



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Pentecost Sunday
Sunday 24th 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 24th – 31st MAY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 23rd			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass of Pentecost Sunday	Michael McArdle (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Rehearsal for First Holy Communion	
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 of Pentecost Sunday	Maureen Walsh (Ann)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Rehearsal for First Holy Communion	
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	Rehearsal for First Holy Communion	
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	People of the parishes
After Mass	OLMC	Rehearsal for First Holy Communion	
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
Monday 25th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Service of Word and Communion No Confessions in St Joseph's today No Mass or Rosary in St Matthew's today	
Tuesday 26th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Andy McGregor (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament No Mass or Rosary in Our Lady of Mount Carmel today	
11.00 am – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Café	
Wednesday 27th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	James Kilday (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Tommy Thomson (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
Thursday 28th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Mike McCormack (RIP) / Catriona MacInnes (RIP)
Friday 29th			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Special Intention (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Sr Anne Smyth (RIP)
Saturday 30th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Lena O'Hare (RIP)
Sunday 31st			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	First Holy Communion Mass	Special Intention / People of the parishes
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Luca van Bui (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	First Holy Communion Mass	John Meikle (Ann) / Edward Farrell (RIP)
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

JOINT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 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 rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk noting in your email the church the item pertains to.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We look forward to celebrating First Holy Communion with the young people in our parishes over the next two Sundays. First Communion will be celebrated in St Matthew's on Sunday 31st May at 9.30 am, in Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Sunday 31st May at 11.30 am, and in St Joseph's on Sunday 7th June at 11.00 am.

On these Sundays, rows to the front of each church will be reserved for the family and friends of the First Communicants, these will be clearly indicated. Please leave these rows clear.

We will also welcome Fr Erasmus Egenonu to St Joseph's for 11.00 am Mass on Sunday 31st May, and to Our Lady of Mount Carmel for 11.30 am Mass on Sunday 7th June, to allow both Frs Stephen and Kevin to join the children for First Holy Communion.

ADVANCE NOTICE – ROON THE TOON: Roon the Toon takes place on Sunday 7th June this year. This will result in road closures in parts of the Town Centre and Bellfield between 8.00 am and 12.00 pm. Please plan accordingly for travelling to Mass, particularly in St Joseph's.

FEEDBACK ON THE DIOCESAN REVIEW OF PARISHES: Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in feedback on the parish reviews published in last weekend's newsletter. Your feedback has now been incorporated into the reviews which will be sent to the Diocese this week.

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.

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.

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

MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE LATE SISTER ANNE SMYTH, SND: Sr Anne Smith was a parishioner of St Joseph's who became a Sister of Notre Dame. After 66 years as a religious sister, Sr Anne died on 30th March and was buried at the convent in Birkdale near Liverpool. A memorial Mass will be celebrated on Friday 12th June at 11.30 am in St Joseph's and all are welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION: One week after First Holy Communion, after 11.00 am Mass on Sunday 14th June, you are invited to join the children who made their First Communion in the hall for cake and a presentation.

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

MINUTES OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: These are available on the rkilmarnock.org.uk website at and there are paper copies available in the porch.

ELECTRICAL WORKS: These will take place the week beginning the 1st June. From after Mass on Sunday 31st May to Sunday Mass on Sunday 8th June Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be closed with no Masses celebrated or groups meeting in the Norbert Room. While the disruption is unfortunate, these works are essential to ensure the safety of all those who worship in Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

There may be some disruption in the car park this week as Scottish Power complete essential preparatory works, however parking will continue to be available as normal.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

MINUTES OF THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: These are available on the rkilmarnock.org.uk website at and there are paper copies available in the porch.

LADIES SPIRITUALITY GROUP: The ladies spirituality group will meet on Wednesday 27th May in St Matthew's at 2pm. The annual Spring lunch will take place on Friday 29th May in the college at 12:15pm. The lunch is now fully booked.

RECRUITMENT OF A NEW PARISH SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR: Due to the present Parish Safeguarding Coordinator (PSC) stepping back, a new PSC is needed for St Matthew's. This voluntary role involves:

- **Safer Recruitment:** They facilitate the vetting process for all volunteers and staff who work with vulnerable groups, ensuring they are registered with the national PVG Scheme (Protection of Vulnerable Groups).
- **Training:** They ensure all parish workers and volunteers attend required safeguarding and child/adult protection training.
- **Incident Reporting:** They act as the primary contact for anyone wishing to raise a wellbeing or abuse concern, and they immediately escalate these to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor or relevant authorities.
- **Record Keeping:** They maintain secure and accurate records of volunteers, training, and PVG clearances in compliance with GDPR guidelines.

Training will be provided. If someone feels able to take on the role of PSC or would like more information, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin.

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

2027 GALLOWAY'S SEOUL
EXPERIENCE
WORLD YOUTH DAY
IN GALLOWAY IN 2027

REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN

SCAN FOR DETAILS

Week includes:

Outdoor Activities (Canoeing, Paddleboarding, Tree Climbing, Archery Tag and more!)	Participant's Pack (With lots of goodies and souvenirs!)
Talks, Prayer, and Mass All Meals & Accommodation	Following events from Seoul online and recreating others at home.

**7TH - 11TH AUGUST 2027 - GOWANBANK SU CENTRE
P7-S6 (IN SCHOOL YEAR 2027/2028) - £400 PER PERSON**

At the time of registration, there is nothing to pay, with the first payment of £75 due in September. For full details, scan the QR code or email youth@rcdg.org.uk.

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk · [f](#) [x](#) [i](#) Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdg youth

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.

FIRST FUNDRAISER: The first fundraiser to support young people taking part in Galloway's Seoul will take place on Saturday 13th June with young people gathering to climb Criffel just outside Dumfries. More details about supporting the young people involved will be published in the Youth Office newsletter next weekend.

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: 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. The weekend costs £160, however subsidies and grants 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.

YOUNG ADULTS EVENING: The next Young Adults evening will take place on Sunday 7th June, beginning with Mass at 6.00 pm in St Joseph's and continuing afterwards in the hall.

YOUTH EVENING: The final Youth Evening before the summer holidays takes place on Sunday 21st June, beginning at 5.00 pm, in St Joseph's. The evening will focus on the theme of 'Church: God's Family' and what this means for us, and include the usual selection of games and activities, pizza, snacks, and a short talk on the theme. The evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm. This will be the last evening until September, but keep an eye out for the summer programme

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

Galloway Youth Evening (P5-S4)

CHURCH
THE FAMILY OF GOD

WE ARE GOD'S
FAMILY -
BUT WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN?
JOIN US TO
FIND OUT!

MASS . GAMES . TALK . ACTIVITIES . PIZZA . SOCIAL

**SUNDAY
21ST JUNE** | **5.00 PM**

ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES	ST PETER-IN-CHAINS, ARDROSSAN	ST MARGARET'S, AYR	ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK
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@ youth@rcdg.org.uk · [f](#) [x](#) [i](#) Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdg youth

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- First Holy Communion – Sunday 31st May (*St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel*)
- Joint Parish Pastoral Council Meeting (*This is not an open meeting*) – Monday 1st June at 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - First Holy Communion – Sunday 7th June (*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 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 Rannochan, Colette Lamberth, Donna Shearer	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Julie, Martin	Marie Wilkie, Rita Clark	
Saturday 30 May St Joseph's 6pm	E Heron, K McGhee, M McGrath	C McGowan, L Rankin, G Rankin, C Power, Sr Mabel	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Kathleen, Frances	Philip Brown
Sunday 31 May St Matthew's 9.30 am	Maureen Bradley, Michael Thomson, Fran Boyle	R: M Gordon, Sister L: F Stacey, M Thomson, M Dempster	Luca, David, Rebecca		Marjorie, David		
Sunday 31 May St Joseph's 11 am	M Cunningham, L Hand, T Murphy	E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, F McCann, R Murphy	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	E Cunningham, L Heron	Nina McCue, M McGrath	Paul, Libby	
Sunday 31 May OLMC 11.30 am	Kathleen Jones, Owen Jones	Sister, Marie Urquhart, Agnes Starrs	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	-	J Boyle, G Rannochan	

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)	Vacant
Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals: In emergencies ask hospital staff to page the on-call priest. For regular visiting: Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk or 01563 521832) Ayr Hospital: 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 17th May

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,532.72. Communications: £877.81. Church Students Fund: £40. Building Fund: £1,030.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collection: £432.38. Communications: £422.03. Church Students Fund: £12. SSVP: £136.01.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £508.62. Weekly collection: £359.37. SCIAF: £98.01. Community Box: £89.40. Ecuador Trust: £8. Communications: £443.90.

Thank you for generously supporting our parishes.

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES

You can now support our parishes by giving online, just scan the QR code to donate or go to our website and click the link.

St Joseph's



Our Lady of Mount Carmel



St Matthew's



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Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock

Please ask your child(ren) to return to you immediately after the Children's Liturgy if you do not wish them to be captured on the live-stream recording.