



# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 26th 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 26th APRIL – 3rd MAY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
<b>Saturday 25th</b>			
2.00 pm	St Joseph's	<b>Train Departs for Young Adults' Spring Social</b> <i>Registration required – email youth@rcdg.org.uk.</i>	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	<b>The Sacrament of Confession</b>	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	Jan Clyde (RIP)
<b>Sunday 26th</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	<b>Mass</b>	Mary Cassidy (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	<b>Tea and Coffee</b>	
10.30 – 11.30 am	St Matthew's	<b>I Belong First Communion Programme</b>	(Committee Room)
10.15 – 11.15 am	OLMC	<b>I Belong First Communion Programme</b>	(Norbert Room)
11.00 am	St Joseph's	<b>Mass</b>	Anne Vernon (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	<b>Tea and Coffee</b>	
12.30 – 1.30 pm	St Joseph's	<b>I Belong First Communion Programme</b>	(Meeting Room in Hall)
11.30 am	OLMC	<b>Mass</b>	Paul Docherty (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	<b>Tea and Coffee</b>	
<b>Monday 27th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	<b>Mass</b>	Betty McCann (Ann)
10.30-10.45 am	St Joseph's	<b>Confession (until 10.45 am)</b> <b>No Rosary or Mass in St Matthew's today.</b>	
<b>Tuesday 28th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	<b>Requiem Mass for Patrick McIntosh, RIP</b>	Patrick McIntosh (RIP)
		<b>No Mass or Adoration in OLMC today.</b>	
11.00 am – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	<b>Community Café</b>	
5.30 pm	St Matthew's	<b>Vigil Reception for Mary Cassidy, RIP</b>	
<b>Wednesday 29th</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	<b>Mass</b>	Agnes Lennon (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	<b>Recitation of the Holy Rosary</b>	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	<b>Requiem Mass for Mary Cassidy, RIP</b>	Mary Cassidy (RIP)
<b>Thursday 30th</b>			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	<b>Mass</b>	Michael, Josephine, Fr Edward Traynor (RIP)
<b>Friday 1st</b>			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	<b>Mass</b>	Renato Edoni (RIP)
10.00 am	OLMC	<b>Mass with Mount Carmel Primary School</b>	Brian Cassells (Ann)
7.00 pm	OLMC	<b>First Friday Evening of Adoration and Reflection</b>	
<b>Saturday 2nd</b>			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	<b>Confession</b>	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	Anne Vernon (RIP)
<b>Sunday 3rd</b>			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	<b>Mass</b>	McGowne, Cunningham, Quinn, Donnelly families
After Mass	St Matthew's	<b>Tea and Coffee</b>	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	<b>Mass</b>	People of the parishes
After Mass	St Joseph's	<b>Tea and Coffee</b>	
11.30 am	OLMC	<b>Mass</b>	People of the parishes
After Mass	OLMC	<b>Tea and Coffee</b>	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	<b>Mass with the Diocesan Young Adults Group</b>	Galloway Youth
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	<b>Young Adults' Evening in St Joseph's Hall</b>	

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

## ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Our parishioner Patrick McIntosh died recently and we extend our condolences and prayers to his family. Patrick's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 28th April at 10 am in St Joseph's Church followed by an interment in Kilmarnock Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

**ORGAN RECITAL SERIES 2026:** Hans Uwe Hielscher of Wiesbaden Marktkirche Lutheran Cathedral, Germany, will return on 19th May to perform another recital in St Joseph's at 12 noon. All are welcome. Why not come to the community lunch in the hall at 11 am and then join the recital?



ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

THE RESTORED  
HARRISON & HARRISON  
ORGAN (1903, 2023)

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES  
2026

Recitalist:  
**HANS UWE HIELSCHER**  
(Wiesbaden, Germany)

Tuesday 19 May  
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](http://www.rckilmarnock.org.uk/outreach/organ-recitals)

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

**ELECTRICAL WORKS:** From Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May (inclusive) Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish will be completely closed for essential electrical works. These works are required to ensure that the electrical system throughout the site is compliant with modern standards and to ensure the safety and security of all church users. During this time there will be no Masses celebrated and groups will not meet in the Norbert Room.

**U.R. WELCOME CLUB:** will meet on the following dates from 1.30 – 3.30 pm. Come along for a cuppa and a chat: all seniors, friends and neighbours welcome.

6th May – Come along and join them for an inspiring chat with Sr Juliet. **Please note** due to the electrical work taking place in Our Lady of Mount Carmel, this will **take place in St Joseph's Hall** at the usual time.

20th May – An afternoon of gardening fun and ideas. This will take place in the Norbert Room as normal.

## ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

**ELECTRICAL WORKS:** From Monday 27th to Thursday 30th St Matthew's church and hall will be largely closed for essential electrical works. These works are required to ensure that the

electrical system throughout the site is compliant with modern standards and to ensure the safety and security of all church and hall users. **The vigil reception and funeral of Mary Cassidy** will take in the church as advertised.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** Our parishioner Mary Cassidy died recently and we extend our condolences and prayers to her family. Mary's Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 29th April at 10 am in St Matthew's Church followed by an interment in Kilmarnock Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

**LADIES SPIRITUALITY MEETING:** The meeting scheduled for Wednesday 29th April has been cancelled due to the electrical works taking place in the parish. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th May.

**FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING AND DEDICATION OF ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH:** Friday 24th April begins the fiftieth year of the mission from the present St Matthew's Church building (although the community gathered for Sunday Mass for a couple of years in the Assembly Hall of St Joseph's Academy until the building was completed). The 50th anniversary will be on Saturday 24th April 2027, and if any one has ideas about how this 50th anniversary year might be celebrated, please speak to a member of the Parish Pastoral Council or to one of the priests.

## MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

**EASTER YOUTH GATHERING:** Last Saturday, sixty-five young people from across our Diocese – including twenty-two from St Joseph's Deanery (East Ayrshire) – gathered in St Teresa's, Dumfries, for their Easter Youth Gathering: a day of fun, games, friendship and faith. All of the young people involved had a fantastic time and can't wait for the next event. (See photo below.)

**YOUNG ADULTS' (S5-30) EVENING:** The next evening takes place on Sunday 3rd May when Fr Philip Kitchen will be joining the group for the second in our series of evenings on "The History of the Church" as he speaks on the Middle Ages. Join Young Adults from across the Diocese at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, beginning with Mass at 6.00 pm, or join from 6.30 pm in person or online for the talk. To follow online, register through their website: [youth.rcdg.org.uk](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk) and click on 'Young Adults'.

**YOUTH EVENING: (Until the summer, these evenings are open to young people in P5 and up.)** Join Youth from across the cluster on Sunday 17th May as they gather for their monthly evening in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock. They'll be reflecting on The Eucharist: The source and summit of our Faith. 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](http://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](http://youth.rcdg.org.uk).**

**ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT: (EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSING TONIGHT – book today 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. When registering you will be asked to pay a £50.00 deposit with further payments due closer to the time.

**GALLOWAY'S SEOUL:** In 2027, Pope Leo will join young people from across the world in Seoul, South Korea. While it is not possible for us to travel to Seoul, the Diocesan Youth Office will be running a parallel event in our Diocese at Gowanbank SU Centre (near Darvel). Join young people (current P5-S4) from across the Diocese as we gather for the week to follow the World Youth Day programme, hear inspiring Catechetical talks from local priests, take part in a range of different outdoor activities, and have a fantastic week of faith and friendship. Galloway's Seoul runs from 7th – 11th August 2027 and costs £400 per person (grants are available for those in need and if more than one child in a household is taking part), but we'll be supporting young people in fundraising to reduce the cost. For full details, and to register, go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk.

## 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			St Matthew's - CLOSED
Wednesday	10.30 am	11.30 pm	St Joseph's Hall
Thursday			St Matthew's - CLOSED

**Please note that the Foodbank will not operate in St Matthew's this week because of the electrical maintenance work.**

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY:** Fr Stephen, Fr Kevin, and the Sisters visit Catholic patients in Crosshouse Hospital typically twice weekly. If you know of anyone in the hospital, please let us know by email (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk) or phone 01563 521832 and they will be visited during our routine visiting. We are not automatically notified when a Catholic patient is admitted to hospital and so we rely on receiving the information from family and friends. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk or on 01655 882145. For urgent or emergency assistance from a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

**HILLHOUSE CARE – RACE NIGHT:** Hillhouse are having a Race Night on Saturday 9th May in St Joseph's Church Hall from 7pm-12am. All tickets are £6, and this includes a buffet. All drinks are £3 each. For tickets, please call 01563 523362 or email: eileen@hillhousehelps.co.uk. We look forward to seeing you all there! Thank you'.

## GENERAL NOTICES

**ABSENCE FROM THE PARISH:** Fr Stephen will be on annual leave from Monday 27th April to Friday 8th May inclusive. During this time, there will be some changes to the weekday Mass schedule due to reduced clergy availability and the ongoing electrical works in St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel churches.

**MINIBUS TRIP:** These trips are open to anyone in the three parishes – sign up in the porch in St Joseph's. Following the success of the St Joseph's minibus trips in recent years, the

first minibus trip of 2026 will take place on Monday 4th May to New Abbey.

We will leave St Joseph's at 10.30 am and celebrate Mass in St Mary's Chapel, New Abbey on arrival. After Mass we will have an afternoon tea lunch in the Abbey Cottage Tea Room and then an opportunity to explore New Abbey. We will return to St Joseph's for approximately 5.00 pm.

The cost per person is £27, payable on the day and includes transport and lunch. If you would like to take part, please sign-up in the porch in St Joseph's. If this trip is over-subscribed, those on the waiting list will be given first priority for the next trip in May.

**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.



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

**I BELONG FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION PROGRAMME:** The 'I Belong' programme for P4 children continues today 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)

There will also be a First Communion Retreat Day for the P4 children from all the parishes of the deanery preparing for First Holy Communion on Saturday 16th May from 10 am – 2 pm at St Joseph's Church and Hall.

**FOOTBALL CARDS:** In October this year, Young Adults from across the Diocese, including several from Kilmarnock, will take part in the Diocesan Youth Office's pilgrimage to Rome. To raise funds towards the cost of their fare, the group are selling football cards: £2 per team for a chance of winning £50. There are 50 teams on a card, at £2 per team, with the winner receiving 50% of the proceeds and the rest supporting the Young Adults. You can buy a team (or more) from the stall in St Joseph's, by speaking to any of the Young Adults, or Fr Kevin.

**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.

**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](mailto:scotland@acnuk.org) or 01698 337 470 for more information.

**SYNODALITY DAY – SATURDAY 16TH MAY - ST MARGARET'S CATHEDRAL, AYR:** Bishop Brian McGee will join us and lead workshops on Conversations in the Spirit. Bishop Frank has asked that each parish send at least two people who will learn how to lead this. The bishop has asked that the question at the heart of the day is that of how the Holy Spirit wants us to proclaim the Passion, death and resurrection of Christ in 2033. If you are interested please speak to the priests.

**HILLHOUSE RACE NIGHT:** Hillhouse are having a Race Night on Saturday 9th May in St Joseph's Church Hall from 7pm-12am. All tickets are £6, and this includes a buffet. All drinks are £3 each. For tickets, please call 01563 523362 or email: eileen@hillhousehelps.co.uk.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Young Adults' Evening on "The History of the Church" – Sunday 3rd May at 6.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Minibus Trip to New Abbey – Monday 4th May, Minibuses depart at 10.30 am (*All Parishes*)
- First Holy Communion Retreat Day for P4 children – Saturday 16th May from 10 am – 2 pm (*St Joseph's*)
  - Cluster Youth Evening on The Eucharist – Sunday 17th May at 5.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
  - Anniversary of the Dedication of St Joseph's Church – Monday 18th May (*St Joseph's*)
- Organ Recital with Hans Uwe Hielscher (Wiesbaden, 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
<b>Saturday 25 Apr</b> <b>St Joseph's 6pm</b>	F Donachie, M Kirk, E Heron	K McGhee, Sr Mabel, C Power, G Rankin, L Rankin	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Clare, Margaret	M Wilkie
<b>Sunday 26 Apr</b> <b>St Matthew's 9.30 am</b>	F Boyle, M Thomson, D Bias	<b>R:</b> AM Gilmour, A Gillion <b>L:</b> M Dempster, M Bradley, P Brown	Luca, David, Rebecca		Carron, Kenny		
<b>Sunday 26 Apr</b> <b>St Joseph's 11 am</b>	M Cunningham, L Hand, P Nicholson	L Dorrian, I Love, F McCann, R Murphy, A Neil	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Alice Murphy	Nina McCue, M McGrath	Devlin, Eileen	
<b>Sunday 26 Apr</b> <b>OLMC 11.30 am</b>	Colette Lamberth, Josephine McCrossan	Sister, D Shearer, M Urquhart	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Maria, Graham	C Harper, M Duffy	
<b>Saturday 2 May</b> <b>St Joseph's 6pm</b>	K McGhee, H Rameckers, M McGrath	Sr Juliet, C McGowan, J Lennon, F Donachie, A Gorman	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi, Maia			Kathleen, Frances	IHM Sisters
<b>Sunday 3 May</b> <b>St Matthew's 9.30 am</b>	Maureen Bradley, Eric Allan, Margaret Merrick	<b>R:</b> Sister, C Brown <b>L:</b> M Thomson, F Stacey, C Stacey	Luca, David, Rebecca		Majorie, David		
<b>Sunday 3 May</b> <b>St Joseph's 11 am</b>	G Smith, An Davidson, F McCann	J Shields, M Andrew, M Walker, D Custodio, P Dorrian	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	E Cunningham, Liz Heron	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Alan, Theresa	
<b>Sunday 3 May</b> <b>OLMC 11.30 am</b>	Greta McNeil, Irene Roy	Marie Wilkie, Josephine McCrossan, Luke Shearer	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	-	C McGuire, C Harper	

### 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)
<b>Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals:</b> 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)		
<b>St Andrew's Primary: 01563 549549    Mount Carmel Primary: 01563 525897    St Joseph's Academy: 01563 526144</b>		

### 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 19th April

St Joseph's	<b>Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,209.28. Building Fund: £40. Holy Places: £30.</b>
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<b>Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collection: £399.75. Building Fund: £76. SSVP: £111.48. SCIAF: £2.59.</b>
St Matthew's	<b>Standing orders: £508.62. Weekly collection: £415.39. Building Fund: £50. Community Box: £184.72. Ecuador Trust: £9.32.</b>

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

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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.