



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fifth Sunday of Lent
 Sunday 22nd 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 22nd – 29th MARCH 2026

| Time | Venue | Gathering | Mass intention |
|-----------------------|--------------|---|--|
| Saturday 21st | | | |
| 5.30 – 5.45 pm | St Joseph's | Confession | |
| 6.00 pm | St Joseph's | Vigil Mass | Murdoch McGuire (Ann) |
| Sunday 22nd | | | |
| 9.30 am | St Matthew's | Mass | For the Parish |
| 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 | John McGill (Ann) |
| 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 | Eileen Boyle (RIP) & Bob McCloskey (Ann) |
| After Mass | OLMC | Tea and Coffee | |
| 4.00 – 5.00 pm | St Matthew's | Lenten Hour of Prayer | |
| 5.00 pm | St Joseph's | Mass (with the Cluster Youth (P5-S4) followed by Youth Evening in the Hall until 7.00 pm | |
| 6.15 pm | St Joseph's | Choir Practice for Holy Week & Easter | |
| Monday 23rd | | | |
| 9.30 am | St Matthew's | Recitation of the Holy Rosary | |
| 10.00 am | St Matthew's | Mass | Jean Lynn (RIP) |
| 10.00 am | St Joseph's | Mass | Maria O'Para (RIP) |
| 10.30-10.45 am | St Joseph's | Confession (until 10.45 am) | |
| 6.30 pm | OLMC | First Reconciliation (for all Parishes) | |
| Tuesday 24th | | | |
| 10.00 am | St Joseph's | Mass | Jim Dickson (RIP) |
| 10.30 – 11.00 am | St Joseph's | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament | |
| 10.00 am | OLMC | Mass | Gerda Devlin (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 | |
| Wednesday 25th | | | |
| 10.00 am | St Joseph's | Mass | John McCloskey (RIP) |
| After Mass | St Joseph's | Recitation of the Holy Rosary | |
| 10.00 am | St Matthew's | Mass | Paul Carmichael (RIP) |
| 10.30 – 11.00 am | St Matthew's | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am) | |
| 1.30 – 3.30 pm | OLMC | U. R. Welcome (in the Norbert Room) | |
| 7.00 pm | OLMC | RCIA (in the Norbert Room) | |
| Thursday 26th | | | |
| 6.00 pm | St Joseph's | Mass | John Duffy (RIP) / William Wallace (RIP) |
| 6.30 pm | St Joseph's | RCIA (in the Parish House) | |
| Friday 27th | | | |
| 9.30 am | OLMC | Recitation of the Holy Rosary | |
| 10.00 am | OLMC | Mass followed by Stations of the Cross | Ann Marie Lynch (RIP) |
| 10.00 am | St Joseph's | Mass followed by Stations of the Cross | Archie Cairns (RIP) |
| 11.00 – 4.00 pm | St Joseph's | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament | |
| Saturday 28th | | | |
| 5.30 – 5.45 pm | St Joseph's | Confession | |
| 6.00 pm | St Joseph's | Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday | Jennifer Galloway (RIP) |
| Sunday 29th | | | |
| 9.30 am | St Matthew's | Palm Sunday Mass | Moira Brown (RIP) |
| After Mass | St Matthew's | Tea and Coffee | |
| 11.00 am | St Joseph's | Palm Sunday Mass | Paul Carmichael (RIP) |
| After Mass | St Joseph's | Tea and Coffee | |
| 11.30 am | OLMC | Palm Sunday Mass | For the Parish |
| After Mass | OLMC | Tea and Coffee | |
| 4.00 – 5.00 pm | St Matthew's | Lenten Hour of Prayer | |
| 5.30 pm | St Joseph's | Mass (with the Diocesan Young Adults) followed by talk with Bishop Frank in the Hall. | Galloway Youth & Young Adults |
| 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

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.

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 | 6.00 pm (Vigil)/ 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 |

WASHING OF THE FEET: On Holy Thursday, 12 people are requested to have a foot washed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper in St Joseph's and in St Matthew's churches. Please add your name to the list in the porch if you can assist.

GENERAL NOTICES

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.

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.



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.

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

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATIONS: On Sunday 12th April, Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrations will begin at 2 pm in St Paul's Church, Hurlford. Mass will be celebrated at 4 pm. Tea/Coffee will be available in the hall following Mass. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to attend.

STATEMENT FROM THE BISHOPS OF SCOTLAND

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Following a request from the Holy See, the Bishops of Scotland have been invited to reflect on how the structures of the Church in our country can best serve her mission in the years ahead, specifically whether the present situation of eight dioceses is suitable.

We are all aware of the challenges before us — fewer clergy, changing patterns of practice, and increasing pressures on our diocesan resources, among other things. Yet our mission remains unchanged: to proclaim the Gospel and to lead our people to Christ.

Two possible pathways are being proposed for careful discernment: developing deeper cooperation and the sharing of resources across dioceses within our present structures, or the merging of some dioceses.

In order to best inform ourselves and the Holy See, each bishop will engage with his diocese over the coming months for the first part of this process. Everyone will be given the opportunity to pray, reflect, and contribute.

Following-on from the presentation of a discussion paper, responses from each diocese will contribute to the initial findings which will be given to the Holy See in the Autumn.

This is not simply an administrative exercise. It is a pastoral and missionary response to our changing landscape. This process will ensure our Church in Scotland will continue to grow ever more missionary, more Christ-centred, and more collaborative in the service of God's people.

Entrusting this work to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the intercession of Our Lady, we move forward together with confidence and renewed hope.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: With sadness we inform you that Sister Anne Smyth, a former parishioner of St Joseph's and a Sister of Notre Dame, has died. Her Requiem Mass will take place in Notre Dame House, Birkdale on Monday 30th March at 12 noon, where she will also be laid to rest. Mass in St Joseph's on Monday 30th March will be offered for the repose of the soul of Sister Anne.

We also extend our condolences to the family of the late John Quigley. His Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 31st March at 10 am in St Joseph's. May they rest in peace.

ORGAN RECITAL: The next organ recital will be performed by our very own Raymond McCluskey on Tuesday 24th March at 12 noon. All are very welcome.



ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

THE RESTORED HARRISON & HARRISON ORGAN (1903, 2023)

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES 2026

Recitalist: RAYMOND MCCLUSKEY (St Joseph's, Kilmarnock)

Tuesday 24 March 12 noon

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

A one hour organ recital featuring a programme of music on the church's recently restored Harrison & Harrison pipe organ.

Admission free - Retiral collection

No booking required - just come along

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

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.

COLLECTION ENVELOPES AND 2025 PARISH ACCOUNTS: Collection envelopes are available to collect from the porch. If you donate by standing order, you will be offered a box of envelopes for the special collections only to allow Gift Aid (25% of your donation) to be reclaimed for the charity.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

U.R. WELCOME CLUB DATES: The next date is 25th March (a talk with Fr Eddie McGhee) 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 1 pm and 3 pm 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. Alternatively sign up by emailing olmc_ssvp@icloud.com.)

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 07905 620033. This will start on Sunday 22nd February, finishing Sunday March 29th.

LADIES SPIRITUALITY GROUP: The Ladies Spirituality group will meet on Wednesday 25th March in St Matthew's at 2pm. Tea and coffee available. All ladies welcome. Contact Cherry Stacey 07759943762.

ST MATTHEW'S AND MOUNT CARMEL

COLLECTION ENVELOPES AND 2025 PARISH ACCOUNTS: Collection envelopes are available to collect from the porch from this weekend. If you donate by standing order, you will be offered a box of envelopes for the special collections only to allow Gift Aid (25% of your donation) to be reclaimed for the charity.

A statement of parish income and expenditure for 2025 will be distributed this weekend.

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 | 5.00 pm | St Matthew's |
| Wednesday | 10.30 am | 11.30 pm | St Joseph's Hall |
| Thursday | 3.30 pm | 5.00 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 today in all three parishes.

MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH EVENING: (Until the summer, these evenings are now open to young people in P5 and up.) Join Youth from across the cluster tonight (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.

YOUNG ADULTS' EVENING: The next evening takes place on Sunday 29th March when Bishop Frank will be joining the group for "An Evening with Bishop Frank" as he speaks on and discusses a range of different topics. Join Young Adults from across the Diocese at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, beginning with Mass at 5.30 pm, or join from 6.30 pm online for the talk. To follow online, register through their website: youth.rcdg.org.uk and click on 'Young Adults'.

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.

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: (Register by Easter Sunday to secure your place at the early-bird rate of £140.00) Takes place from 27th – 29th November at Gowanbank SU Centre, near Darvel. The retreat is open to all young people currently in P6-S3. 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

- 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 21 Mar St Joseph's 6 pm | H Rameckers, G McIntyre, F Donachie | G Rankin, L Rankin, K McGhee, Sr Mabel, Sr Juliet | Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia | | | Clare, Margaret | Eric Allan |
| Sunday 22 Mar St Matthew's 9.30 am | Dawn Bias, Eric Allan, Catherine Brown | R: L Vernon, C Stacey L: M Thomson, M Bradley, S Duff | Luca, David, Rebecca | | | | |
| Sunday 22 Mar St Joseph's 11 am | M Walker, R Doak, An. Davidson | E Cunningham, P Chigbo, L Dorrian, I Love, H Matthews | Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude | Anne & Mike Timmons | IHM Sisters | Paul, Libby | |
| Sunday 22 Mar OLMC 11.30 am | Irene Roy, Donna Shearer | M Wilkie, M Urquhart, M Smith | Jessica, Farrah, Katie | Suzy | Alice, John | Colette, John | M McGrath |
| Saturday 28 Mar St Joseph's 6 pm | A Davidson, M McGrath, M Kirk | M McGrath, C Power, K McGhee, F Donachie, C McGowan | Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia | | | Kathleen, Frances | |
| Sunday 29 Mar St Matthew's 9.30 am | M Merrick, K Ainsworth, Dawn Bias | R: C Brown, Sister L: M Dempster, N McKenna, F Stacey | Luca, David, Rebecca | | | | |
| Sunday 29 Mar St Joseph's 11 am | L Hand, M Cunningham, H Matthews | M Andrew, F McCann, D Custodio, M Walker, P Dorrian | Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude | Anne & Gerry Smith | L Feeney, E O'Connell | Devlin, Eileen | |
| Sunday 29 Mar OLMC 11.30 am | Marion Smith, Agnes Starrs | Sister, Luke Shearer, Charlie Harper | Jessica, Farrah, Katie | Suzy | Maria, John | Alice Brown, 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 15th March

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| St Joseph's | Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,214.06. SCIAF: £1,747.74. Ecuador Trust: £200. Holy Places: £50. |
| Our Lady of Mount Carmel | Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collections: £246.74. SCIAF: £502.05. SSVP: £115.66. |
| St Matthew's | Standing orders: £515.54. Weekly collections: £379.43. Community Box: £149.37. Ecuador Trust: £8.50. SCIAF: £380.26. |

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.