and to celebrate Mass. He will celebrate the following Masses:

- Sunday 12th – St Matthew's & Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th – St Joseph's

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Frank and would encourage as many as possible to attend Mass over these weekends to meet the Bishop and to hear what he has to say.

**CATECHISTS FOR CHILDREN:** To help prepare our young people for the Sacrament of First Eucharist, we are appealing for Catechists in all three of our parishes to help deliver the 'I Belong' programme. Our young people follow this programme over a year long period in preparation for the sacrament, normally meeting once a month. Full training and resources will be provided.

If you are interested, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin. There is a meeting for all interested persons on Monday 5th January at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's where some of those who've already been involved in the programme will be sharing their experiences.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** The parishes have moved to a new 'RC Kilmarnock' Facebook page as well as launching on X and Instagram. Our old pages have been archived, but please like and share our new pages to keep in touch.

**LIVESTREAMED MASS:** We have moved to a common 'RC Kilmarnock' YouTube channel. Following this change, each weekday, Mass will be livestreamed from one of our parishes, with Sunday Mass continuing to be streamed from all three parishes.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** When asking for a Mass to be offered, please indicate on the "Mass Intention" envelope, the name/intention, the preferred date and the church where you would prefer it to be offered. Mass Intention envelopes are available from the stall or the sacristy.

Every effort will be made to offer the Mass in your preferred location and on your preferred date, but this will not always be possible if a Mass intention has already been arranged. 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.

Mass intentions are planned a week in advance: for this reason, it is hoped that you will understand that Masses requested at short notice may have to be offered on another day.

**ADDITIONAL SATURDAY MASS:** On Saturday 10th January, as part of the Diocesan Youth Christmas Party, Mass will be offered in St Joseph's at 12.30 pm. Faithful of all ages are warmly invited to join our Diocesan Youth for Mass today as they gather to celebrate Christmas together.

**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, and you're able to do so, contact Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin for more details. Full training and support will be provided.

**REGISTRATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS:** Primary 1 registration at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Andrew's Primary Schools will take place from Monday 12 January 2026 until Friday 16 January 2026 for children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2026 and 28 February 2027, and whose parents/carers wish them to attend school. Registration forms should be completed online at [www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk) and submitted no later than Friday 16 January 2026.

**SUPPORTING OUR CHURCHES:** It is now possible to donate online to the Weekly Collection and Building Fund in all three of our churches by scanning the QR code or going to the parish website. Next week, contactless terminals, similar to those already in many of the churches around the Diocese, will be

installed in St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel to offer an alternative means of donating to support our churches for those who do not carry cash/ use standing orders.

**BURNS NIGHT:** The annual St Joseph's Burns Night will take place in St Joseph's hall on Saturday 31st January at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. The programme is not too formal and there will be live music, entertainment, a three-course meal and the bar will be open. Tickets will be available from next weekend in all three parishes priced: £10 for adults, £5 for school children, under 10's are free. Tickets are limited so please buy them soon. Donations of raffle prizes are welcome and can be left in the stall/Church house.

**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 phone or email and they will be visited during our routine visiting. We are not automatically notified when a Catholic patient is admitted to hospital and so we rely on receiving the information from family and friends.

For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at [benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.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.

**JUSTICE AND PEACE:** Next Sunday, 4th January, there will be a special collection for the work of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops' Conference.

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers the soul of Mungo Miller who died recently. Mungo's Funeral Service will be on Wednesday 14th January at 12.30 pm at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium. May he rest in peace.

**THANK YOU:** Thank you to Canon Jack McGee who will celebrate Mass in St Joseph's today.

**SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER:** The Christmas dinner will take place on Sunday 11th January 2024 at 12.30 pm for senior parishioners. There is no cost. If you wish to attend please add your name and menu choice to the sheet on the notice board in the porch.

**COMMUNITY CAFÉ:** The Community Café will not be open on Tuesday 30th December. It will reopen on Tuesday 6th January.

**SUNDAY TEAS:** The Sunday teas will not be served on Sundays 4th and 11th January. They will resume on 18th January.

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers the soul of Gerda Devlin who died recently. Gerda's Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday 20th January at 10 am. May she rest in peace.

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:** There will be an Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 6th January from 7.30 - 8.30 pm in St Joseph's Presbytery.

**CARD PAYMENTS:** There is now a card terminal in the Church Stall to allow you to pay for any purchases using card.

**CONTACTLESS DONATIONS:** The new Contactless Terminal to allow for giving to the collection by card is now in the Norbert Room by the double doors leading into the Church.

**Gift Aided Donations:** It is possible to add Gift Aid to donations made to the parish through this system, just enter your email address after making your donation and you'll be emailed a Gift Aid form. Once you've completed it, any future donations made with the same card will be automatically Gift Aided. Even if you have already completed a Gift Aid form for envelopes, you still need to complete this form for contactless donations to be Gift Aided as it is a separate system.

## ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers the soul of Ryan-Lee Dineen who died recently. Ryan-Lee's Funeral Mass will be on Wednesday 31st December at 10 am. May he rest in peace.

**APPEAL FOR PEOPLE TO OPEN AND CLOSE THE CHURCH AND ASSIST IN THE SACRISTY:** In the new situation where the priest is not resident at St Matthew's, we are appealing for a group of volunteers to ensure the church is open in good time for weekday and Sunday Masses, and to expand the team of sacristans to lay out the vessels, vestments etc for Mass.

If you already are involved in these tasks or you would like to become involved in these tasks, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin. With a small group of people involved, we will be able to share the work and cover days when another cannot be present. Thank you.

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:** There will be a St Matthew's Parish Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 6th January from 6.30 -7.30 pm in St Joseph's Presbytery.

**CARD PAYMENTS:** There is now a card terminal in the Church Stall to allow you to pay for any purchases using card.

**CONTACTLESS DONATIONS:** The new Contactless Terminal to allow for giving to the collection by card is now in the porch before and after all Masses.

**Gift Aided Donations:** It is possible to add Gift Aid to donations made to the parish through this system, just enter your email address after making your donation and you'll be emailed a Gift Aid form. Once you've completed it, any future donations made with the same card will be automatically Gift Aided. Even if you have already completed a Gift Aid form for envelopes, you still need to complete this form for contactless donations to be Gift Aided as it is a separate system.

## MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

**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).**

**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 at 3.30 pm in St Joseph's Church Hall, Kilmarnock. 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).

RC Diocese of Galloway  
**Youth Office**  
Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

**CHRISTMAS YOUTH DAY**  
SATURDAY  
10TH JANUARY  
11.00 AM  
TO 4.00 PM  
P6-S4  
ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK


JOIN WITH YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE AS WE GATHER FOR OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY! WE'LL HAVE OUR USUAL FANTASTIC SELECTION OF GAMES, ACTIVITIES, TALKS, AND FOOD - ALL THEMED AROUND CHRISTMAS!

MASS · GAMES · TALK · ACTIVITIES · PIZZA · SOCIAL

**FREE EVENT**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER.

FREE TRANSPORT FROM AYR, DUMFRIES, AND ARDROSSAN.



@ youth@rcdg.org.uk · f · X · Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

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

*Galloway Young Adults*  
**Christmas Dinner**

Join Young Adults (S5-30) from across the Diocese for a delicious three course meal as we gather to celebrate Christmas!

**SUNDAY**  
11TH JANUARY  
**3.30 PM**

FREE OF CHARGE - SCAN THE QR TO REGISTER



**ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK**  
FREE TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FROM DUMFRIES.

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk · f · X · Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Diocesan Youth Christmas Day – Saturday 10th January, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Senior Parishioners Christmas Dinner – Sunday 11th January, 12.00 – 3.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
  - Community Lunch – Sunday 11th January, 12.45 pm (*St Matthew's*)
- Diocesan Young Adults Christmas Dinner – Sunday 11th January, 3.30 pm (*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 27 Dec</b> St Joseph's 6 pm	E Heron, K McGhee, M Kirk	A Gorman, Sr Mabel, M McGrath, C Power, F Donachie	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Claire, Margaret	M McGrath
<b>Sunday 28 Dec</b> St Matthew's 9.30 am	Orla Duff, Michael Thomson, Madaline Musilli	R: Sister, C Gordon L: M Gordon, P Brown, N McKenna	Luca, David, Rebecca				
<b>Sunday 28 Dec</b> St Joseph's 11 am	M Walker, R Doak, M Cunningham	E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, F McCann, R Murphy	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Eileen, Devlin	
<b>Sunday 28 Dec</b> OLMC 11.30 am	Gretta McNeil, Marie Wilkie, Marie Wilkie	Marion Smith, Agnes Starrs, Josephine McCrossan	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy		Colette L, Christine M	
<b>Saturday 3 Jan</b> St Joseph's 6 pm	H Rameckers, A Davidson, F Donachie	K McGhee, C McGowan, J Lennon, L Rankin, G Rankin	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen Frances	Justice & Peace
<b>Sunday 4 Jan</b> St Matthew's 9.30 am	Susan Faulds, Gerry Coyle, Fran Boyle	R: Anne Gillion, Sister L: Philip Brown, Maureen Bradley, Maureen Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca				
<b>Sunday 4 Jan</b> St Joseph's 11 am	T Murphy, P Nicholson, L Hand	A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew, M Walker, D Custodio	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Kamili, Bianca, Jude			Theresa, Alan	
<b>Sunday 4 Jan</b> OLMC 11.30 am	Helen Kennedy, Irene Roy, Irene Roy	Sister, Suzy Hollywood, Stuart Clark	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy		Marie Wilkie, Christine M	

### 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.mcinnis@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 (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk or 01563 521832) Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri (benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk 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

### Collections

St Joseph's	<b>Standing orders:</b> £834.08. <b>Weekly collection:</b> £2,297.43. <b>Building Fund:</b> £135. <b>Mission Sunday:</b> £50. <b>SCIAF:</b> £36.80. <b>Crib:</b> £110.35.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<b>Standing orders:</b> £261.57. <b>Weekly collections:</b> £293.70; £213.65. <b>SVSP:</b> £145.10.
St Matthew's	<b>Standing orders:</b> £515.54. <b>Weekly collections:</b> £345.47; £254.82. <b>Community Box:</b> £240.40 <b>Ecuador Trust:</b> £13.

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

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock