



# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 25th 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 25th JANUARY – 1st FEBRUARY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
<b>Saturday 24th</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Charlie Miller (RIP)
<b>Sunday 25th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	People of the parishes
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
After Mass	St Matthew's	First Communion Parents' Meeting	
After Mass	St Matthew's	I Belong (Committee Room)	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Eddie & Lizzie Johnston (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
After Mass	St Joseph's	I Belong (Green Room)	
10.15 am	OLMC	I Belong (Norbert Room)	
11.10 am	OLMC	First Communion Parents' Meeting (Sacristy)	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Carolyn Harper (Ann)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
3.00 pm	St Joseph's	Christian Unity Prayer Service	
<b>Monday 26th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Agnes Campbell (Ann)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Peter & Janette Campbell (Ann)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 – 6.30 pm	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	PPC Meeting in St Joseph's Hall	
<b>Tuesday 27th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Cathie Carolan and Carolan/McNulty families (Ann)
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	
<b>Wednesday 28th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	John Cairns (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Frances O'Neil (Ann)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confessions (until 10.50 am)	
2.00 pm	St Matthew's	Ladies' Spirituality Group in the Hall	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA in the Norbert Room	
<b>Thursday 29th</b>			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Michael Mangan (RIP) & Carmelina Lenzi (RIP)
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA in St Joseph's Presbytery	
<b>Friday 30th</b>			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Mark Dignon (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Eileen Boyle (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Church Cleaning (New volunteers welcome)	
<b>Saturday 31st</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Mrs O'Donnell (RIP)
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Burns' Night in the Hall	
<b>Sunday 1st</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	For the Parish
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	For the Parish
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Special Intention
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Mass with the Diocesan Young Adults (Open to all)	
6.15 pm	St Joseph's	Diocesan Young Adults Evening (In the hall)	
6.15 pm	St Joseph's	Choir Practices for Holy Week Commence	

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

## GENERAL NOTICES

**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!

**FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES:** Today 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.

**THANK YOU FROM HILLHOUSE:** We would like to thank everyone for all the pyjamas and gifts received in the run up to Christmas. In December 2025, we distributed 3288 presents to 1644 children living in Ayrshire, which we couldn't have done without the support of our community. We really appreciate the continued support from everyone. Thank you!

**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.

**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 – TICKETS NOW SOLD OUT:** 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 now sold out but you can add your name to the waiting list if you've not got yours yet. 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.

## 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 today:

- 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 Requiem Mass will be on Monday 2nd February at 10 am, with a Vigil Reception on Sunday 1st February at 5 pm. Scott's Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 4th February at 10 am. May they rest in peace.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** Today after Mass parents/carers and their children will gather in the church hall, 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.

*Please note:* Due to the need to use different parts of the hall for the meeting, teas and coffees will finish at 12.30 pm this week.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** The next morning for church cleaning will be on Friday (30th January). New volunteers are welcome – please speak to Frances Donachie.

**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.

**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.

**SSVP:** The members wish to thank parishioners for the continuing donations for the Wednesday Food Bank. At present they only need tins of Meat, Fish and Fruit. They have received large donations of other items from St Joseph's Academy pupils and Ayrshire College students in recent weeks.

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN:** Today, 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.

**U.R WELCOME CLUB DATES:** The next scheduled meeting for the Club is 28th January - a Tea Dance at Dumfries House. The bus will depart Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at 12.45, returning to the church around 17.30. We have been allocated 30 places. These have been taken, but we do have a reserve list. If you would like to attend, please let us know. Contact Irene 07572 645 090 or Karen 07432 146309.

## 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.

**LADIES' SPIRITUALITY GROUP:** The ladies Spirituality group will meet on Wednesday 28th January in St. Matthew's at 2p.m. Tea and Coffee available. All ladies welcome.

**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.

**ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT:** Takes place from 27th – 29th November at Gowanbank SU Centre, near Darvel. The retreat is open to all young people in P6-S3 (P7-S4 at time of the retreat) and costs £160 pp, however if you register before Easter it's only £140 pp. The weekend includes a range of different outdoor activities, times of prayer, Mass, spiritual reflection, and lots of time to relax and spend time with friends. Subsidies are available for those in need, or for families with more than one child wishing to attend – please contact the Youth Office by emailing: [youth@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcdg.org.uk) or speak to Fr Kevin. **Registration opens Monday 2nd February.**

**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).

**EASTER YOUTH GATHERING:** Celebrate Easter with Galloway Youth! Are you in P5-S4? Sign up to join Galloway Youth in St Teresa's, Dumfries on Sunday 18th April as they gather to celebrate Easter! They'll have a fantastic selection of games, activities, talks, prayer and Mass – as well as pizza and a BBQ! All completely free of charge. Free transport is available from Kilmarnock, just sign up on their website: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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*)
- I Belong – Sunday 22nd February (*All Parishes*)

## 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 24 Jan</b> <b>St Joseph's 6 pm</b>	H Rameckers, G McIntyre, M Kirk	F Donachie, J Lennon, A Gorman, C Power, Sr Mabel	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	IHM Sisters
<b>Sunday 25 Jan</b> <b>St Matthew's 9.30 am</b>	M Bradley, J Duff, M Musilli	<b>R:</b> A Gillion, L Vernon <b>L:</b> N McKenna, F Stacey, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca				
<b>Sunday 25 Jan</b> <b>St Joseph's 11 am</b>	R Doak, M Cunningham, L Hand	M Andrew, M Walker, D Custodio, P Dorrian, H Matthews	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	E Cunningham, L Heron	IHM Sisters	Devlin, Eileen	
<b>Sunday 25 Jan</b> <b>OLMC 11.30 am</b>	Colette Lamberth, Josephine McCrossan	Donna Shearer, Charlie Harper, Marion Smith	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Maria, John	C Lamberth, Alice Brown	
<b>Saturday 31 Jan</b> <b>St Joseph's 6 pm</b>	F Donachie, A Davidson, M McGrath	K McGhee, C McGowan, Sr Juliet, L Rankin, G Rankin	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	Eric Allan
<b>Sunday 1 Feb</b> <b>St Matthew's 9.30 am</b>	Veronica Kelly, Eric Allan, Caron Bias	<b>R:</b> Sister, Clare Gordon <b>L:</b> S Duff, M Bradley, M Dempster	Luca, David, Rebecca				
<b>Sunday 1 Feb</b> <b>St Joseph's 11 am</b>	M Walker, G Smith, T Murphy	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, F McCann	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Alice Murphy	L. Feeney	Alan, Theresa	
<b>Sunday 1 Feb</b> <b>OLMC 11.30 am</b>	Greta McNeil, Irene Roy	Sister, Agnes Starr, Marie Urquhart	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Marie, Graham	M Duffy, C McGuire	

## 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: <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)		
<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 for Sunday 11th January

St Joseph's	<b>Standing orders:</b> £834.08. <b>Weekly collection:</b> £1,322.55. <b>Justice &amp; Peace:</b> £10. <b>Ecuador Trust:</b> £35.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<b>Standing orders:</b> £261.57. <b>Weekly collections:</b> £303.32; £197.70. Crib: £5. <b>SSVP:</b> £145.06.
St Matthew's	<b>Standing orders:</b> £515.54. <b>Weekly collections:</b> £239.31; £184.06. <b>Community Box:</b> £130.10. <b>Ecuador Trust:</b> £3.50.

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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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.