



# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 18th 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 18th – 25th JANUARY 2026

| Time                  | Venue        | Gathering  | Mass intention   |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|--|
| <b>Saturday 17th</b>  |              |  |  |
| 5.30 – 5.45 pm        | St Joseph's  | <b>Confession</b>  |  |
| 6.00 pm               | St Joseph's  | <b>Vigil Mass</b> with Bishop Frank                                    |  |
| <b>Sunday 18th</b>    |              |  |  |
| 9.30 am               | St Matthew's | <b>Mass</b>  |  |
| After Mass            | St Matthew's | <b>Tea and Coffee</b>  |  |
| 11.00 am              | St Joseph's  | <b>Mass</b> with Bishop Frank  |  |
| After Mass            | St Joseph's  | <b>Tea and Coffee</b>  |  |
| 11.30 am              | OLMC         | <b>Mass</b>  |  |
| After Mass            | OLMC         | <b>Tea and Coffee</b>  |  |
| <b>Monday 19th</b>    |              |  |  |
| 9.30 am               | St Matthew's | <b>Recitation of the Holy Rosary</b>                                   |  |
| 10.00 am              | St Matthew's | <b>Mass</b>  | James Mellon, Jordan Robertson, McCann & Mellon families (RIP) |
| 10.00 am              | St Joseph's  | <b>Mass</b>  | Michael & Theresa Corry (RIP)                                  |
| 10.30 – 10.45 am      | St Joseph's  | <b>Confession</b>  |  |
| <b>Tuesday 20th</b>   |              |  |  |
| 10.00 am              | St Joseph's  | <b>Mass</b>  | Steven Love (RIP)  |
| 10.30 – 11.00 am      | St Joseph's  | <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>                              |  |
| 10.00 am              | OLMC         | <b>Requiem Mass</b> for Gerda Devlin, RIP                              | Gerda Devlin (RIP)   |
| 11.00 – 1.00 pm       | St Joseph's  | <b>Community Café</b>  |  |
| 7.00 pm               |              | <b>Mass to the Holy Spirit</b> (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)          |  |
| 7.00 pm               | OLMC         | <b>RCIA</b> in the Norbert Room  |  |
| <b>Wednesday 21st</b> |              |  |  |
| 10.00 am              | St Joseph's  | <b>Mass</b>  | Rachel Craig (RIP)   |
| After Mass            | St Joseph's  | <b>Recitation of the Holy Rosary</b>                                   |  |
|                       |              | <b>No Wednesday Mass or Adoration in St Matthew's this week.</b>       |  |
| <b>Thursday 22nd</b>  |              |  |  |
| 6.00 pm               | St Joseph's  | <b>Mass</b>  | Mark Dignon (RIP)  |
| 6.30 pm               | St Joseph's  | <b>RCIA</b> in St Joseph's Presbytery                                  |  |
| <b>Friday 23rd</b>    |              |  |  |
| 10.00 am              | St Joseph's  | <b>Mass</b>  |  |
|                       |              | <b>No Rosary or Friday Mass in Our Lady of Mount Carmel this week.</b> |  |
| <b>Saturday 24th</b>  |              |  |  |
| 5.30 – 5.45 pm        | St Joseph's  | <b>Confession</b>  |  |
| 6.00 pm               | St Joseph's  | <b>Vigil Mass</b>  | Charlie Miller (RIP)   |
| <b>Sunday 25th</b>    |              |  |  |
| 9.30 am               | St Matthew's | <b>Mass</b>  | People of the parishes   |
| After Mass            | St Matthew's | <b>Tea and Coffee</b>  |  |
| After Mass            | St Matthew's | <b>First Communion Parents' Meeting</b>                                |  |
| After Mass            | St Matthew's | <b>I Belong</b> (Committee Room)                                       |  |
| 11.00 am              | St Joseph's  | <b>Mass</b>  | Eddie & Lizzie Johnston (Ann)                                  |
| After Mass            | St Joseph's  | <b>Tea and Coffee</b>  |  |
| After Mass            | St Joseph's  | <b>I Belong</b> (Green Room)   |  |
| 10.15 am              | OLMC         | <b>I Belong</b> (Norbert Room)   |  |
| 11.10 am              | OLMC         | <b>First Communion Parents' Meeting</b> (Sacristy)                     |  |
| 11.30 am              | OLMC         | <b>Mass</b>  | Carolyn Harper (Ann)   |
| After Mass            | OLMC         | <b>Tea and Coffee</b>  |  |
| 3.00 pm               | St Joseph's  | <b>Christian Unity Prayer Service</b>                                  |  |

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.



## GENERAL NOTICES

**PASTORAL VISIT FROM BISHOP FRANK:** Following the clergy changes in Kilmarnock, we welcome Bishop Frank to St Joseph's this weekend as he celebrates Sunday Mass. We would encourage as many as possible to attend Mass over these weekends to meet the Bishop and to hear what he has to say.

**WELCOME TO FR EDDIE MCGHEE:** We welcome Fr Eddie to St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel today as Fr Kevin is covering in Galston and Hurlford.

**YEAR OF PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:** In the Diocese of Galloway, Bishop Frank has established a "Year of Prayer the Holy Spirit", promoting frequent prayer to the Holy Spirit as a means of opening our hearts and minds to the activity of the Holy Spirit in the local Church. Cards with a prayer to the Holy Spirit are being distributed from churches at this time. Please take them to the sick and housebound, give them to friends and family members and spread the appeal to pray daily to the Holy Spirit far and wide!

A monthly Mass of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated in the different deaneries. The first Mass will be in St Margaret's Cathedral on Tuesday 20th January at 7.00 pm. All are welcome.

**FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES:** Next Sunday, 25th January, at 3 pm, St Joseph's church will host the regular ecumenical prayer service which, at this time, marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Our Christian brothers and sisters from the many Kilmarnock church communities will join us to pray together as one in Christ. Please represent our Kilmarnock Catholic parishes well at this sung Evening Prayer service. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards in the hall.

**DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD?** Do you sense a call to serve God and his people in the Priesthood? The Catholic Church in Scotland is inviting you to explore the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. If you are considering a life dedicated to serving in the ministry, we encourage you to apply for seminary starting in 2027. To learn more about the application process and what a Priestly vocation entails, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Stephen McGrattan at [stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk). The Vocations Director will support you in your journey of discernment and guide you through the steps along the way. Don't hesitate; the Lord may be calling you to something extraordinary. Take the first step and contact the Diocesan Vocations director today!

**MASS FOR RELIGIOUS PRIESTS AND SISTERS:** Bishop Frank will celebrate Mass with the Religious priests, brothers and sisters of the Diocese on Monday 2nd February at 12 noon in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. You are very welcome to come along and recognise and support the apostolate of the Religious of the diocese.

**2026 YOUTH OFFICE CALENDAR – NOW ONLY £5:** The Youth Office's 2026 Calendar is available in all of our Church Stalls priced £5 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.

**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.

**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 are available from the Church Stall 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.

**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.

**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](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk)) or phone 01563 521832 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@rcdg.org.uk](mailto: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.

### Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit Prayer for the Diocese of Galloway

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful and  
kindle in us the first of your love.

Send forth your Spirit  
and we shall be created and you  
shall renew the face of the earth.

O God,  
who has taught the hearts of your faithful by the  
light of the Holy Spirit; grant that by the gift of  
the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and  
ever rejoice in his consolation.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

St Ninian, Pray for us.

*If you haven't already, please take a prayer card for the Year of Prayer home and take them to friends and family.  
Prayer cards are available in the porch.*

## FOLLOW US ONLINE

Facebook – X – Instagram – @rckilmarnock

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

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### P3 – FIRST RECONCILIATION/ CONFESSION

**REGISTRATION:** If you have a child in primary three and would like them to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion during 2026 and 2027 please register with the parish by email. When emailing, please include the name of your child, the church where you would like your child to receive First Holy Communion, and a statement of commitment to attend Sunday Mass with your child during the time of preparation and also after First Communion is received. Please do so no later than Friday 30th January.

**PARENTS' MEETING:** On Tuesday 3rd February there will be a parents' meeting in St Joseph's hall (for all three parishes) at 7.00 pm to explain more about the sacraments and the process of preparation. Attendance at this meeting is very important.

### P4 – FIRST EUCHARIST

**MEETING DATES:** 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

The monthly 'I Belong' sessions will now take place in:

- St Matthew's: After Sunday Mass, 10.30 – 11.30 am in the Committee Room
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel: 10.15 – 11.15 am in the Norbert Room
- St Joseph's: 12.30 – 1.45 pm in the Greenroom (with Parents' Session in the main hall)

**PARENTS' MEETINGS:** To discuss the programme and to answer any questions, Fr Stephen will meet with the parents of the Sacramental children in St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Sunday 25th January:

- St Matthew's – Immediately after Mass in the Church
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel – 11.05 am in the Norbert Room

Attendance at this meeting is important as part of your child's preparation for the Sacrament, as is weekly attendance at Sunday Mass.

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

**REQUIESCANT IN PACE:** Please remember in your prayers the souls of Rita Murphy and Scott Colvin who have died. Rita's Funeral Mass will be on Monday 2nd February at 10 am. Scott's funeral arrangements have still to be announced. May they rest in peace.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** Next Sunday, 25th January, 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.

**HALL KEYS:** Several sets of hall keys have gone missing in recent weeks from the Sacristy – have you been using the hall and forgotten to return them? Please check your coats and bags and return them to Margaret McGrath/ the sacristy as soon as possible.

**CHOIR PRACTICES:** Choir Practices for Holy Week and Easter will commence on Sunday 1 February, 6.15 - 8.15 p.m, and

each Sunday evening thereafter. Please note: there will be a final practice on Wednesday 1 April at 7 p.m. New members in all voice parts are welcome. The ability to read music is helpful but is not an essential requirement.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The St Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 26th January at 6.30 pm in the church hall. There will be a time of Eucharistic Adoration from 6.00 pm in the church for those who can manage. Should parishioners wish an item to be discussed, please email [rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk) or pass the item to the parish house.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD & SUNDAY TEAS:** Both resume today.

**HALL HIRE:** Did you know that our Church Hall is available for hire for community events, fundraisers and family gatherings? We offer competitive rates for the hire of the hall which are affordable and, by hiring the hall, you're helping to support the parish. For more information or to book the hall, please contact Margaret McGrath.

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

**REQUIESCANT 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.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** Next Sunday, 25th January, from 10.15 – 11.15 am, the children preparing for First Holy Communion will meet for the "I Belong" Sunday Club in the Norbert Room. Children should arrive for a prompt 10.15 am start. There will be a short parents' meeting at 11.05 am in the Sacristy.

## ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We urgently need sacristans to assist with setting up for and tidying up after Masses. Without additional sacristans, it will not be possible to continue celebrating some of the weekday Masses in the parish. If you are able to assist, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin, or email the parish office.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** Next Sunday, 25th January, after Mass until 11.30 am, the children preparing for First Holy Communion will meet for the "I Belong" Sunday Club in the Committee Room. There will be a short parents' meeting immediately after Mass.

**HALL HIRE:** Did you know that our Church Hall is available for hire for community events, fundraisers and family gatherings? We offer competitive rates for the hire of the hall which are affordable and, by hiring the hall, you're helping to support the parish. For more information or to book the hall, please contact Margaret Merrick.

## 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).**

**YOUNG ADULTS EVENING:** Join Young Adults (S5-30) for their monthly gathering in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock on Sunday 1st February. Beginning with Mass at 5.45 pm, they'll then continue in the hall where Fr Kevin Rennie will be speaking on "Life and Death: What do we believe?" as they discuss life issues and the challenges facing the sanctity of life today. Whether you're a regular or it's your first time, all young people S5-30 are welcome to come along.

**YOUTH EVENING:** Join Youth from across the cluster on Sunday 15th February as they gather for their monthly evening in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock. They'll be reflecting on the theme of Lent: what Lent is and what they're called to do during it. The evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm after which they'll continue in the hall with games, activities, a short talk, and pizza. All young people in P6-S4 are welcome, if it's your first time, please complete an Annual Consent Form online: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- I Belong – Sunday 25th January, After Mass (*All Parishes*)
- Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches Christian Unity Service – Sunday 25th January, 3.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
  - St Joseph's PPC Meeting – Monday 26th January, 6.30 pm (*St Joseph's*)
  - Burns' Night – Saturday 31st January, 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's – Open to All*)
  - Young Adults' Evening – Sunday 1st February, 5.45 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- St Joseph's Choir Practices Commence – Sunday 1st February, 6.15 pm (*St Joseph's*)
  - Youth Evening – Sunday 15th February, 5.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting – Tuesday 17th February, 6.30 pm (*St Joseph's*)

### MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

|  | Readers<br>(1st, 2nd, Intercessions)            | Ministers of Communion   | Altar Servers   | Sunday Teas              | Children's Liturgy          | Welcomers                      | Bidding Prayers |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Saturday 17 Jan</b><br>St Joseph's 6 pm   | A Davidson, M McGrath,<br>F Donachie            | C McGowan, L Rankin, G Rankin,<br>K McGhee, M McGrath            | Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu,<br>Lexi, Maia                           |                          |                             | Kathleen,<br>Frances           | Marie Wilkie    |
| <b>Sunday 18 Jan</b><br>St Matthew's 9.30 am | Margaret Merrick, Kenny<br>Ainsworth, Dawn Bias | R: Sister, Clare Gordon<br>L: M Bradley, M Dempster,<br>M Gordon | Luca, David, Rebecca  |                          |                             |                                |                 |
| <b>Sunday 18 Jan</b><br>St Joseph's 11 am    | M Andrew, An Davidson,<br>H Matthews            | I Love, F McCann, R Murphy,<br>A Neil, J Shields                 | Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo,<br>Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude | Anne & Gerry<br>Smith    | Emma Boyd,<br>Karen Cassidy | Paul,<br>Libby                 |                 |
| <b>Sunday 18 Jan</b><br>OLMC 11.30 am        | Kathleen Jones,<br>Helen Kennedy                | Sister, Josephine McCrossan,<br>Celia McQueen                    | Jessica, Farrah, Katie  | Suzy                     | Marion,<br>John             | Charlie Harper,<br>Marie Wylie |                 |
| <b>Saturday 24 Jan</b><br>St Joseph's 6 pm   | H Rameckers, G McIntyre,<br>M Kirk              | F Donachie, J Lennon, A Gorman,<br>C Power, Sr Mabel             | Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu,<br>Lexi, Maia                           |                          |                             | Clare,<br>Margaret             | IHM Sisters     |
| <b>Sunday 25 Jan</b><br>St Matthew's 9.30 am | M Bradley, J Duff, M Musilli                    | R: A Gillion, L Vernon<br>L: N McKenna, F Stacey,<br>M Thomson   | Luca, David, Rebecca  |                          |                             |                                |                 |
| <b>Sunday 25 Jan</b><br>St Joseph's 11 am    | R Doak, M Cunningham,<br>L Hand                 | M Andrew, M Walker, D Custodio,<br>P Dorrian, H Matthews         | Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo,<br>Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude | E Cunningham,<br>L Heron | IHM Sisters                 | Devlin,<br>Eileen              |                 |
| <b>Sunday 25 Jan</b><br>OLMC 11.30 am        | Colette Lamberth,<br>Josephine McCrossan        | Donna Shearer, Charlie Harper,<br>Marion Smith                   | Jessica, Farrah, Katie  | Suzy                     | Maria,<br>John              | C Lamberth,<br>Alice Brown     |                 |

### 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)<br>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:<br><i>Crosshouse Hospital:</i> Fr Stephen McGrattan ( <a href="mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk">stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk</a> or 01563 521832)<br><i>Ayr Hospital:</i> 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 for Sunday 11th January

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| St Joseph's              | <b>Standing orders:</b> £834.08. <b>Weekly collection:</b> £1,266.51. <b>Justice &amp; Peace:</b> £25.<br><b>Crib:</b> £58.42.  |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel | <b>Standing orders:</b> £261.57. <b>Weekly collections:</b> £298.03; £199.92. <b>Donation:</b> £40.<br><b>Repository:</b> £120. <b>SSVP:</b> £96.96. <b>Crib:</b> £70.18. |
| St Matthew's             | <b>Standing orders:</b> £515.54. <b>Weekly collections:</b> £351.80; £56.82. <b>Community Box:</b> £133.32.<br><b>Ecuador Trust:</b> £5.34.                               |

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**



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.



# GALLOWAY YOUTH NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026



**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** On Saturday 10th January, thirty-eight young people from across the Diocese gathered in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, for their Christmas Party. During the day they spent some time hearing from our Junior Leader Mentors on the true meaning of Christmas as they reflected on the Nativity and Christmas as being not simply for presents but for peace, hope, joy, and love. In his homily for the Mass, Fr Kevin reminded them of Jesus' love for each of them: that he knows them all by name and formed each of them individually in his image, and that he loves each of them perfectly. The young people also spent some time playing a range of different games, led by our Junior Leaders throughout the day as they spent time celebrating Christmas and getting to know one another – a favourite game being Human Hungry Hippos! Check out our Facebook page for lots of photos from the day, and join us for our next events in February to be in the photos and to be part of the story!

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

**Galloway Youth Evening (P6-S4)**

# LENT: REPENT

WHAT IS LENT AND WHAT SHOULD WE DO FOR IT? JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE THESE QUESTIONS AND MORE!

MASS . GAMES . TALK . ACTIVITIES . PIZZA . SOCIAL

**SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 5.00 PM**

ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES | ST PETER-IN-CHAINS, ARDROSSAN | ST PAUL'S, AYR | ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

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

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

# 2026 ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT

RCDG Youth - Diocese of Galloway Youth Office

**Weekend includes:**  
Outdoor Activities  
(Tree climbing, Archery Tag, Archery and more!)  
Talks, Prayer, and Mass  
All Meals & Accommodation

**27TH - 29TH NOVEMBER**  
GOWANBANK £160 PP

REGISTRATION OPENS  
2ND FEBRUARY 2026

Open to Youth in P7-S4 in 2026/2027 (currently P6-S3).  
Register today for a discounted rate of £140pp, and only pay a £50 deposit.

**LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE**  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO YOUTH.RCDG.ORG.UK  
TO SECURE YOUR PLACE TODAY!

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

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

# EASTER YOUTH DAY

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION - HIS LOVING SACRIFICE FOR US.

MASS . GAMES . TALK . ACTIVITIES . PIZZA . BBQ . SOCIAL

**SATURDAY 18TH APRIL**  
ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES  
FREE - LUNCH INCLUDED

Free event for Youth in P5-S4. Free transport available from: Saltcoats, Ayr, Kilmarnock, and Cumnock. Scan the QR code to register and book your seat.

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

**YOUTH EVENINGS:** We've no Youth Evening in January as the Christmas Party takes the place of it, but we look forward to resuming on Sunday 15th February from 5.00 – 7.00 pm in all four clusters:

- North Ayrshire – St Peter-in-Chains Church, Ardrossan
- South Ayrshire – **St Paul's Church, Ayr**
- East Ayrshire – St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock
- Dumfries & Galloway – St Teresa's Church, Dumfries

Please note: In February, South Ayrshire will meet in St Paul's Church due to a conflicting event at the Cathedral.

In February, we'll be reflecting on the theme of Lent as a time of preparation, and of course enjoying our usual range of games, activities and pizza as well. The evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm before continuing in the hall.

Whether you're a regular or it's your first time we'd love to welcome you along, there's no need to register but, if it's your first time, we do need your parent/ carer to complete an Annual Consent Form on our website: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).

We are extremely grateful to all of the Junior Leaders, Adult Leaders and clergy who support our evenings by leading the inputs, supervising, cooking pizza, and celebrating Mass – it wouldn't be possible to do what we do without all of them.

**WHAT'S ON GUIDE:** There's lots coming up over the next few months for young people in our Diocese, you can download your copy of our What's On Guide free of charge from our website so that you never miss an event. It also includes a complete calendar for all of our events in 2026!

**2026 ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT:** Following the success of our 2025 Retreat, our 2026 Retreat will take place from 27th – 29th November. For 2026 we look forward to returning to Gowanbank Scripture Union Centre and welcoming along young people in P7-S4 (current P6-S3). The weekend costs £160 with an early bird discount to £140 if you register before Easter Sunday. When registering, you'll only be asked to pay a £50 deposit, with a further £45 due in June, and £45 in October.

Registration opens on Monday 2nd February with places being allocated on a first come first served basis – so be sure to sign up early to guarantee your place!

**EASTER YOUTH GATHERING:** We may have only concluded our Christmas celebrations but we're already getting ready for our next Diocesan Youth gathering – our Easter Youth Day! Join us in St Teresa's, Dumfries as we gather for a day of games, activities, Mass and talks to celebrate Easter! This year, we'll be reflecting on the Holy Spirit and how he works in our lives as part of the wider Diocesan Year of Prayer. Registration is now open – sign up on our website!



## YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30)

**YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS DINNER:** On Sunday 11th January, our Diocesan Young Adults enjoyed their Christmas Dinner at St Joseph’s Church, Kilmarnock. The group enjoyed catching up after the Christmas period and discussing the coming year and our plans for the year. Following the success of both the Summer BBQ and the Christmas Dinner, the group are planning more socials as well the monthly series of talks. The socials will take place in different places around the Diocese and will be open to all young adults – whether you’re a regular or a first timer. Our thanks to the catering team at St Joseph’s who prepared the meal, and to everyone who came along to enjoy it.

**YOUNG ADULTS EVENINGS RETURN:** Our Young Adults Evenings resume on Sunday 1st February when Fr Kevin will be speaking on “Life and Death: What do we believe.” We can’t wait to start our talks again – and we’d love for you to join us too! Are you aged S5-30? Join us in person or online when we start again in February! To join us online: to hear the talk, take part in the discussion, and ask questions, just go to our website and click on ‘Online Participation’ to register and we’ll send you a link ahead of each evening.

## SUPPORT OUR WORK

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

**ONLINE STORE:** Our online store is open all year round, whether you’re looking for some stationery, a new mug for work or home, pens or a gift for someone. We’re regularly updating our selection, go to <https://youth.rcdg.org.uk/shop> to see what’s on offer.

**JOIN THE 200 CLUB:** Join the 40+ members who’ve already become part of the Youth Office 200 Club and help support our work while being in with a chance of winning cash prizes. 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 x 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](https://youth.rcdg.org.uk/200-club) or email us for a registration form.

The winning numbers from the December draw: 1st – 28, 2nd – 15, 3rd & 4th – 31 & 22. All winners have been contacted.



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## Winter/ Spring Schedule



**1st February (Mass - 5.45 pm)**  
**Life and Death:  
What do we believe?**  
Fr Kevin Rennie



**1st March (Mass - 5.45 pm)**  
**The Holy Spirit**  
Fr Ben Mkeri, CSSp



**29th March (Mass - 5.45 pm)**  
**An Evening with  
Bishop Frank**  
Bishop Frank Dougan



**3rd May**  
**The History of the Church  
(Part 2)**  
Fr Philip Kitchen

**St Joseph’s, Kilmarnock (KA3 1HB)**  
or join via Teams - register online: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](https://youth.rcdg.org.uk)  
**6.00 - 8.00 pm**

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RC Diocese of Galloway  
**Youth Office** 2026 Calendar  
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|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>January</b></p> <p>10th Youth Christmas Party</p> <p>11th Young Adults Christmas Dinner</p> <p><b>February</b></p> <p>1st Young Adults Evening</p> <p>2nd Registration opens for the Advent Youth Retreat</p> <p>15th Youth Evening</p> <p><b>March</b></p> <p>1st Young Adults Evening</p> <p>15th Youth Evening</p> <p>29th Young Adults Evening</p> <p><b>April</b></p> <p>18th Easter Youth Day</p> <p><b>May</b></p> <p>3rd Young Adults Evening</p> <p>17th Youth Evening</p> <p><b>June</b></p> <p>7th Young Adults Evening</p> <p>15th-19th Generation Hope</p> <p>21st Youth Evening</p> | <p><b>July</b></p> <p>7th Young Adults Evening</p> <p><b>August</b></p> <p>1st Young Adults BBQ</p> <p>15th Summer Youth Day</p> <p>30th Youth Pilgrimage to Whithorn</p> <p><b>September</b></p> <p>13th Young Adults Evening</p> <p>20th Youth Evening</p> <p><b>October</b></p> <p>4th Young Adults Evening</p> <p>25th Youth Evening</p> <p><b>November</b></p> <p>1st Young Adults Evening</p> <p>15th Youth Evening</p> <p>27th-29th Advent Youth Retreat</p> <p><b>December</b></p> <p>6th Young Adults Evening</p> <p>15th Youth Evening</p> |
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