



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Sunday 29th 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 29th MARCH – 5th APRIL 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 28th			
1.00 – 3.00 pm	OLMC	SSVP Afternoon Tea	
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)	Galloway Youth & Young Adults followed by talk with Bishop Frank in the Hall.
6.15 pm	St Joseph's	Choir Practice for Holy Week and Easter	
Monday 30th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Kevin O'Brien (Ann)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass followed by Confessions (until 10.45 am)	Sr Anne Smyth (Ann)
Tuesday 31st			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for John Quigley (RIP)	John Quigley (RIP)
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass with Mount Carmel Primary School	Gerda Devlin (RIP)
11.00 – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Caf�	
7.00 pm	Cathedral	Mass of Chrism	
Wednesday 1st			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Danny Duffy (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Church Cleaning (New volunteers welcome)	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Jim Fleeting (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession	(Confession until 10.50 am)
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Choir Practice for Holy Week and Easter	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA (in the Norbert Room)	
Thursday 2nd			
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass of the Lord's Supper	William Wallace (RIP) followed by watching at the Altar of Repose and Night Prayer at 8.50 pm
7.00 pm	St Matthew's	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Anne Vernon (RIP) followed by watching at the Altar of Repose and Night Prayer at 8.50 pm
Friday 3rd			
10.45 am		Walk of Witness, Salvation Army Hall to New Laigh Kirk	
12 noon – 3.00 pm	New Laigh Kirk	Ecumenical Stations of the Cross	
12.00 pm	St Joseph's	Stations of the Cross for Children	
3.00 pm	St Joseph's	Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord	
3.00 pm	OLMC	Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord	
5.30 – 6.50 pm	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 4th			
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Blessing of Easter Baskets (Święconka)	
8.30 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass of Easter Sunday	Sr Anne Smyth (RIP) / Murdoch McGuire (Ann)
Sunday 5th			
8.00 am	Kay Park	Ecumenical Service	
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass of Easter Sunday	For the Parish
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass of Easter Sunday	For the Parish
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass of Easter Sunday	For the Parish

St Joseph's is open for prayer Monday to Friday from 9.30 am until 4 pm. Enter through the small side door.

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.

Facebook – X – Instagram – @rckilmarnock

Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock

GENERAL NOTICES

YOUNG ADULTS' EVENING: The next evening takes place tonight 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'.

MASS OF CHRISM: Bishop Frank will celebrate the Mass of Christ in St Margaret's Cathedral on Tuesday 31st March at 7.00 pm. At this Mass the oils for use in the Sacraments will be blessed and consecrated, and the priests of the diocese renew their Priestly Promises. All are welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY: Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence, one of only two in the Church's year. 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 to Christ's suffering on the way to Calvary.

PARISH CENSUS: A number of years have passed since the St Joseph's parish census was taken, and it is necessary to update it. This also provides an opportunity to take a census of all three parishes. The information gathered helps the priests better serve the people and is stored in accordance with the diocesan GDPR notice available on www.rcdg.org.uk. You may complete the census online by scanning the QR code here, or return the paper census to the stall or the sacristy.



SPECIAL COLLECTION: A special collection will be taken on Good Friday (3rd April at 3 pm liturgy) for the Holy Places - places of pilgrimage in the Holy Land - to assist the welcome and hospitality of pilgrims. This collection also assists Christians who are persecuted in the Holy Land. An envelope is included in the box set. Thank you.

POLISH BLESSING OF THE BASKETS (SWIĘCONKA): The Polish community (and others who wish) are invited to bring baskets of food to St Joseph's Church at 11.00 am on Saturday 4th April to be blessed in the traditional Święconka Blessing Service (in the English language).

ALTAR SERVER REHEARSALS: Holy Thursday rehearsal at 6.15 pm on Holy Thursday; Good Friday rehearsal at 2.00 pm on Good Friday; Easter Vigil rehearsal at 11.30 am on Holy Saturday.

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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (PFC) UPDATE: Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin met with the PPC and PFC of St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes to discuss the structure of these committees moving forward.

With a view to forming one PPC and PFC with representation from all three parishes, the following was agreed:

- The former PPCs will choose six members to represent St Matthew's and six members to represent Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The St Joseph's PPC membership remains as it is at present.
- The parish priest will have the discretion to add another two people to each group for St Matthew's and OLMC.
- In April 2026, each of the three PPCs will meet individually.
- In June 2026, there will be a joint meeting of the PPCs from all three parishes.
- In September 2026, the three PPCs will meet individually.
- In November 2026, there will be a joint meeting of the PPCs from all three parishes.
- From January 2027, there will be one PPC for Kilmarnock.
- Regarding the Finance and Fabric Committee, up to five members from the former PFC have to be selected by the previous membership. Building and financial experience are necessary. The PFC will meet as a joint group for the three parishes from June 2026.

COLLECTION ENVELOPE BOXES: These arrived late and are now available for those from St Matthew's and OLMC whose special collection envelopes were wrapped in an elastic band. Please collect the boxes at Mass this weekend.



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.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

REQUIESCENT 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.

WASHING OF THE FEET: Volunteers are requested to have one foot washed during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. If you would like to volunteer, please add your name to the list in the porch.

LOURDES INTENTIONS: On Easter Sunday two of our young adult parishioners, Mark and Kieran O'Neill will be travelling to Lourdes as part of HCPT. If you would like them to take any prayer intentions with them to be placed in the Grotto please hand these in to the stall by Friday.

CLEANING ROTA: The next cleaning rota day is Wednesday 1st April. After Easter, the rota day will go back to being on Fridays.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

SSVP AFTERNOON TEA: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Saint Vincent de Paul Conference will be hosting afternoon tea between 1 pm and 3 pm on 18th April 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. This will conclude after today's hour of prayer.

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. All of our foodbanks are provided free of charge.

Day	Start	Finish	Location
Monday	7.30 pm	8.15 pm	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Tuesday	4.00 pm	7.00 pm	St Matthew's
Wednesday	10.30 am	11.30 pm	St Joseph's Hall
Thursday	4.00 pm	7.00 pm	St Matthew's

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.



GALLOWAY YOUTH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10 – MARCH 2026

Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth
youth.rcdg.org.uk – youth@rcdg.org.uk

RC Diocese of Galloway
Youth Office
Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

EASTER YOUTH DAY

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION - HIS LOVING SACRIFICE FOR US.

MASS . GAMES . TALK . ACTIVITIES . PIZZA . BBQ . SOCIAL

SCAN TO REGISTER

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL
ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES
FREE - LUNCH INCLUDED

Free event for Youth in P5-S4. Free transport available from: Saltcoats, Ayr, Kilmarnock, and Cumnock. Scan the QR code to register and book your seat.

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST YOUTH EVENT OF THE YEAR – THE GALLOWAY YOUTH EASTER GATHERING!

Join with young people from across the Diocese for a day of fun, faith, and friendship, spent with friends and making new friends!

Join us on Saturday 18th April from 11.00 – 4.00 pm in St Teresa's Church, Dumfries as we gather to celebrate Easter. Open to young people in P5-S4 from across the Diocese. The day consists of a wide range of different (and fun) games and activities with old favourites and new games making appearances! We'll also be hearing two short talks on the theme of the Holy Spirit and spending time in prayer and reflection.

The day is completely free of charge with lunch – a BBQ and Pizza – provided free of charge, as well as sweets, crisps, and juice. Last year we welcomed over 60 and we're expecting even more this year!

Free transport is provided from: Saltcoats, Ayr, Kilmarnock, and Cumnock to help you to take part, with the day itself running from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. When registering, you can reserve your seat on the coach and we'll be in touch nearer the time to confirm the exact pickup time in your area.

Interested? Scan the QR code or go to our website to register to take part, and remember, if it's your first event you also need to complete an Annual Consent Form.



2026 ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT

RCDG Youth - Diocese of Galloway Youth Office



Weekend includes:
Outdoor Activities
(Tree climbing, Archery Tag, Archery and more!)
Talks, Prayer, and Mass
All Meals & Accommodation

27TH - 29TH NOVEMBER

GOWANBANK **£160 PP**

Open to Youth in P7-S4 in 2026/2027 (currently P6-S3).

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
Register before Easter and only pay £140, with a £50 deposit!

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE
SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO YOUTH.RCDG.ORG.UK
TO SECURE YOUR PLACE TODAY!

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

REGISTER BEFORE EASTER SUNDAY TO QUALIFY FOR THE EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNT.

2026 ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT 27th – 29th November 2026 - £140

We look forward to returning to Gowanbank SU Centre in November for our 2026 Advent Retreat where we're inviting YOU to be one of forty young people taking part in a weekend of outdoor activities, games, prayer, discussion, Mass, and reflection with friends old and new! Over the weekend you'll spend time with friends trying new activities, reflecting on Christ's love for you and his call for you, but most of all, having fun! Open to young people in P7-S4 (*current P6-S3*). The weekend costs £160 with an early bird discount to £140 if you register before Easter Sunday, which includes everything: transport, food, accommodation, and activities! When registering, you'll only be asked to pay a £50 deposit, with a further £45 due in June, and £45 in October.

For more information, and to register, scan the QR code or go to our website and click on 'Youth'.

SAVE THE DATE...
7TH – 11TH AUGUST 2027
Something big is coming and **we want you to be part of it.**
Join us at the Easter Youth Gathering to be the first to know...

YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30)



GALLOWAY YOUNG ADULTS ROME 2026

In October, 14 Young Adults accompanied by Fr Kevin and Margaret, two of our Youth Leaders, will be travelling to Rome for a five day Spiritual and Cultural pilgrimage. In preparation for their pilgrimage, the group will be running a number of fundraisers – why not come along to support their work and to meet some of the group who'll be taking part. Their first fundraiser is a:

QUIZ NIGHT

St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock
Saturday 23rd May, 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

Tickets £3 per person. Raffle included, donations welcome.
Maximum team size: 6 persons.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

JOIN THE 200 CLUB: Join the 40+ members who've already become part of the Youth Office 200 Club and help support our work while being in with a chance of winning cash prizes. For only £5 per month you can join the Youth Office's 200 Club and be in with a chance to winning monthly cash prizes: 20%, 10% and 2 x 5% of that month's draw. Join the growing number of people from across the Diocese and beyond who are helping support our work, and taking home cash prizes at the same time. For details, and to register, go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk/200-club or email us for a registration form.

AN EVENING WITH BISHOP FRANK



**SUNDAY
29TH MARCH**

**ST JOSEPH'S
KILMARNOCK**

**MASS - 5.30 PM
TALK - 6.30 PM**

**CAN'T JOIN IN PERSON?
FOLLOW ONLINE!
REGISTER AT
YOUTH.RCDG.ORG.UK**

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk

Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

YOUNG ADULTS EVENING: The next Young Adults evening takes place tonight (Sunday 29th March) when Bishop Frank will be joining the group for "An Evening with Bishop Frank". He'll be discussing a wide range of different topics, as well as taking questions from the group. The evening **begins with Mass at 5.30 pm** (Please note the earlier time due to Palm Sunday) in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, before continuing in the hall from 6.30 pm.

Want to join but don't live in the area? It's now possible to follow all of our Young Adults' talks online. If you're a Young Adult in S5 to age 30 living in the Diocese, you can follow the talk via Microsoft Teams, just go to our website and complete the registration, and we'll email you a link to the meeting to join in.

When following online, you'll be able to see and hear everything that's happening, as well as to ask questions and to take part in discussions.

SPRING SOCIAL



SATURDAY 25TH APRIL, 3.00 PM
TEN PIN BOWLING, LASERQUEST, DRINKS AND TIME TO SOCIALISE.

VENUE TBC

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST



SPRING SOCIAL: To celebrate Easter our Young Adults are planning a spring social on Saturday 25th April at 3.00 pm. The afternoon will include ten pin bowling, laserquest, and a chance to meet other young adults. The venue will be confirmed depending on interest. To register your interest in taking part, please scan the QR code and we'll be in touch with the details nearer the time.



RC Diocese of Galloway

Youth Office

Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise



JOIN OUR... 200 CLUB

and help support Youth and Young Adults ministry in Galloway.

£5 per month

Cash Prizes to be won!
(20%, 10% & 2 x 5% of the Total Income)

Go to youth.rcdg.org.uk to register today and help support Youth Ministry in Galloway.

The Youth Office is licensed to operate a 200 Club under license no SAC/298.

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk

Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdgyouth

The winning numbers from the February draw: 1st – 28, 2nd – 9, 3rd & 4th – 13 & 32. All winners have been contacted.

HOLY WEEK IS THE HEART OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR

Holy Thursday



Holy Thursday begins the *Triduum*. The oldest and still official name of this day is "Thursday of the Lord's Supper". It commemorates the historical Gospel events surrounding the Last Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist. "Maundy Thursday," a popular title in English-speaking countries, comes from the solemn ritual of washing of feet in imitation of Jesus at his Last Supper. The name is a corruption of *mandatum* (Latin for "commandment") from the words of Jesus sung as the washing begins; "A new commandment I give to you" (Jn 13:34).

Parish liturgies take place in the evening, with joyful overtones. Bells ring and festive colours are used for vestments and decorations. The Gloria, not prayed since Ash Wednesday (except for solemnities such as the Feast of the Annunciation), returns for this brief moment. The tabernacle is empty so that all might receive the Eucharist from bread consecrated at this Mass.

The Holy Thursday ritual has included a ceremonial washing of feet by the presider since the 5th century. This ritual imitates Jesus' Last Supper action of humility and service. Appropriate songs are sung during this symbolic washing. Usually, twelve participants are chosen from the parish at large.

At the end of the Holy Thursday liturgy, consecrated Hosts are carried in procession, with incense and song, to a chapel of adoration. These Hosts will be received the next day in Communion. After placing the Hosts in the tabernacle, an atmosphere of quiet watching with the Lord begins. It is common for people to spend a Holy Hour sometime before midnight in the adoration chapel.

Good Friday



The second day of the *Triduum* is the Passion of the Lord, known as Good Friday, the anniversary of the death of Jesus on the cross just outside the walls of Jerusalem. The origin of the term "Good" for this day is unknown, but probably emphasises the saving value of the historical event of the crucifixion of Jesus. The theme of this day throughout history has been one of quiet sadness and mourning for the crucified and dead Jesus.

On this one day of the entire year, the Mass is not celebrated. The Church's Good Friday liturgy takes place in the afternoon. The emphasis of the liturgy is on Scripture readings and prayers, the veneration of the cross, and the reception of the Eucharist from the Hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday.

Holy Saturday

The daytime hours of Holy Saturday continue the atmosphere of Good Friday, and have been observed as a time of quiet and fasting from the earliest centuries. The day has no liturgy or religious traditions of its own. There is an atmosphere of anticipation for the coming of night and for the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

Adults preparing for Baptism or reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil often spend some time in a mini-retreat, with fasting and prayer as the hours of the Easter Vigil approach.

Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday is the night of all nights and the primary celebration of Jesus' Resurrection.

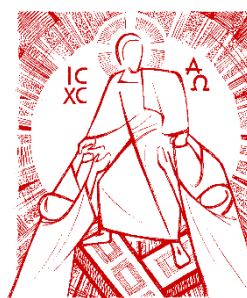
The late 20th-century restoration of the adult catechumenate (RCIA) first developed in the early Church has added an important feature to the Easter Vigil that had not existed for centuries: the public Baptism of adults, and reception of the other sacraments of initiation by them and by already-Baptised adults being received into full communion with the Church.

The elaborate and beautiful ritual of the Easter Vigil calls for extensive preparation by the parish team and many other parishioners. The church is decorated; sacramentals of oil, incense, water, and fire are readied; and the liturgy is rehearsed. Adult Elect and Candidates begin their final hours of preparation. The Easter Vigil has four clearly-defined parts: the service of light, the Liturgy of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, and the Eucharist. The service of light begins with a fully darkened church. The presider and other celebrants begin outside or at the back of the church, striking the Paschal flame and lighting the Paschal candle (the symbol of Christ's Resurrection), which is inscribed and adorned with appropriate symbols. Once the Paschal candle is lit to the chant of *Lumen Christi* ("light of Christ"), its flame is used to light small candles held by those in the congregation. The Paschal candle is processed to the altar, during which *Lumen Christi* is sung twice more at intervals.

Following the arrival of the procession, the *Exultet*, a recounting of the saving actions of Christ, is sung. Then the readings of the Mass, several from the Old Testament, are interspersed with responsorial Psalms and prayers by the celebrant. The Liturgy of the Word is far lengthier than in any other Mass of the Church, consisting of as many as seven readings that recapitulate God's saving action throughout history. The prayer at the end of this part of the Liturgy of the Word is the Easter Proclamation, immediately after which the lights are turned on suddenly, and the Gloria is sung with the maximum amount of musical instruments, bells, and choir available to the parish.

Following the proclamation of the Gospel and the preaching of the homily, the celebration of Baptism of the Elect begins, followed by a rite to receive already-baptised Candidates, and Confirmation of all those just received into the Church. The Mass concludes with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Easter



The theme of Easter morning continues the triumphant joy of the Easter Vigil. It remembers and celebrates the very foundation of Christianity: Jesus is raised from the dead, and is Lord. Those who believe and are baptised share in this resurrection to new life. This theme will continue for the next fifty days of the Easter Season, which does not end until Pentecost Sunday. It was natural that the very first followers of Jesus would hold the moment of Jesus' Resurrection sacred. It was the anniversary of that wonderful time when they experienced him risen and still among them. His death had occurred on the most important of all Jewish feasts: the Passover. His Resurrection fulfilled all that the Passover had meant to them as Jews. It was an *exodus*, or passage, from the old times and the oppression of slavery to spiritual freedom. Jesus himself was the Paschal Lamb, slain to achieve this freedom.

During this week, the heart of the Church year, the drama of God's love for us unfolds before our eyes. We celebrate and thank God for the very essence of our faith this week. Please make a special effort to play an active part in all of the liturgies this week, and to bring your children along too.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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 28 Mar St Joseph's 6 pm	A Davidson, M McGrath, M Kirk. Passion: K McGhee (N), E Heron (S)	M McGrath, C Power, K McGhee, F Donachie, C McGowan	Joseph, Ethan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	M McGrath
Palm 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				
Palm Sunday 29 Mar St Joseph's 11 am	L Hand, M Cunningham, H Matthews. Passion: R Doak (N), M Walker (S)	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	
Palm Sunday 29 Mar OLMC 11.30 am	M Smith, A Starrs. Passion: A Starrs (N), M Wilkie (S)	Sister, Luke Shearer, Charlie Harper	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Maria, John	Alice Brown, Marie Wilkie	
Holy Thursday 2 Apr St Joseph's 7pm	F McCann, G Smith, F Donachie	A Neil, A Gorman, J Shields, R Murphy, E Cunningham – Choir, H Matthews - Choir	Ryan, Ravindu, Antoni, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Ethan				Fran Boyle
Holy Thursday 2 Apr St Matthew's 7pm	F Boyle, G Coyle, C Brown	R: Clare Gordon, Anne Gillion L: M Musilli, M Bradley, P Brown	David, Rebecca, Luca				
Good Friday 3 Apr St Joseph's 3pm	An Davidson, T Murphy, K McGhee. Passion: M Andrew (N), P Nicholson (S)		Mark, Rachel, Lexi, Ravindu, Ryan				
Good Friday 3 Apr OLMC 3pm	O & K Jones. Passion: A Starrs (N), I Roy (S)	Josephine McCrossan Marie Wilkie	Jessica, Farrah, Katie				
Holy Saturday 4 Apr St Joseph's 8.30pm	H Matthews, A Davidson, H Rameckers, E Heron, G Smith	P Dorrian, G Rankin, L Rankin, M Steele, F Donachie – Choir, K McGhee - Choir	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	H Rameckers
Easter Sunday 5 Apr St Matthew's 9.30 am	A Gillion, G Coyle, P Brown	R: A M Gilmour, M Bradley L: S Duff, C Gordon, Matthew	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Easter Sunday 5 Apr St Joseph's 11 am	F McCann, T Murphy, L Hand	F McCann, R Murphy, I Love, E Cunningham, P Chigbo, C Power	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Alan, Theresa	
Easter Sunday 5 Apr OLMC 11.30 am	J McCrossan, C Cox	J Hefron, L Hefron, S Clark	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	-	-	B McDade, 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 22nd March

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,600.09. SCIAF: £181. Building Fund: £60. SCES: £60.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collections: £543.62. SSVP: £162.03.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £508.62. Weekly collections: £436.51. Community Box: £116.27. Ecuador Trust: £7.

Thank you for generously supporting our parishes.

Hail, Redeemer, King divine! Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine, King, whose reign shall never cease, Prince of everlasting peace.

Angels, saints and nations sing: 'Praised be Jesus Christ, our King, Lord of life, earth, sky and sea, King of love on Calvary.'

King whose name creation thrills, rule our minds, our hearts, our wills, till in peace each nation rings with thy praises, King of kings.

King most holy, King of truth, guide the lowly, guide the youth; Christ thou King of glory bright, be to us eternal light.

Shepherd-King, o'er mountains steep, homeward bring the wand'ring sheep, shelter in one royal fold states and kingdoms, new and old.