



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday 12th April 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 12th – 19th APRIL 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 11th			
5.30 pm – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	The Sacrament of Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Hugh Gallacher (RIP)
Sunday 12th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	For the Parish
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Mary McGurk (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Margaret Cassells (Ann) & John McDaid (Ann)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	St Paul's, Hurlford	Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions and Confessions with Mass at 4 pm	
Monday 13th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Moira Brown (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Steven Love (RIP)
10.30-10.45 am	St Joseph's	Confession (until 10.45 am)	
Tuesday 14th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	William Wallace (RIP)
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)	
Wednesday 15th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Anne Vernon (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Jim Mellon (Ann)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
Thursday 16th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Agnes Nicholson (Ann) / Veronica Atwood (RIP)
6.30 – 7.00 pm	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
7.00 pm	St Matthew's	PPC Meeting (in the Hall)	
		<i>This is not an open meeting, please see details on next page.</i>	
Friday 17th			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Ann Marie Lynch (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Teddy Kelly (Ann)
Saturday 18th			
8.30 am	St Joseph's	Bus Departs for the Easter Youth Gathering	
		<i>Registration required. Sign up at youth.rcdg.org.uk.</i>	
1.00 – 3.00 pm	OLMC	SSVP Afternoon Tea	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	The Sacrament of Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Clare McIlhatton (RIP)
Sunday 19th			
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	Isabel Hanlon (Ann) & Alex Pullan (Spec Int)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Special Intention
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass for the Sick (for all three parishes)	For the sick of the parishes

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

GENERAL NOTICES

ABSENCE FROM THE PARISH: Fr Kevin will be away from Thursday 9th to Tuesday 14th April inclusive. We welcome Canon Jack McGee to Our Lady of Mount Carmel today as he joins the community to celebrate the 11.30 am Mass.

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: During this Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit, Bishop Frank Dougan is celebrating Votive Masses of the Holy Spirit in different parishes and schools of the diocese.

On Thursday 23rd April, the Bishop will celebrate a Mass of the Holy Spirit in St Joseph's at 6 pm. Everyone from the Kilmarnock parishes (and beyond) is encouraged to make an effort to participate in this most important diocesan gathering as we ask the Holy Spirit to prepare each of us for the mission of our parish communities in the years ahead.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who has taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit; grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in your consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. St Ninian, pray for us.

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.



MASS FOR THE SICK: A special Mass for the Sick, with the celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick, will take place in St Joseph's Church on Sunday 19th April, beginning with Mass at 1.00 pm. Afterwards, there will be a light lunch provided in the hall. This Mass is for parishioners in all three parishes.

Transport to/ from the Mass: If you would like to attend but are unable to arrange transport, a minibus is available to collect you and a carer/ family member from home and bring you to the church. Please phone the parish on 01563 521832 or Margaret McGrath on 01563 542130 to request a seat.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: A special collection will be taken up today for the Building Fund in all three parishes. **Please use the special collection envelope from the envelope set to ensure gift aid can be reclaimed on your donation.**

Note for St Matthew's and OLMC: The Building Fund will be taken nine times per year, and replaces the former regular weekly second collection. You are invited to contribute the monthly equivalent of your former second collection donations to this Building Fund all of which will benefit the parishes alone.

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.

SCIAF BOXES: Please return the SCIAF wee boxes to church as soon as possible.

GALLOWAY LOURDES HOSPITALITE RAFFLE: Tickets are now on sale for our Galloway Lourdes Hospitalite 70th Anniversary raffle. Tickets are £1 each with a first prize of £100 plus various other prizes. Tickets are available in all 3 parishes as follows: Frances McCann at St Joseph's – Margaret & Anne at St Matthews and Granny Mo & Luke at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. We are heading off to Lourdes in July 2027 and all funds raised will help to make the pilgrimage an unforgettable experience for our pilgrims. Get your tickets today and you could be a lucky winner - thank you for your generosity.

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



RC KILMARNOCK

St Joseph's - Our Lady of Mount Carmel - St Matthew's

MASS FOR THE SICK

Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

St Joseph's Church

for all three parishes

19th April 2026, 1.00 pm

Join us for Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, followed by a light lunch. The Sacrament is available to all of those who bear ongoing sickness and ill health of body or mind.

Assistance with transport may be available, please email rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk or call 01563 521832 (Option 3) to register your interest.

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.

CAMP OUT FOR HOPE: Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Scotland are excited to invite you to the Camp Out for Hope! This will be a powerful event to show solidarity with our suffering and displaced Christian brothers and sisters around the world. Join us for an all-night prayer vigil, opportunities to learn more about ACN and our work, time to socialise and build new friendships, and more! **Saturday, 30th May - Sunday, 31st May, Carfin Grotto, 8pm - 8am** Space is limited, so make sure to sign up now! **Head to trybooking.com to sign up for free.** Participants are encouraged to fundraise, with £50 as a target. Sign-ups will receive a fundraising pack to support their efforts. You must be aged 16+ to participate. Contact ACN Scotland at scotland@acnuk.org or 01698 337 470 for more information.



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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting of St Joseph's Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Monday 20th April at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's church hall. There will be a period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00 – 6.25 pm. If parishioners have any items they would like to be considered for discussion at the PPC, please email

rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk by 13th April. (Please indicate that your suggestion is for St Joseph's PPC.)

COMMUNITY CAFÉ BREAK: The Community Café will take a break during the school Easter holidays and will be closed on 14th April. It will resume on Tuesday 21st April from 11 am – 1 pm.

HUSTINGS DEBATE: 24 April at 7.30 pm in the Howard Centre, Portland Road, Kilmarnock. The Fellowship provides the only opportunity to meet candidates for the Scottish Parliament's elections for Kilmarnock & Irvine Valley constituency. All candidates have been invited to attend. To date 5 of the 6 candidates have agreed to attend and continuing efforts are being made to contact the 6th candidate.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Pastoral Council will take place on 21st April at 7 pm in the Norbert Room. There will be a period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30 – 6.55 pm for the PPC members who can take part. This is not an open meeting as it was before, but a meeting of the members chosen by the former PPC from among their own number. If parishioners have any items they would like to be considered for discussion at the PPC, please email rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk by 13th April. (Please indicate that your suggestion is for Our Lady of Mount Carmel PPC.)

U.R. WELCOME CLUB: The next meeting, "Eyes down for Bingo", takes place on Wednesday 22 April from 1.30 – 3.30 pm. Takes place in the Norbert Room of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. All seniors, friends and neighbours are welcome to come along and join in the fun.

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

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next meeting of St Matthew's Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Thursday 16th April at 7 pm in St Matthew's church hall. There will be a period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30 – 6.55 pm for the PPC members who can take part. This is not an open meeting as it was before, but a meeting of the members chosen by the former PPC from among their own number. If parishioners have any items they would like to be considered for discussion at the PPC, please email rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk by 13th April. (Please indicate that your suggestion is for St Matthew's PPC.)

GIFT AID AND DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH

Some people have been asking for more information about Gift Aid and why collection envelopes are used for cash donations.

What is Gift Aid?

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows the parish (as part of the registered charity 'RC Diocese of Galloway') to reclaim the basic rate tax you pay as a UK taxpayer. It means that we can claim 25p of tax for every £1 you donate at no extra cost to you. All you need to do is make a Gift Aid declaration. You need to have paid or expect to pay enough income or capital gains tax in the tax year your gift was received to cover all the Gift Aid donations you make to the church that year.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for the effort made to refresh the Gift Aid Declaration Forms in St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parishes. **There has been a fantastic response and the records are now fully up-to-date!**

Having these forms provides the evidence for the parishes (as the registered charity 'RC Diocese of Galloway') to submit a gift aid claim to the Inland Revenue, and to reclaim the 25% tax on donations by standing order and recorded envelope donations during the three years from 9th April 2023 until 5th April 2026. This will be of great benefit to the income of the parishes. The total amounts claimed will be published in due course. A gift aid

claim for St Joseph's will also be submitted for the second part of the last fiscal year.

Why is it so important to use envelopes when donating?

When taxpayers donate to the Church by standing order, the amount of your donation is formally recorded on the parish bank account. When taxpayers donate cash to the Church, tax can only be reclaimed if evidence is kept of the amount you have given throughout the year. This is calculated by the counters keeping a note of your weekly donation next to your collection envelope number in a register. This forms an anonymised record of the amount each person has given in their envelope. At the end of the year diocesan staff submit the Gift Aid claim to the Inland Revenue with your name, address, and the amount you have donated through the year. **So, if you pay tax, donate using cash, and don't use a numbered envelope, the Church cannot reclaim the tax you have paid under the Gift Aid scheme – it's as simple as that!** Thank you for your generous financial support of the parishes whether by taxable or non-taxable donations. It is greatly appreciated.

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 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	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

MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

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, departing St Joseph's Church at 8.30 am, just sign up on their website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.



YOUNG ADULTS' 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.

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: (EARLY BIRD REGRISTRATION EXTENDED - register by Sunday 25th April to secure your place at the early-bird rate of £140.00) Takes place from 27th – 29th November at Gowank 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

- Easter Youth Day – Saturday 18th April, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm (*St Teresa's, Dumfries*)
 - SSVF Afternoon Tea – Saturday 18th April, 1.00 – 3.00 pm (*OLMC*)
 - U.R. Welcome Club – Wednesday 22nd April (*OLMC*)
- Parish Pastoral Council Meetings – 16 April at 7 pm (*St Matthew's*), 20 April at 6.30 pm (*St Joseph's*), 21 April at 7 pm (*OLMC*)
 - Diocesan Mass of the Holy Spirit with Bishop Frank – Thursday 23rd April at 6.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Organ Recital with Hans Uwe Hielscher (Weisbaden, Germany) – Tuesday 19th May at 12.00 noon (*St Joseph's*)

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers (1st, 2nd, Intercessions)	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 11 Apr St Joseph's 6pm	E Heron, A Davidson, K McGhee	Sr Juliet, Sr Mabel, C Power, G Rankin, L Rankin	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	P Brown
Sunday 12 Apr St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Musilli, B Gilhooley, J Duff	R: A Gillion, C Brown L: N McKenna, F Stacey, M Dempster	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 12 Apr St Joseph's 11 am	G McGee, F McCann, An Davidson	R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew, M Walker	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	E Cunningham, L Heron	-	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 12 Apr OLMC 11.30 am	Charlie Harper, Kathleen Jones	Sister, S Hollywood, M Smith	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	-	John Boyle, Marie Wilkie	H Matthews
Saturday 18 Apr St Joseph's 6pm	H Rameckers, K McGhee, G McIntyre	C McGowan, J Lennon, F Donachie, M McGrath, A Gorman	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	
Sunday 19 Apr St Matthew's 9.30 am	C Bias, P Brown, V Kelly	R: C Gordon, Sister L: M Thomson, S Duff, M Gordon	Luca, David, Rebecca				
Sunday 19 Apr St Joseph's 11 am	M Andrew, M Walker, R Doak	D Custodio, P Dorrian, H Matthews, P Chigbo, E Cunningham	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Anne & Mike Timmons	-	Paul, Libby	
Sunday 19 Apr OLMC 11.30 am	Owen Jones, Helen Kennedy	C Harper, C Lamberth, G Rannochan	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Julie, Graham	C McGuire, C Lamberth	

Useful Contacts

	Hall bookings	Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators
St Joseph's	Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)	Margaret McGrath (margaret.mcgrath@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 5th April

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £2,096.85. Holy Places: £1,187.44. Total Income for March: £ 18,757.10. Total Expenditure for March: £18,134.12.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collection: £500.35. SSVF: £128.22. Holy Places: £333.46. Total Income for March: £4,610.64. Total Expenditure for March: £5,025.73.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £508.62. Weekly collection: £514.18. Community Box: £233.91. Ecuador Trust: £10.50. SCIAF: £598.16. Total Income for March: £5,718.71. Total Expenditure for March: £8,198.82.

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



FOLLOW US ONLINE

Facebook – X – Instagram – @rckilmarnock

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.