



# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday 1st February 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](http://www.rckilmarnock.org.uk)

Parishes of the R C Diocese of Galloway ([www.rcdg.org.uk](http://www.rcdg.org.uk)). Charity number SC010576. ONE LICENCE #A-632895.

## LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 1st – 8th FEBRUARY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
<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	
5.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Reception for Rita Murphy, RIP	
6.15 pm	St Joseph's	Choir Practice for Holy Week & Easter	
<b>Monday 2nd</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for Rita Murphy, RIP	Rita Murphy (RIP)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession	
		No Rosary or Mass in St Matthew's today	
12.00 pm	Cathedral	Mass for Religious (All are welcome) in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr	
<b>Tuesday 3rd</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Gerry Pollock (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
		No Mass or Adoration/Confessions in OLMC today	
11.00 – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Café	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Reception for Scott Colvin, RIP	
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	First Reconciliation Parents' Meeting in the Hall	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA in the Norbert Room	
<b>Wednesday 4th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for Scott Colvin, RIP	Scott Colvin (RIP)
		No Mass or Adoration/Confessions in St Matthew's today	
<b>Thursday 5th</b>			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Roy McCluskey (RIP)
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA in St Joseph's Presbytery	
<b>Friday 6th</b>			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass with pupils from Mount Carmel PS	Susan Millar (RIP)
		No Mass in St Joseph's today	
7.00 – 8.00 pm	OLMC	'Rest in the Heart of Jesus' Devotions	
<b>Saturday 7th</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Jean Mulhern (RIP)
<b>Sunday 8th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	People of the parishes
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Fr John McCluskey MHM (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
6.15 pm	St Joseph's	Choir Practice for Holy Week & Easter	

**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

**RETREAT & ANNUAL LEAVE:** Fr Kevin will be away from Monday 2nd February – Friday 13th February (inclusive) as he makes his Annual Retreat and following which he takes some of his Annual Leave. During his retreat, he will be remembering in a particular way the parish communities and praying for their intentions. While Fr Kevin is away, there will be only one priest in Kilmarnock and so there will only be one weekday Mass in the town. The weekend Mass schedule will be unaffected.

**ASSISTED DYING LEGISLATION:** A speaker will address the congregation of St Joseph's next weekend (and of St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel the following weekend) on the dangers of assisted suicide and to appeal through prayer and political lobbying for the defeat of the McArthur bill. You will be invited to sign a letter to MSPs in the South of Scotland the weekend after the address. More details to follow next weekend.

**AN IDEA FOR LENT:** Would there be members of our parishes who would be prepared to give a talk during Lent on an aspect of their faith, their profession, parish life/history, vocation, life experience, faith and science or something else? Depending on the response, a series of Lenten talks could be organised for this year. Please think about this and speak to Fr Stephen if you are interested.

**ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT:** Takes place from 27th – 29th November at Gowansbank 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 tomorrow – places are limited so be sure to sign up early to guarantee yours.**



**MINIBUS TRIPS:** In recent years St Joseph's has run monthly minibus trips from March – October as a means of countering loneliness and to give parishioners an opportunity for a day out. The parish looks forward to continuing these this year and to opening these to the other parishes. In order to meet potential demand, we need additional volunteer drivers to drive the buses. Anyone with an unrestricted licence can volunteer as a driver, with training and familiarisation being provided by our transport partner at no cost to volunteers.

There's no obligation to drive every month and, the more drivers we have, the less demand there is on any one driver. Could you help? Please email Fr Kevin ([kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk)) to register your interest.

**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.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** On Sunday 15th February the Diocesan Mass for the Sick will be celebrated at 4.00 pm in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr. During the Mass, there will be the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Sick,

should you wish to receive the sacrament, please make a volunteer known on arrival. All are welcome to attend the Mass.

Following the Mass, there will be refreshments in the hall, following which the AGM of the Galloway Lourdes Hospitalite will take place.

**FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES:** A representative from the Catholic communities of Kilmarnock is requested to attend a meeting in New Laigh Kirk on Thursday 5th February at 2 pm to prepare the World Day of Prayer Service which takes place on Friday 6th March. If you would like to volunteer, please speak to the priests.

**LADIES' NIGHT** – A ladies' night will take place in St Joseph's Hall on Saturday, 28th February at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. Join us for music, dance and supper. The bar will be open with waiter table service available. Tickets from the church stall price £10. All proceeds go towards the building fund. Donations of raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated.

**ASH WEDNESDAY (ADVANCE NOTICE):** Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which falls on Wednesday 18th February this year. While it is not a Holyday of Obligation, we are encouraged to attend Mass and to receive our ashes on this day as we begin the season of Lent. The Mass times on Ash Wednesday will be:

Time	Church
10.00 am	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
12.30 pm	St Joseph's
7.00 pm	St Matthew's

*There will be no evening Mass in St Joseph's and no morning Mass in St Matthew's on Ash Wednesday.*

**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.

**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.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**SSVP & FOODBANK PROVISION:** Struggling to afford food for yourself or your family? You are not alone and support is available within your community. You will be welcomed with kindness, respect and understanding and no appointment is required.

Foodbanks are available through our parishes on the following days and times:

Day	Start	Finish	Location
Monday	7.30 pm	8.15 pm	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Tuesday	4.00 pm	6.00 pm	St Matthew's
Wednesday	10.30 am	11.30 pm	St Joseph's Hall
Thursday	4.00 pm	6.00 pm	St Matthew's

No appointment is required to attend the Foodbank in St Joseph's or Our Lady of Mount Carmel, however if attending St

Matthew's you are asked to call 01563 574000 before 3.00 pm on the day to make an appointment.

All of our foodbanks are provided free of charge.

**Supporting our Foodbanks:** Donations of food and essentials are always greatly appreciated and help support local individuals and families in need, these can be handed in to any of our churches, the parish house, or directly at any of the Foodbanks. All donations should be non-perishable items. Please see below for current guidance from each foodbank.

**St Joseph's:** At present we **only** need tins of meat, fish and fruit. **Our Lady of Mount Carmel:** We have lots of soup, pasta and rice but all other non perishable items are accepted. **St Matthew's:** All donations gratefully received.

We are extremely grateful to all of those who support the work of our Foodbanks and to all of those who are able to offer donations to support those in need.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### P3 – FIRST RECONCILIATION/ CONFSSION

**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.

**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 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 Green room (with Parents' Session in the main hall)

## 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.

**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.

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

**U.R. WELCOME CLUB DATES:** The next scheduled meeting is 11th February at 1.30pm till 3.30 pm in the Norbert Room, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church - The Tartan Ladies come along and join in, all senior friends and neighbours are most welcome.

## ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

**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.

## FINANCE: ST MATTHEW'S AND MOUNT CARMEL

**GIFT AID:** Gift Aid is a Government scheme where registered charities can reclaim the tax paid on your donation to them. Generally, this means that the parish can reclaim 25% of your donation – so for every £10 donated by a taxpayer, the parish receives £12.50.

To claim gift aid, the parish needs to be in possession of Gift Aid Declaration Forms from those who wish the parish to reclaim tax paid on their donations (and who have paid the tax being reclaimed). While we are in possession of a number of forms, some were signed almost 20 years ago, and this does not provide evidence of up-to-date records of those who wish the parish to benefit from the Gift Aid scheme.

Today, Fr Stephen will ask all who wish the parish to benefit from the Gift Aid scheme on their behalf to complete a fresh Gift Aid form, so the records are up-to-date.

**COLLECTION ENVELOPES:** This is the time to place an order for collection envelopes for the financial year beginning in April 2026. Fr Stephen will speak about giving by envelope at the end of Mass and ask for an indication of the number of people who wish to use envelopes so an order can be placed.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** The second collection to defray fuel costs will stop after this weekend for reasons Fr Stephen will explain at the end of Mass. You are asked to add what you would have contributed to the second collection for fuel costs in the first collection, so the income for the church remains the same.

## 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).**

**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

- Mass for the Sick – Sunday 15th February, 4.00 pm (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)
  - Youth Evening – Sunday 15th February, 5.00 pm (St Joseph's)
- Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting – Tuesday 17th February, 6.30 pm (St Joseph's)
  - Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 18th February
- Rite of Election for RCIA Catechumens and Candidates – Sunday 22nd February, 3.00 pm (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)
  - I Belong – Sunday 22nd February (All Parishes)
  - Ladies' Night – Saturday 28th February, 7.00 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 31 Jan</b> St Joseph's 6 pm	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> St Matthew's 9.30 am	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> St Joseph's 11 am	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, E O'Connell	Alan, Theresa	
<b>Sunday 1 Feb</b> OLMC 11.30 am	Greta McNeil, Irene Roy	Sister, Agnes Starr, Marie Urquhart	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Marie, Graham	M Duffy, C McGuire	
<b>Saturday 7 Feb</b> St Joseph's 6 pm	K McGhee, M Kirk, E Heron	A Gorman, Sr Mabel, J Lennon, M Steele, F Donachie	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	
<b>Sunday 8 Feb</b> St Matthew's 9.30 am	Madaline Musilli, Michael Thomson, Susan Faulds	<b>R:</b> M Gordon, A Gillion <b>L:</b> C Brown, M Gordon, N McKenna	Luca, David, Rebecca				
<b>Sunday 8 Feb</b> St Joseph's 11 am	P Nicholson, G Smith, H Matthews	R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew, P Dorrian	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Anne & Mike Timmons	IHM Sisters	Paul, Libby	
<b>Sunday 8 Feb</b> OLMC 11.30 am	Donna Shearer, Marion Smith	Stuart Clark, Graham Rannochan, Marie Wilkie	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	-	Irene Roy 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) Charles Harper (charles.harper@rcdg.org.uk)
St Matthew's	Margaret Merrick (07765 715798)	Marjorie McInnes (marjorie.mcinnnes@rcdg.org.uk)
<b>Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals:</b> In emergencies ask hospital staff to page the on-call priest. For regular visiting: Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan (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 for Sunday 11th January

St Joseph's	<b>Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,313.35. Building Fund: £863.04.</b> <b>Justice &amp; Peace: £20.</b>
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<b>Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collections: £569.61; SSVP: £160.65.</b>
St Matthew's	<b>Standing orders: £515.54. Weekly collections: £406; £215.58.</b> <b>Community Box: £167.75.</b>

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

Facebook – X – Instagram – @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.