



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 8th 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

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

LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 8th – 15th FEBRUARY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 7th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Jean Mulhern (RIP)
Sunday 8th			
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	
Monday 9th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	James Dourish (Ann)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession	
		No Rosary or Mass in St Matthew's today	
Tuesday 10th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Rose Allardyce (Ann)
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	
Wednesday 11th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Eileen Boyle (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
		No Mass or Adoration/Confessions in St Matthew's today	
1.30 – 3.30 pm	OLMC	U.R. Welcome Club (in the Norbert Room)	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA in the Norbert Room	
Thursday 12th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Graham Rowson (RIP)
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA in St Joseph's Presbytery	
Friday 13th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Stephen McTiernan (Ann)
		No Rosary or Mass in OLMC today	
Saturday 14th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	John McTiernan (RIP)
Sunday 15th			
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	Joseph Davidson (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Murdoch McGuire (Ann)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
4.00 pm	Cathedral	World Day of Prayer for the Sick Mass (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)	
5.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass with the Diocesan Youth (Open to all)	
5.30 pm	St Joseph's	Diocesan Youth Evening (in the Hall)	
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 AND 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.

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) 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. 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!

DAY OF REFLECTION FOR RCIA CANDIDATES / CATECHUMENS PAST AND PRESENT: Saturday February 28th at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, 10am – 3pm. Take time with God for silence, prayer and sharing with others on the journey. A chance to deepen our experience of Lent in preparation for the Easter Vigil for those going to be received into the Church this year, and for those who have been in recent years. Sponsors are also welcome. Explore different ways of praying and deepening our faith. To register, please email rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk.

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.

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.

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) 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 or on 01655 882145. For urgent or emergency assistance from a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

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 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.

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.

MOBILITY AIDS AVAILABLE: A wheelchair, a three-wheeler walker, a four-wheeler walker and a kitchen chair with arms are all available to a good home. All in excellent condition. If you are interested, please speak to Anne Cairns at Our Lady of Mount Carmel or to one of the priests.

RETREAT WEEKEND FOR PEOPLE THINKING ABOUT WHAT IS NEXT IN LIFE: 'Navigating the way forward' - 13th-15th March (Conforti, Coatbridge) or 8th-10th May (Benedictine Monastery, Largs). Take time out with God for reflection, input and community as we consider how to discern where we are and where we might be invited to next steps. For those facing choices in life, or wondering if there are changes which would lead to greater growth.



'GOING DEEPER' FOR PEOPLE NEW TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH (RCIA): 1-3 May Pluscarden Benedictine Monastery, Elgin. Take time to pause and reflect on your faith journey in the beautiful surroundings of Pluscarden Benedictine Monastery. Arrivals from 5pm on Friday 1st May and leaving after 12:00 noon lunch on Sunday 3rd May. This residential retreat is designed for those who have been through RCIA (a programme which prepares people to become Roman Catholic). The weekend will include opportunities to try different ways of praying, exploring some of the Ignatian (Jesuit) and Benedictine traditions, and sharing with others on living a reflective life. We will have time together as a group, as well as periods of silence and personal reflection.



SCIAF: In preparation for Lent, the SCIAF boxes will be distributed at the end of Mass today.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Deanery Pastoral Council next meets on Tuesday 17th February at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's church hall.

FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES: The next ecumenical service will be in Kay Park Parish Church on Sunday 22nd February at 3 pm. The theme will be *Journey through Lent to Easter*. All are welcome.

ORGAN RECITAL WITH STRING QUARTET: On Saturday 7th March, the Glasgow and Edinburgh Societies of Organists will gather for a performance of organ and strings in St Joseph's church at 2.30 pm. All welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

CHOIR PRACTICES: Choir Practices for Holy Week and Easter have now begun on Sundays from 6.15 - 8.15 p.m. 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.

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

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.

WELCOME: Welcome to Fr Erasmus Egenonu who will celebrate Mass in Our Lady of Mount Carmel church today.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

COMMUNITY LUNCH: The community lunch will take place today, Sunday 8th February at 12.45 pm. All are 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.

FINANCE: ST MATTHEW'S AND OLMC

GIFT AID FORMS: If you pay tax and wish the church to reclaim the tax on your donation through the gift aid scheme, please complete and return a gift aid form to the sacristy. There was a form placed in each bulletin last weekend. Additional forms are available in the porch.

SECOND COLLECTION: The regular second collection, which was to contribute to increasing fuel costs, will no longer be taken. You are asked, however, to put what you would have donated to the second collection into the main collection because fuel costs remain high. From April, there will be a roughly monthly collection for maintenance including fuel costs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SSVP & FOODBANK PROVISION: We are extremely grateful to the Society of St Vincent de Paul who run foodbanks in St Joseph's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, as well as the volunteers who help to run the foodbank in St Matthew's in partnership with the Trussell Trust and Ayrshire (East) Foodbank.

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

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)

MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUNG ADULTS PILGRIMAGE TO ROME:

Join Young Adults from across the Diocese for a 5 day/ 4 night pilgrimage to Rome from 12th – 16th October 2025. The itinerary will feature a wide range of different spiritual and cultural activities, including the Wednesday Audience, Vatican Museums, and a walking tour of Rome, as well as a free day to explore the city. The pilgrimage is open to young adults in S6 (at time of departure – current S5) to age 30 and costs £1000 (the group is planning to fundraise to reduce this) which includes all flights, accommodation, breakfast, dinner, and admission costs. If you're interested, scan the QR code on the poster, or go to youth.rcdg.org.uk, for more details and to register.



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 times of prayer, Mass, spiritual reflection, different outdoor activities 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. Registration is now open – places are limited so be sure to sign up early to guarantee yours. Sign up by scanning the QR code or going to youth.rcdg.org.uk.



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.**

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.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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*)
- 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
Saturday 7 Feb 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	M McGrath
Sunday 8 Feb St Matthew's 9.30 am	Madaline Musilli, Michael Thomson, Susan Faulds	R: M Gordon, A Gillion L: C Brown, M Gordon, N McKenna	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 8 Feb 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	
Sunday 8 Feb OLMC 11.30 am	Donna Shearer, Marion Smith	Stuart Clark, Graham Rannochan, Marie Wilkie	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	-	Irene Roy Alice Brown	
Saturday 14 Feb St Joseph's 6 pm	G McIntyre, A Davidson, H Rameckers	K McGhee, M McGrath, C Power, C McGowan, A Gorman	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	Fran Boyle
Sunday 15 Feb St Matthew's 9.30 am	V Kelly, K Ainsworth, C Brown	R: M Musilli, Sister L: M Thomson, F Stacey, N McKenna	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 15 Feb St Joseph's 11 am	G McGee, F McCann, M Andrew	D Custodio, M Walker, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Anne & Gerry Smith	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Devlin, Eileen	
Sunday 15 Feb OLMC 11.30 am	Agnes Starrs, Marie Wilkie	Sister, Suzy Hollywood, Donna Shearer	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Maria, Graham	C Lamberth, G Rannochan	

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 11th January

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,269.02 Building Fund: £46.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collections: £233.66; £159.82. SSVP: £99.13.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £515.54. Weekly collections: £298.20; £229.37. Ecuador Trust: £10.10. Community Box: £174.65.

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.