



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday 17th May 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 17th – 24th MAY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 16th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass (This week only)	Anne Smith (RIP) & Bridget Boyle (Ann)
10.30 – 2.00 pm	St Joseph's	Deanery First Communion Retreat Day	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	People of the Parishes
Sunday 17th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Anna Hasson (Ann)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Jim Fleeting (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Margaret McIlvanney (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
5.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass with the Cluster Youth (All Welcome)	
5.30 pm	St Joseph's	Youth (P5-S4) Evening (in St Joseph's Hall)	
Monday 18th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Mary Cassidy (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass on the First Anniversary of Dedication	Eddie King (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Confession (Until 10.45 am)	
Tuesday 19th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Lindsay Lunardi (RIP)
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Gillian Sloan (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
11.00 am – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Café	
12.00 pm	St Joseph's	Organ Recital by Hans Uwe Hielscher	
Wednesday 20th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Barry Brittain (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Edward Farrell (RIP)
After Mass	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)	
Thursday 21st			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Alex McDaid (Ann) / Scott Colvin (RIP)
Friday 22nd			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Special Intention
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Mary O'Rourke (RIP)
Saturday 23rd			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Michael McArdle (RIP)
6.30 pm	St Margaret's	Extended Pentecost Vigil (in St Margaret's Cathedral)	
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Quiz Night (in St Joseph's Hall) <i>in support of the Young Adults' Pilgrimage to Rome</i>	
Sunday 24th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Maureen Walsh (Ann)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Monica Marquez Green & Lexi Campbell (Ann) Eddie & Lizzie Johnston (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	People of the parishes
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	

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

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST JOSEPH'S: Monday 18th May marks the first anniversary of the Solemn Dedication of St Joseph's by Bishop Frank Dougan last year. Monday's Mass will be an Anniversary of Dedication Mass and the dedication candles will be lit. Music will lift our prayers at Monday's Mass and you are invited to make a special effort to attend.

SECOND COLLECTION: A second collection will be taken up at all Masses today in aid of the National Communications Office. (Please see the Pastoral Letter later on the next page.)

QUIZ NIGHT: The Diocesan Young Adults invite you to join them for a Quiz Night in St Joseph's Hall on Saturday 23rd May, doors open 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Tickets £3 available from the stall and on the door with cash prizes to be won. BYOB and Snacks. Raffle donations are welcome and can be dropped off in the sacristy or to the Parish House at St Joseph's.

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.



EXTENDED PENTECOST VIGIL: On Saturday 23rd May at 6.30 pm, Bishop Frank invites faithful from across the Diocese to join him in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, for the extended version of the Pentecost Vigil. The extended Vigil echoes the Easter Vigil, with additional readings inviting the faithful to reflect on the Holy Spirit and his gifts. The 6.00 pm Vigil Mass in St Joseph's will be celebrated as normal that evening.

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.

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.

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

JOINT PPC MEETING: The first meeting of the three parishes Joint PPC will take place in St Joseph's Hall on Monday 1st June at 7.00 pm. (There will be prayer with the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30 pm in the church.) This is not an open meeting. If you have any items you would like raised on the agenda, please email rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk noting in your email the church the item pertains to.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: The next Deanery Pastoral Council meeting takes place on Tuesday 26th May at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's Hall.

WAVERLEY MINIBUS TRIP: The Waverley is the world's last seagoing paddle steamer and completes a range of different trips every year around the UK. In August, she will be sailing from Ayr around Ailsa Craig and back (via Girvan). For the August minibus trip, on Monday 3rd August we will travel to Ayr to join the 1.00 pm sailing around Ailsa Craig and back to Ayr. The trip will cost £55 per person – the majority of which is the cost of the sailing. If you would like to take part, please sign up on the sheet in St Joseph's Church porch. Once numbers have been confirmed, participants will be invited to pay their fare in advance

to secure their place. This trip is open to anyone from the three parishes.

NEXT MINIBUS TRIP: The next minibus trip takes place on Monday 8th June to Aberfoyle. The bus will depart after 10.00 am Mass in St Joseph's and travel to Aberfoyle where there will be plenty time for lunch and to explore the beautiful and picturesque village. The cost for the trip (lunch is not included) is £14, payable on the day. Sign up on the sheet in St Joseph's Church porch. This trip is open to anyone from the three parishes.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

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?



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

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

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

HALL HIRE: Did you know that our Church Hall is available for hire for community events, fundraisers and family gatherings? We offer competitive rates for the hire of the hall which are affordable and, by hiring the hall, you're helping to support the parish. For more information or to book the hall, please contact Margaret McGrath.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

ELECTRICAL WORKS: These will hopefully take place the week beginning the 1st June, we hope to have confirmation in the next few days. Unfortunately the delays have been caused by issues beyond our and our contractor's control, principally the age of the electrical installation which is original to the church and Scottish Power having to make parts of this safe ahead of the work.

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.

20th May – An afternoon of gardening fun and ideas.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

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.

HALL HIRE: Did you know that our Church Hall is available for hire for community events, fundraisers and family gatherings? We offer competitive rates for the hire of the hall which are affordable and, by hiring the hall, you're helping to support the parish. For more information or to book the hall, please contact Margaret Merrick.

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

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.

MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH EVENING: (Until the summer, these evenings are open to young people in P5 and up.) Join Youth from across the cluster tonight (Sunday 17th May) as they gather for their monthly evening in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock. They'll be reflecting on The Eucharist: Jesus' Body and Blood. 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.

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 REGISTRATION CLOSES 17TH MAY – book now 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.

Pastoral Letter Communications Sunday 2026

'And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.'

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to share with you an encounter I had recently before Sunday Mass. A young man appeared outside the Cathedral as the regulars were entering. He had never been inside, and he asked if it was ok for him to go in even though he was a stranger. Obviously, the answer was yes, and the Administrator of the Cathedral asked one of the parishioners to sit with him so he wasn't on his own. After Mass, he came out, happy to have been there and said he would be back. And he did come back.

The next time, after Mass, I asked him to tell me what brought him here. In short, he said he had grown up with no particular faith and, in his adulthood, decided to investigate Christianity online so he could disprove it. But things went in an entirely different direction, and he began to see the truth of the Christian faith, and he determined to come to a Catholic church. When I asked him why he came to this specific church, he said he had checked it out online first and felt it was the right place for him.

I don't know where his story will end, but I do know this looks like a story of evangelisation, one where the Lord has spoken in his heart and somehow steered him in our direction. And a large part of that was through the digital world. It was there that he made his first connection with the Church and, from there, that he decided to make the next step. However, that's just the start. It's not the end point: that comes through the personal encounter with Christ face-to-face in the Church. But it can be one important contact that starts the journey of faith.

Don't get me wrong, we will never get away from the fact that the principal evangelisers in the Church are those who have already heard the Word of God and answered his call to discipleship: that's you I'm talking about. We all have a role to play in witnessing to our faith; in loving God and our neighbour openly and with courage; in reflecting the joy of the Gospel.

But as a Church we have always supported this universal duty to be evangelisers by using all the means at our disposal to reach out to our brothers and sisters in all places. And as part of our mission, the National Office for Communications and Evangelisation is at your service and Christ's service.

Over the past year, among other things,

- we have expanded our digital footprint on social media;
- we have supported the Church's prophetic voice most notably in the lead-up to the Holyrood vote on assisted suicide;
- we have worked with other partners in the Church to advance their missions;
- and we have sought to communicate more clearly the work of the Catholic Church in Scotland.

It is still early days, and we are just getting started. And inevitably, I am going to ask some things of you:

- Pray! As missionaries, we work with and for the Lord, so we start by asking him to be with us and the Spirit to enliven us;
- Be a public Catholic! Don't be shy and be happy to let others know what your faith means to you. Do not underestimate the value of your personal witness;
- And yes, I am going to ask for financial support. If we are to use the means of communications at our disposal then the bare fact is that it costs money, so I ask you to give what you can to the collection.

The Good News is that the story of that young man who appeared at the door of the Cathedral is one repeated in churches across the country. There is a hunger amongst many people that can only be satisfied by the love of God made present in Jesus Christ. Let us all play our part in communicating that love of God and welcoming our brothers and sisters into the family of God.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Frank Dougan

Bishop of Galloway

DIOCESAN PARISH REVIEW

Bishop Dougan has asked every parish to complete a parish review document which includes:

- **statistical information** like the estimated population, number of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals etc
- **financial information** like income/expenditure from the previous year, bank balance, proposed large expenditures
- **liturgical practice** detailing all the groups which animate the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Mass
- **pastoral activities** detailing all the groups in the parish which reach out pastorally
- **health and safety information** ensuring certification is up-to-date.

The final part of the review is a reflection on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth, and threats/concerns for the parish. At the Parish Pastoral Council meetings in April, the members contributed to this reflection and their response is printed below. If you think something should be added please email rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk by the end of Monday 25th May. The review from each parish will be submitted to the Diocese by 31st May.

This information will provide a starting point to inform decisions about the sustainability of the parish structures presently in place in the diocese as indicated in the Bishop's pastoral letters earlier this year.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

What are the strengths of St Joseph's parish?

- It is welcoming
- Saint Joseph's has become more of a community
- Music as this helps the liturgy and provides a great sense of occasion
- Community café
- Organ recitals
- Pipe organ and people community singing
- Car parking availability
- Priests
- Youth and young adults ministry
- Liturgical with Ministry of Eucharistic Ministers going out to visit the sick to allow them to continue to access the Sacraments
- The way Mass is celebrated here and its unity with the Universal Church
- Choir and congregational singing
- Sick being collected in the mini-bus is really worthwhile and allows a sense of community
- Tea and coffee after Mass
- Priests and Sisters with the level of pastoral care provided can be held as good example
- Youth programme
- Altar serving
- Location of parish- great for accessibility
- SSVP and being able to share resources with the wider community
- SSVP Foodbank
- Daily Mass - we are very fortunate to have this at Saint Joseph's
- Live stream of the Mass
- The people of Saint Joseph's – considered as family and friends
- Promote things outside church and at work
- Joint services with other traditions/faiths
- Church hall – a facility for the parish and other groups
- Mass at the cemetery

What are the weaknesses of St Joseph's parish?

- Sub-communities of attendees at Mass on different weekend days (Saturday 6pm and Sunday 11 am Mass) with little chance to mix
- Ageing congregation
- Reduced opportunities to attend Mass (not parish specific but more general)
- RCIA- when people come into the Church, what happens after the course to help retain them
- Attendance at events sees the same people supporting the activity, how can this be opened out to encourage others to attend

What are the opportunities for growth in St Joseph's parish?

- RCIA – developing post-reception programme
- Encouraging participation in children's liturgy
- Series of talks / Adult Education / Faith-sharing groups
- Could we review the groups which have fallen away?

- Are there activities we should suspend in order to focus on more important things?
- Demographic in the parish with so many nationalities. Can we do something to recognise and celebrate the different cultures with food, singing and dress to enable them to feel a closer part of our community
- Events/rewards for altar servers
- Continue to expand youth activities
- Sacramental preparation for children to complement what is being done in school plus allow them to mix together
- Sacramental preparation for parents requesting baptism of children- have a baptismal group who meet maybe once a month
- Benediction on feast days
- Youth retreats
- Parish retreat and mission

What are the threats/concerns for St Joseph's parish?

- Internet/Live stream- if it is a reason not to attend Mass when able to do so
- Lack of a certain age group/missing generation seen through their non-attendance at Mass
- Apathy
- Distractions such as other Sunday activities
- Secular society
- Shortage of priests, do we need to find more priests or redistribute tasks a priest undertakes to the laity
- Priests on a part-time basis and spread too thin
- Priests don't get a level of response on appeals in the newsletter
- Ageing estate and when to cut your losses
- Amalgamation and possible closure of churches

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

What are the strengths of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish?

- Strong sense of community
 - A predominantly retired congregation often brings loyalty, consistency, and deep-rooted relationships within the parish.
 - Warmth and welcome of the community.
 - Strong and active ministries: music, Children's Liturgy, SVDP, RCIA, Foodbank,, visiting the sick,
 - senior club, sacramental preparation.
 - Diversity of congregation.
- Established faith foundation
 - Longstanding traditions, regular Mass attendance, and committed volunteers help maintain parish stability.
- Shared priest across three parishes
 - While challenging, this can foster collaboration and unity between the three Catholic communities in Kilmarnock.
- Youth engagement initiative already underway
 - The fact that youth groups are being actively promoted is a major positive signal of forward planning.
 - Proximity to Primary School.
- Volunteer availability
 - Retired parishioners may have more time to contribute to ministries, events, and parish upkeep.

What are the weaknesses of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish?

- Ageing congregation
 - Heavy reliance on older parishioners raises concerns about long term sustainability.
 - Mass attendance.
 - Limited pool of young parishioners to enable succession planning for ministries.
 - Inability to retain youth beyond Caritas/Secondary Education. Limited active engagement with 30-60 year olds.
 - Late Mass time on a Sunday.
- Limited priest availability. One priest serving three parishes can lead to:
 - Reduced pastoral care
 - Fewer Mass times
 - Burnout/ill health risk/no resilience to cover for ill health
 - Potential resistance to change

- Older congregations may be less receptive to new formats of worship or outreach aimed at younger people.
- Limited appeal to younger demographics
 - Without consistent youth presence, it can feel less relevant or welcoming to families and young adults.
- Volunteer dependency imbalance
 - Over-reliance on a small group of active members can lead to fatigue.
- Finance
 - Currently running at a loss.
 - Age and fabric of the building places an additional burden on available resources. Limited opportunities to create additional revenue.
 - Former imbalance of shared costs between parishes – now resolved.

What are the opportunities for growth in Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish?

- Growth through youth ministries
 - Expanding youth groups, social events, and faith-based activities could build a future congregation and attract families
 - Proximity of Church to Primary School and good relationship with teachers could assist with parent engagement.
- Collaboration across the three parishes. Shared events, resources and ministries could strengthen all communities and reduce duplication.
- Fellowship of churches - ecumenical group: OLMC as venue?
- Lay leadership development
 - Training parishioners to take on roles (e.g., liturgy coordination, pastoral support) can ease pressure on the priest.
 - Assist with the development of Adult Faith formation programme.
- Digital engagement with the use of:
 - Social media
 - Livestream Masses
 - Online communication to reach younger people and those unable to attend physically.
- Community outreach
 - Partnerships with local schools, charities, and civic groups in Kilmarnock could raise visibility and relevance.
 - Provision of welcoming spaces for discussion groups, evangelisation, retired priests, a hub for community services/events.
 - Opportunities to engage and evangelize with 30-60 age group through Alpha courses/ discussion groups.
 - OLMC is situated in an area of private housing development with potential for evangelisation.

What are the threats/concerns for Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish?

- Declining church attendance (wider trend)
 - Secularisation across Scotland poses a long-term challenge.

- Priest shortage worsening
 - Future availability of clergy may decline further, potentially leading to parish mergers or closures. OLMC Closure.
- Aging volunteer base
 - Loss of key contributors without replacement could weaken parish operations.
- Competition for young people's time
 - Work, education, and social commitments can make regular attendance less likely. Competition from other churches or community organisations.
- Perception challenges
 - If the parish is seen as "for older people," it may deter new, younger members. Negative reputational challenges affecting the Catholic Church in general.
 - 'Do Nothing' attitude and we fail to discharge our responsibility as a missionary church. Ongoing secularisation and alleged declining interest in organised religion.
 - Perceived threat of church closures.
 - Church not seen as diverse, for example perceived to be unwelcoming for certain social groups, e.g. LGBTQ. Resistance to change involving female clergy for example.
- Finance
 - Rising church maintenance and utility costs.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

What are the strengths of St Matthew's parish?

- Inclusive and vibrant – always welcoming, personal.
- Strong links with the wider community (Hall)
- Singing
- In and at the heart of the community.
- Growing weekly attendance and ministry involvement.
- Long established spirituality which feeds mission.
- Willingness of parishioners to be involved.

What are the weaknesses of St Matthew's parish?

- Lack of developing connection with schools – missed opportunities.
- Low number of young people – secondary age an < 25.
- Weakness of number of volunteers: always the same faces.
- Decline in number of First Communicants.

What are the opportunities for growth in St Matthew's parish?

- Bringing together newsletter.
- Sense of openness, transparency, professionalism.
- Collaboration between the parishes and movement between is good to see.

What are the threats/concerns for St Matthew's parish?

- Reduction in clergy numbers in Kilmarnock.
- Many other concerns around the joining of the parishes' pastoral care have been addressed and abated.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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*)
 - Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting – Tuesday 26th May at 6.30 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Joint Parish Pastoral Council Meeting (*This is not an open meeting*) – Monday 1st June at 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Young Adults' Evening – Sunday 7th June at 6.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Joint Parish Fabric and Finance Committee Meeting – Monday 8th June at 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Youth Evening – Sunday 21st June at 5.00 pm (*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 16 May St Joseph's 6pm	E Heron, K McGhee, H Rameckers	C Power, Sr Juliet, C McGowan, J Lennon, F Donachie	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Kathleen, Frances	Fran Boyle
Sunday 17 May St Matthew's 9.30 am	Veronica Kelly, Gerry Coyle, Caron Bias	R: A M Gilmour, Sister L: M Dempster, N McKenna, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca		Kerry, David		
Sunday 17 May St Joseph's 11 am	H Matthews, T Murphy, G Smith	P Dorrian, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Alice Murphy	L Feeney, E O'Connell	Devlin, Eileen	
Sunday 17 May OLMC 11.30 am	Agnes Starrs, Marie Wilkie	Marion Smith, Charlie Harper, Sister	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Marion, Martin	A Brown, C Lamberth	
Saturday 23 May St Joseph's 6pm	F Donachie, A Davidson, M Kirk	A Gorman, M McGrath, K McGhee, C Power, Sr Juliet	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Clare, Margaret	Helena Rameckers
Sunday 24 May St Matthew's 9.30 am	Margaret Merrick, Brian Gilhoolery, Susan Faulds	R: M Musilli, L Vernon L: P Brown, S Duff, C Stacey	Luca, David, Rebecca		Helen, Kenny		
Sunday 24 May St Joseph's 11 am	P Nicholson, L Hand, G McGee	M Walker, D Custodio, P Dorrian, H Matthews, P Chigbo	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Anne & Gerry Smith	Emma Boyd, Karen Cassidy	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 24 May OLMC 11.30 am	Colin Cox, Charlie Harper	Graham Rannochoan, Colette Lamberth, Donna Shearer	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Julie, Martin	Marie Wilkie, Rita Clark	

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 10th May

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,286.94. Apostolate of Life: £10. Communications: £20. Peter's Pence: £10.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collection: £476.83. SSVP: £134.16.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £508.62. Weekly collection: £477.00. Building Fund: £50. Community Box: £226.13. Ecuador Trust: £9.

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St Joseph's



Our Lady of Mount Carmel



St Matthew's



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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.