



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 15th 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)

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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 15th – 22nd FEBRUARY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 14th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Marie Elizabeth McGrath (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	
Monday 16th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Mary Bernadette O'Neil (Ann)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Steven Love (RIP)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession	
Tuesday 17th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Sandra Niven (Ann)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Eileen Boyle (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
11.00 – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Café	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting	
Wednesday 18th			
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass of Ash Wednesday	John McKee (RIP)
		No morning Mass in St Matthew's today	
12.30 pm	St Joseph's	Mass of Ash Wednesday	Patrick Francis Breen (RIP)
7.00 pm	St Matthew's	Mass of Ash Wednesday	Agnes & Sammy Armour (RIP)
Thursday 19th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Michael McPake (RIP) / John McTiernan (RIP)
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA in St Joseph's Presbytery	
Friday 20th			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Jim Kilday (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Paul Mackie (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Stations of the Cross	
After Mass	St Joseph's	Stations of the Cross	
11.00 – 4.00 pm	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday 21st			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	People of the Parishes
Sunday 22nd			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
10.30 – 11.30 am	St Matthew's	I Belong (Committee Room)	
10.15 – 11.15 am	OLMC	I Belong (Norbert Room)	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Kevin Dorrian (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
12.30 – 1.30 pm	St Joseph's	I Belong (Meeting Room)	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Patrick McGowan (Ann)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
3.00 pm	Cathedral	Rite of Election (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)	
4.00 – 5.00 pm	St Matthew's	Lenten Hour of Prayer	
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.

LENT

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY: Ash Wednesday, 5th March, marks the beginning of Lent. Masses in Kilmarnock will be celebrated at 10.00 am, 12.30 pm, and 7.00 pm. Please make an effort to begin Lent with Mass and the imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. On this day we are all expected to abstain from eating meat, and those aged 18-59 and in good health are expected to fast: to have one main meal in the day and two smaller meals which should not add up to the size of the main meal.

Through our fasting and abstinence we are making an effort to unite ourselves with Christ as he enters into the desert.

PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS: "Praying with the Psalms" is a prayer resource for Lent which is a collection of three-minute daily devotions for Lent and Holy Week. It is available free of charge and there should be sufficient copies for one per household. They will be distributed after Mass in the porch.

SCIAF BOXES: The SCIAF wee boxes are available from the porches of our churches.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DURING LENT: The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after morning Mass in St Joseph's on Fridays during Lent until 4 pm. A list will be on the notice board inviting people to watch for half-hour long periods during the day. People are also welcome to drop in for quiet prayer during the day.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Stations of the Cross will be prayed after Mass on Fridays after 10 am Mass in St Joseph's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel churches.

DAY OF REFLECTION FOR ALL, ESPECIALLY 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 rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk.

GENERAL NOTICES

ACTION ON THE ASSISTED DYING LEGISLATION: Last weekend, in St Joseph's, a presentation was given at the end of Masses about the dangers of the proposed assisted dying legislation presently being debated in Holyrood. The same presentation will be given in St Matthew's this weekend and in Our Lady of Mount Carmel the following weekend. The speaker appealed for your help in acting against this legislation by signing a letter to the local MSP and two list MSPs in South Scotland, including your name and address. To make this as easy as possible, a team of people will be in the porch before and after Mass (at St Joseph's this weekend, and at St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel next weekend) to give you access to the letters to sign before and after Mass. Your support will be appreciated to fight against this assault to the dignity of human life. The letters will be hand delivered to the MSP's offices.

YOUTH EVENING: Join Youth from across the cluster tonight 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.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ABUSE: On Friday at Mass there will be additional prayers for survivors of abuse.

Heal their wounds, their strength renew

A Prayer for Survivors

Bestow healing, Lord God,
upon your beloved children,
wounded by the pain and fear
inflicted on them by others.

Cast light on the darkness of their hearts
and draw near to them
to restore what is lost.

Shelter them safely in your love
and make them confident in the knowledge
that they have been powerfully redeemed.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I BELONG: The monthly "I Belong" Sunday Sessions continue next weekend in all parishes for children preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. Children, please remember to bring your candle and to gather in the sacristy 5 minutes before Mass to be part of the procession.

RITE OF ELECTION: The Rite of Election takes place on the first Sunday of Lent in the Cathedral. During the Mass, the Catechumens and Candidates (those already baptised but not confirmed) who will be received into the church at Easter will be presented to Bishop Frank. The Mass is the first official step on their journey towards receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. This year St Joseph's is presenting several catechumens and candidates.

We would ask that you please pray for all of those who will be received into the church at Easter. If you would like to attend the Rite of Election, you are welcome to do so, the Mass takes place next Sunday (22nd March) in the Cathedral at 3.00 pm.

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!

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.

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.

RETREAT WEEKEND FOR PEOPLE THINKING ABOUT WHAT IS NEXT IN LIFE: 'Navigating the way forward' - 13th-15th March (Conforti, Coatbridge). 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.



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

MARY'S MEALS WALK FOR HOPE: This year, the charity Mary's Meals is organising a selection of pilgrimage walks around the UK, bringing people together to pray for our mission to feed hungry children. Routes include Dalmally (9 May), Glasgow (28-30 May) and the Peak District (3-5 July). Visit our website to find out about our selection of walks and register your interest: <https://bit.ly/MarysMealsPilgrimage>.

DON'T MISS OUT: FINANCIAL HELP FOR SCOTS IN 2026: As households across Scotland continue to feel the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis, many people may be missing out on vital financial support they are entitled to. To find out more about benefits that may be available, visit mygov.scot/benefits.

THE IRISH VOICE: Copies of "The Irish Voice" bringing you all the news from the Irish in Scotland are available free of charge from the porches of the churches.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers the soul of our parishioner William (Willie) Wallace who has died. Willie's funeral has yet to be arranged. May he rest in peace.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DURING LENT: The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after morning Mass in St Joseph's on Fridays during Lent until 4 pm. A list will be on the notice board inviting people to watch for half-hour long periods during the day. People are also welcome to drop in for quiet prayer during the day.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Stations of the Cross will be prayed after Mass on Fridays.

EXTRAORDINARY CONCERT WITH ORGAN AND STRINGS: The Edinburgh Society of Organists is joining with the Glasgow Society of Organists to visit St Joseph's restored Harrison & Harrison organ and to perform a concert with organ and strings on Saturday 7th March at 2.30 pm.

John Kitchen (City of Edinburgh Organist) who will play the organ that day said of the St Joseph's pipe organ: "This organ is a triumphant demonstration of what can be achieved when a congregation comes together with a common purpose and faith in the outcome. In 2023, after a dedicated fund raising campaign by members of the church, led by their priest and organists, the 1903 Harrison and Harrison organ was restored by its original maker. The project was enthusiastically supported by the congregation both financially and in terms of ongoing commitment; they now regularly attend the recitals that are held, and greatly appreciate the contribution it makes to their worship."

John Kitchen will present Handel and Stanley organ concertos, featuring a group of string players from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. It will be an honour for St Joseph's to host this prestigious event. Everyone is very welcome.



ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

THE RESTORED HARRISON & HARRISON ORGAN (1903, 2023)

EXTRAORDINARY ORGAN & STRINGS RECITAL

Recitalists:
JOHN KITCHEN (Organ)
with **STRING QUARTET**

Saturday 7 March
2.30 pm

St Joseph's Church,
15a Hill Street,
Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB

The Edinburgh and Glasgow Societies of Organists host a special organ recital with strings featuring music by Handel and Stanley on the church's restored Harrison & Harrison pipe organ.

Admission free - Retiral collection

No booking required - just come along

www.rcilkilmarnock.org.uk/outreach/organ-recitals

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 dates are 25th February (Talks of Kilmarnock) and 11th March (Chair Exercises) from 1.30pm till 3.30pm in the Norbert Meeting Room, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Come and join the fun and catch up over a cuppa. All welcome: seniors, friends and neighbours.

SSVP AFTERNOON TEAS: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Saint Vincent de Paul Conference will be hosting two afternoon teas between 1pm and 3pm on 28th March and 18th April 2026 and parishioners from all three parishes are welcome to attend. There is no charge and sign up forms will be left in the Norbert Room at Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Stations of the Cross will be prayed after Mass on Fridays.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers the soul of our parishioner Kathleen Queen who has died. Kathleen's funeral service will be celebrated in St Matthew's at 1.45 pm on Monday 23rd February. May she rest in peace.

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.

HOUR OF PRAYER: The church will be open every Sunday between 4-5pm during Lent for people to come and go from the church for quiet prayer as they wish. If anyone can help, please contact Colette Murray on 07905620033. This will start on Sunday 22nd February, finishing Sunday March 29th.

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 collection roughly once a month 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 (**Next Weekend**)
- 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*)

P3 – FIRST RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

FIRST RECONCILIATION: The children of primary 3 age will make their First Reconciliation on Monday 23 March at 6.30 pm in Our Lady of Mount Carmel church. This celebration is for the children of all the Kilmarnock parishes.

FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES

ECUMENICAL SERVICE: 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.

EAST AYRSHIRE CHURCHES HOMELESSNESS ACTION: The Community Friends breakfast drop-in will soon be moving into new premises in John Dickie Street, and we are looking for a few volunteers who would like to join our team. From March 2026 we will be serving breakfasts from 9.30 until 11.30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you can spare some time on any of these days we'd love to hear from you. Further information from Janice Grant, janice.grant@hotmail.co.uk or Michael Smith, michael@eacha.org.uk.

CRAFT FAYRE: If you enjoy making craftwork or purchasing unique craft items, you won't want to miss Kay Park Church's Craft Fayre on Saturday, 21 March, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you wish to sell your goods, you can hire a stall for only £10 by contacting Janette Steven at 07788-298355. For shoppers there will also be raffles and refreshments.

FAITH STORIES AT KAY PARK: Faith Stories meetings take place at Kay Park Church at 7 pm on Wednesdays 25th February, 4th and 11th March, during which people from different backgrounds will talk about their journeys to faith. All welcome.

ST KENTIGERN'S CHURCH: will host Lent study discussions on Wednesdays 25th February - 25th March at 7.15-8.45 p.m. Discussion will be based on videos by Canon J. John, entitled "Facing The Canon". These show interviews with people who have felt God's presence in their lives. "Facing the Canon is a weekly dose of encouragement and inspiration to give you confidence to share your faith."

JAZZ BY CANDLELIGHT: On 14th March at 7 pm you are invited to an evening of jazz by candle-light with the acclaimed Edinburgh vocalist, Lorna Reid and her quartet who brings her signature blend of classical jazz and original song-writing to Kilmarnock's New Laign Kirk halls, 35 John Finnie street for the latest in their *Music For All* series of events.

Joined in March by some of Scotland's finest musicians on bass, drums and keyboard, Lorna is in great demand throughout the country. She features regularly at Edinburgh's jazz and blues festival; Edinburgh festival fringe and the award-winning jazz bar where she performs to packed houses. Lorna has also represented Scotland at the prestigious Rochester international jazz festival in New York and more recently in London's jazz festival in November of last year.

With vocal influences ranging from Ella Fitzgerald and Julie London to modern day greats like Diana Krall and Melody Gardot, Lorna's style is soulful, elegant and timeless. Her latest album was named album of the week by a national radio station and praised for its "soulful, grown-up songcraft".

Expect an evening of beautiful songs, impeccable musicianship and refined heartfelt jazz. Tickets at £10 plus small booking fee are available by searching online via Ticket Source.

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.**

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.

AN EXAMEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

AN EXAMEN: TAKEN, BLESSED, BROKEN, GIVEN

He took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." (Mark 14:22)

"Took... blessed... broke... gave". These are words Catholics will hear thousands of times in their lives. What comes to mind is the last supper and the Eucharist. But this *body* also refers to the Body of Christ.

In this variation on the Ignatian Examen, you will pray through how God has taken you, blessed you, broken you, and will give you to the world.

I Begin

Taking a few deep breaths, I calm my mind, body, and spirit. I recognise the presence of God with me. I ask God to lead this prayer in me. I don't rush myself. When I am in a state of prayer and feel ready, I move on.

Taken

I thank God for taking me—for claiming me—for calling me by name. I might spend some moments reflecting on the meaning of my baptism. I bring to mind whatever has brought me to this moment of prayer with God. I consider how God has led my life to this point and that I am in God's hands, whether or not I am always aware of it. *How have I been claimed by God?*

Blessed

Recognising how God has taken me and led me, I thank God for the many blessings in my life. I do not move on until I sense gratitude in my heart. Then, I thank God for some of the unique talents, abilities, aptitudes, and callings God has given me. *How have I been blessed by God?*

Broken

I ask God to reveal to me the ways have I felt the opposite of blessed. When have I felt broken? The death or loss of a loved one? A failed relationship? Abuse or trauma? Difficulty in career? Lack of direction in life? Perhaps there is a personal weakness, physical, mental, or spiritual that I have which makes me feel broken. Though this may be difficult or unpleasant, I take a long, loving, honest look at my brokenness. I talk to God about this.

Given

I now ask God to show me how the ways I've been broken prepare me to share love with others. Maybe my brokenness gives me better understanding of others' pain. Perhaps my brokenness has strengthened me for some task God is calling me to. I meditate on this for a while. I ask how God is giving me to the world. I imagine concrete ways how I can be a gift to others. I allow myself to daydream about the possibilities. I thank God for redeeming my brokenness. I humbly thank God for making me God's gift to the world. I resolve to give myself to God and the world in whatever way God has revealed.

Amen

Yes, Lord. Amen.

Written by David Herr. An audio recording with music available at <https://godinalldthings.com/prayer/taken-blessed-broken-and-given-an-examen/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting – Tuesday 17th February, 6.30 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - I Belong – Sunday 22nd February (*All Parishes*)
- U. R. Welcome – Wednesday 25th February (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*)
- RCIA Day of Reflection – Saturday 28th February, 10.00 am (*St Joseph's*)
 - Ladies' Night – Saturday 28th February, 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Young Adults' Evening – Sunday 1st March, 5.45 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Extraordinary Organ and Strings Recital – Saturday 7th March, 2.30 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Youth Evening – Sunday 15th March, 5.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- SSVF Afternoon Tea – Saturday 28th March, 1.00 pm (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*)

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 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 Rannochoan	
Saturday 21 Feb St Joseph's 6 pm	F Donachie, K McGhee, M Kirk	Sr Juliet, G Rankin, L Rankin, M Steele, J Lennon	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	Philip Brown
Sunday 22 Feb St Matthew's 9.30 am	F Boyle, G Coyle, C Bias	R: A M Gilmour, A Gilion L: M Dempster, M Gordon, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 22 Feb St Joseph's 11 am	An Davidson, M Walker, P Nicholson	I Love, H Matthews, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	E Cunningham, L Heron	IHM Sisters	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 22 Feb OLMC 11.30 am	Owen Jones, Colin Cox	L Shearer, C Harper, C Lamberth	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Alice, Graham	Brian McDade, Marie Wilkie	

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: £1,113.11. Building Fund: £15. Ecuador Trust: £200.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collections: £392.87. SSVF: £147.25.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £515.54. Weekly collections: £410.10. Ecuador Trust: £3.60. Community Box: £131.40.

Thank you for generously supporting our parishes.

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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.