



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Lent
Sunday 8th March 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 MARCH 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 7th			
2.30 pm	St Joseph's	Organ & Strings Recital	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Hugh McCluskey (RIP)
Sunday 8th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Kevin Dorrian (RIP)
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	
11.00 am	OLMC	Altar Server Training	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	For the Parish
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
4.00 – 5.00 pm	St Matthew's	Lenten Hour of Prayer	
6.15 pm	St Joseph's	Choir Practice for Holy Week & Easter	
Monday 9th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Mary-Teresa Hughes (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
10.30-10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession (until 10.45 am)	
Tuesday 10th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	John Gray (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Cathie & John Murphy (Ann)
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	
Wednesday 11th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for Anne Vernon, RIP	Anne Vernon (RIP)
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	Rita Murphy (RIP)
6.00 pm	St Mary's, Irvine	Diocesan Mass to the Holy Spirit	
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA in St Joseph's Presbytery	
Friday 13th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Scott Colvin (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Stations of the Cross	
11.00 – 4.00 pm	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
No Rosary, Mass or Stations of the Cross in OLMC today			
Saturday 14th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Catherine Dodds (RIP)
Sunday 15th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Michael & Mary Murray (Ann)
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	For the Parish
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
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

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. A few copies are still available free of charge from the porch.

SCIAF BOXES: 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.

HOUR OF PRAYER: There will be a quiet hour of prayer in St Matthew's church on Sundays during Lent from 4 – 5 pm.

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.

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICE: Will be celebrated in St Joseph's Church on Monday 16th March at 7.00 pm. Several of the priests of the Deanery will be attending and available to celebrate the Sacrament during the service.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

As we continue our journey through Lent, please find below the Holy Week and Easter Mass times for our parishes. There will be other opportunities for prayer and devotion, however these are the key liturgies. With the exception of the Sundays, these days are not Holydays of Obligation, however we would encourage you to attend as many as possible to truly enter into the celebration of the Triduum: sharing in the Last Supper, walking with Christ to Calvary, and joining with him at his Resurrection.

Palm Sunday	
St Matthew's	9.30 am
St Joseph's	11.00 am
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	11.30 am
Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper)	
St Joseph's	7.00 pm
St Matthew's	7.00 pm
Good Friday (The Passion of the Lord)	
St Joseph's	3.00 pm
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	3.00 pm
Holy Saturday	
St Joseph's	8.30 pm
Easter Sunday	
The Kay Park (near Registry Office)	8.00 am (ecumenical service)
St Matthew's	9.30 am
St Joseph's	11.00 am
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	11.30 am

GENERAL NOTICES

ASSISTED DYING TALK: It was brought to the attention of the priests that some of the children in the congregation were upset by the assisted dying talk in recent weeks. We are sorry for any upset caused. To avoid this happening again, when a talk of a sensitive nature is to be given at the end of Mass then the priest will make this known and provide an opportunity for the children to leave early.

SCRUTINIES OF THE ELECT: This weekend we begin our scrutinies of the Elect. The Elect are the people, catechumens (unbaptised) or candidates (baptised but not confirmed) who have been preparing over the last year to be received into the Church at Easter. The scrutinies take place over a three week period. Each scrutiny invites them to pray for a particular detachment from sin and grace necessary for them to fully prepare for their reception into the church at Easter. They also invite and remind the wider community to pray for those who are preparing.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND VISITING: We are grateful to all of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who visit sick and housebound parishioners throughout Kilmarnock, helping them to keep in touch with the parish and to continue to receive the Eucharist while they are unable to attend Mass.



If you currently visit someone who is housebound (either as an Extraordinary Minister or a family member), or are housebound yourself please scan the QR code or pick up a form from the porch and complete it with the details of the person(s) you visit, or with your own details.

In order to ensure that our housebound list is up-to-date, and so to ensure that all of those who are housebound continue to receive the Eucharist and, when possible, a visit from Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin, we're carrying out a review of the list.

DIOCESAN MASSES TO THE HOLY SPIRIT: The next Mass of the Holy Spirit will be on Thursday 12th March in St Mary's, Irvine at 6pm.

All are welcome and encouraged to continue asking the Spirit's help in using the gifts we have received to discern God's will for the Diocese. This month we will reflect on the gift of Fear of the

Lord – This gift makes us aware of the greatness of God and makes us look to him with wonder and awe. It increases our desire to draw closer to God and turn away from sin.

Pope St Gregory the Great spoke of the gifts as moving from one to the other: "Through the fear of the Lord we rise to piety, from piety then to knowledge, from knowledge we derive strength (fortitude), from strength counsel, with counsel we move towards understanding, and with understanding towards wisdom and thus, by the sevenfold grace of the Spirit, there opens to us at the end of the ascent the entrance to the life of Heaven".

KILMARNOCK SPRED: Kilmarnock SPRED will resume meetings on Tuesday 10th March in St Matthew's Church Hall.

SPRED exists to support adults with additional needs throughout their faith journey, by way of Friendship, Belonging and Inclusion. Meetings, which are a mixture of fun, social and spiritual activities, take place in St Matthew's Hall on Tuesdays from 7pm to 9pm. There are currently vacancies for a few new members (Faith Friends). If there is anyone who would like to attend or to find out more, please contact Kathleen Jones on 07513948722 or go to spredgalloway.org.

HCPT GROUP 138 LOURDES APPEAL: HCPT Group 138, formerly of Fr Martin Chambers, are fundraising to raise funds to send disabled and disadvantaged children from Ayrshire on pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter. We have various parishioners involved in the group from across our three Kilmarnock parishes. Graham Rannochan of our Lady of Mount Carmel is running a free to attend race night on Saturday 7th March at Kay Park Bowling Club, doors open 7pm, includes a licenced bar. We have horses for sponsor, sponsorship being £2 per horse, allowing you to name your horse and receive a prize should it win on the night. No need to attend the event in order to sponsor a horse and we can get the prize to you at a later date.

Troon fundraising event: Also, soup, filled rolls, home baking, te/coffee, bingo games in Troon Scout Hall (next to railway station) on Sunday 8th March at 12.30 pm. £7 per adult, £3 per child (under 12). Proceeds will be split between HCPT Group 138 and the Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust.

JUSTICE & PEACE (SCOTLAND) NEWSLETTER: The latest edition has now been published and can be downloaded from their website: www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers the soul of our parishioner Anne Vernon who has died. Anne's Requiem Mass will be offered on Wednesday 11th March at 10.00 am. May she 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.

LADIES NIGHT: A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Ladies Night, including all who donated raffle prizes. An extra special thanks to the team who worked tirelessly and the Bordone family for their generous

donation of the ice cream dessert. The event raised £1424 which will be directed to the building fund.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

U.R. WELCOME CLUB DATES: The next date is 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.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

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.

ST MATTHEW'S AND MOUNT CARMEL

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILS AND THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEES OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL AND ST MATTHEW'S PARISHES: When a new parish priest is appointed, the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and the Parish Finance Committee (PFC) are dissolved and a new PPC and PFC are to be constituted.

Fr Stephen invited those who had previously served on these groups to meet with him at an early stage to learn more about the life of the parishes, and this collaboration was valuable. Once again, those who served on the PPC and PFC are invited to a joint meeting of both groups from both parishes on Thursday 19th March at 7.15 pm in St Matthew's church hall.

At the meeting Fr Stephen will share and discuss information about the stewardship of the parishes in advance of reporting to the wider congregations.

Also, an initial discussion will take place at this meeting about the shape of the PPCs and PFCs to be newly constituted.

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. Forms are available in the porch.

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.

The St Matthew's foodbank has had to review how they help those in need of their service. Donations of food are requested and they can be brought to church and left in the community room. The contents requested for a food bag are:

- Can of soup
- Canned meal, e.g. beef stew, chilli con carne, curry
- Pasta or rice (only small bags)
- Tinned fruit / vegetables / beans
- Cartons of long-life milk (UHT)
- Tin of tuna
- Packet of biscuits
- Toilet roll.

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	3.30 pm	5.30 pm	St Matthew's
Wednesday	10.30 am	11.30 pm	St Joseph's Hall
Thursday	3.30 pm	5.30 pm	St Matthew's

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/CONFESSION

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

P4 – FIRST EUCHARIST/ COMMUNION

I BELONG: The 'I Belong' programme continues on Sunday 22nd March in all three parishes:

- St Matthew's – 10.30 – 11.30 am (Committee Room)
- OLMC – 10.15 – 11.15 am (Norbert Room)
- St Joseph's – 12.30 – 1.30 pm (Meeting Room)

MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH EVENING: (Until the summer, these evenings are open to young people in P5 and up.) Join Youth from across the cluster on Sunday 22nd March as they gather for their monthly evening in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock. They'll be reflecting on St Joseph: who he is and what we can learn from him. 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 P5-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.

YOUNG ADULTS' EVENING: The next Young Adults evening takes place on Sunday 29th March in St Joseph's Church. The group will be joined by Bishop Frank for 'An Evening with Bishop Frank' as he speaks to the group on a range of different topics and issues, as well as taking questions from the group. The evening begins with Mass at 5.45 pm, continuing in the Hall from 6.30 pm. All young adults in S5 to age 30 are welcome to come along.

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.**

ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT: Takes place from 27th – 29th November at Gowanbank SU Centre, near Darvel. The retreat is open to all young people currently in P6-S3. Register before Easter for a discounted rate of only £140 pp, and only pay a £50 deposit. 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. Go to youth.rcdg.org.uk for more details and to register.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Deanery Penance Service – Monday 16th March, 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Youth Evening – Sunday 22nd March, 5.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- First Reconciliation – Monday 23rd March, 6.30 pm (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*)
- Organ Recital by Raymond McCluskey – Tuesday 24th March, 12.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- SSVP Afternoon Tea – Saturday 28th March, 1.00 pm (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*)
 - Young Adults' Evening – Sunday 29th March, 5.45 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Divine Mercy Sunday – Sunday 12th April, 2.00 pm (*St Paul's, Hurlford*)
- Easter Youth Day – Saturday 18th April, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm (*St Teresa's, Dumfries*)

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 Mar St Joseph's 6 pm	M Kirk, F Donachie, M McGrath	Sr Mabel, G Rankin, L Rankin, K McGhee, A Gorman	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	Marie Wilkie
Sunday 8 Mar St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Bradley, M Thomson, J Duff	R: M Musilli, S Duff L: F Stacey, M Thomson, M Dempster	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 8 Mar St Joseph's 11 am	H Matthews, P Nicholson, G Smith	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, A Neil	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Anne & Gerry Smith	IHM Sisters	Devlin, Eileen	
Sunday 8 Mar OLMC 11.30 am	Helen Kennedy, Colette Lamberth	S Clark, J McCrossan, A Starrs	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Marion, John	Rita Chak, Martin Duffy	
Saturday 14 Mar St Joseph's 6 pm	A Davidson, E Heron, K McGhee	Sr Juliet, M Steele, J Lennon, F Donachie, C McGowan	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	IHM Sisters
Sunday 15 Mar St Matthew's 9.30 am	C Stacey, P Brown, M Musilli	R: C Brown, Sister L: M Gordon, C Gordon, M Bradley	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 15 Mar St Joseph's 11 am	F McCann, M Andrew, G McGee	J Shields, F McCann, P Dorrian, D Custodio, M Walker	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	E Cunningham, L Heron	E Boyd, K Cassidy	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 15 Mar OLMC 11.30 am	Josephine McCrossan Greta McNeil	Sister, G Rannochoan, S Hollywood	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Marie, John	C McGuire, B McDauid	

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 1st March

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,398.25.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collections: £317.95. SSVP: £89.61.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £515.54. Weekly collections: £426.09. Ecuador Trust: £12.

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.