



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord
Sunday 4th January 2026

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 4th – 11th JANUARY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 3rd			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Mrs Mullen (RIP)
Sunday 4th			
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	
Monday 5th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Special Intention
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Frances Kelly (Ann)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	'I Belong' Catechists' Meeting (St Joseph's Presbytery)	
Tuesday 6th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	John McCann (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Jim Carroll (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions (until 10.50 am)	
11.00 – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Café	
6.30 – 7.30 pm	St Joseph's	St Matthew's Parish Finance Committee Meeting (St Joseph's Presbytery)	
7.30 – 8.30 pm	St Joseph's	OLMC Parish Finance Committee Meeting (St Joseph's Presbytery)	
Wednesday 7th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Janette Burns (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
		Mass will not be celebrated in St Matthew's today	
Thursday 8th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA in St Joseph's Presbytery	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA in the Norbert Room	
Friday 9th			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass with Mount Carmel Primary School	Kathleen McDaid (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Betty McCaffrey (RIP)
Saturday 10th			
11.00 – 4.00 pm	St Joseph's	Diocesan Youth Christmas Gathering	
12.30 pm	St Joseph's	Mass with the Diocesan Youth	Galloway Youth
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Alex Bolland (RIP)
Sunday 11th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass with Bishop Frank	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Mary Williamson (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass with Bishop Frank	
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
12.30 pm	St Joseph's	Senior Parishioners' Christmas Lunch	
12.45 pm	St Matthew's	Community Lunch	
3.30 pm	St Joseph's	Diocesan Young Adults' Christmas Lunch	

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.



GENERAL NOTICES

THANK YOU: Fr Stephen, Fr Kevin, and Canon Jack thank you for your greetings cards and gifts at this time. Mass was offered on New Year's Day for your intentions.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE: This Sunday we will reflect on the justice as an imperative for peace in the world. There will be a special collection for the work of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. Please use the gift aid envelopes in your box as appropriate. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information about issues of social justice, and to keep up to date with current campaigns, follow Justice & Peace Scotland on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or check out the website, www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk. You will also find the informative 2025 Annual Report on the J&P website.

PASTORAL VISIT FROM BISHOP FRANK: Following the clergy changes in Kilmarnock, over the weekends of the 10th/11th and 17th/18th January Bishop Frank will visit our communities to speak to parishioners and to celebrate Mass. He will celebrate the following Masses:

- Sunday 11th – St Matthew's & Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th – 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.

2026 YOUTH OFFICE CALENDAR: The Youth Office's 2026 Calendar is available in all of our Church Stalls priced £10 and featuring a range of photos from their events over the last 12 months, as well as a full religious and social calendar for the year. All proceeds from the calendars go towards supporting ministry to youth and young adults in our Diocese.

CATECHISTS FOR CHILDREN: Those involved and those who would like to be involved in the sacramental preparation programme for children are asked to attend a meeting on Monday 5th January at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's Presbytery. At the meeting, we will discuss how best to use the "I Belong" programme after a Sunday Mass with the children on a monthly basis.

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.

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 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 this 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.

ALTAR SERVERS CHRISTMAS PANTO: We're extremely grateful to all of the Altar Servers in the three parishes for their service. Last Saturday, many of them enjoyed a trip to the Galleon Centre to see *Sleeping Beauty* as a thank you for their ministry.



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 can join the team! Speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin for more details. Full training and support will be provided.

CARD PAYMENTS: It is now possible to pay by card in any of our parish stalls.



CONTACTLESS DONATIONS: It is now possible to support all three of our parishes through contactless donations, or through online giving on our website, just:

- 1) Select the Collection, 2) Choose the amount, 3) Tap your card, 4) (If you're a taxpayer) Enter your email address to register for Gift Aid.

Gift Aided Donations: It is possible to add Gift Aid to donations made 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.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The Sacramental Preparation dates for our young people preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist are shown below. On each listed Sunday, 'I Belong' will take place in their respective parish following Mass. Each session lasts approximately 1 hour and attendance is required as part of their preparation to receive the sacraments.

- Session 6 – Sunday 25th January
- Session 7 – Sunday 22nd February
- Session 8 – Sunday 22nd March
- Session 9 – Sunday 26th April
- Session 10 – Sunday 10th May

- Retreat Day – Saturday 16th May (For all young people in the deanery) in *St Joseph's* from 10.00 – 2.00 pm.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated:

- St Matthew's – Sunday 31st May, 9.30 am
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Sunday 31st May, 11.30 am
- St Joseph's – Sunday 7th June, 11.00 am

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: We have very few volunteers to lead Children's Liturgy at present and, without more coming forward, we may not be able to offer this to the children every week. If you would like to guide the children through the Liturgy of the Word in the hall during Mass, please speak to Fr Stephen, Fr Kevin or Margaret McGrath. All resources and training are provided. Children's Liturgy will resume next Sunday, 18th January.

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.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CHRISTMAS DINNER: The Christmas dinner will take place next Sunday, 11th January 2024, at 12.30 pm for senior parishioners who have signed up on the list in the porch. Please sign up by today, 4th January. There is no cost.

SUNDAY TEAS: The Sunday teas will resume on Sunday 18th January.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers the soul of Gerda Devlin who has died. 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.

U R WELCOME CLUB: The Annual General Meeting of the U R Welcome Club will take place on Wednesday 14th January at 1.30 pm in the Norbert Room. This will be followed by a cuppa and a catchup. All are welcome – please come along and bring your ideas for the year ahead.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

COMMUNITY LUNCH: Join the group next Sunday (11th January) for the regular community lunch at 12.45pm in St Matthew's Hall. The meal is free and all are welcome.

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.

THANK YOU: Thank you to St Kentigern's Church for the generous donation of £1,046.65 for the work of the Foodbank. The gift is greatly appreciated.

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.**

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.

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.

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*)
 - I Belong – Sunday 25th January, After Mass (*All Parishes*)
 - Burns' Night – Saturday 31st January, 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's – Open to All*)

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
Saturday 3 Jan 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
Sunday 4 Jan St Matthew's 9.30 am	Susan Faulds, Gerry Coyle, Fran Boyle	R: A Gillion, Sister L: P Brown, M Bradley, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 4 Jan 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, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	None today		Theresa, Alan	
Sunday 4 Jan OLMC 11.30 am	Helen Kennedy, Irene Roy, Irene Roy	Sister, Suzy Hollywood, Stuart Clark	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy		Marie Wilkie, Christine M	
Saturday 10 Jan St Joseph's 6 pm	M Kirk, E Heron, K McGhee	Sr Juliet, Sr Mabel, C Power, A Gorman, F Donachie	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia				Hugh Matthews
Sunday 11 Jan St Matthew's 9.30 am	Anne Gillion, Brian Gihoooley, Joseph Duff	R: M Musilli, S Duff L: N McKenna, F Stacey, C Stacey	Luca, David, Rebecca		Kerry, David		
Sunday 11 Jan St Joseph's 11 am	G McGee, G Smith, F McCann	P Dorrian, H Matthews, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	None today			
Sunday 11 Jan OLMC 11.30 am	tbc	tbc	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy		Martin Duffy Rita Chak	

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)
Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals: In emergencies ask hospital staff to page the on-call priest. For regular visiting: <i>Crosshouse Hospital:</i> Fr Stephen McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk or 01563 521832) <i>Ayr Hospital:</i> 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		

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 for Sunday 28th December

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,194.53. Building Fund: £40. Christmas collection: £1,400.29. Crib: £156.00.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collections: £234.21; £146.62. SSVP: £160.50.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £515.54. Weekly collections: £657.03. Christmas collection: £773.39. Community Box: £1,268.65. Ecuador Trust: £12.

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



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Facebook – X – @rckilmarnock

Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock

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.