



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 14th June 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 14th – 21st JUNE 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 13th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Nini Gazzerro (RIP)
Sunday 14th			
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	Donald Gibson (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	First Holy Communion Celebration (in St Joseph's Hall)	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Patricia McNamara (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
12.45 pm	St Matthew's	Community Lunch	
Monday 15th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Thomas Gallacher (RIP)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
		No Mass or Rosary in St Matthew's today	
Tuesday 16th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Christine Smith (RIP)
10.30 – 11.00 am	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
		No Mass or Adoration in Our Lady of Mount Carmel today	
11.00 am – 1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Community Caf�	
Wednesday 17th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Moira Doherty (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
		No Mass or Adoration in St Matthew's today	
Thursday 18th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Alice Boyle (Ann)
Friday 19th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Cathie McCrory (RIP)
		No Mass or Rosary in Our Lady of Mount Carmel today	
Saturday 20th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Lena O'Hare (RIP)
Sunday 21st			
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	Eddie & Lizzie Johnston (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Mary O'Rourke (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
5.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass (with Diocesan Youth)	Galloway Youth & Young Adults
5.30 pm	St Joseph's	P5-S4 Cluster Youth Evening (in Hall)	

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 Monday to Friday in his role as Diocesan Youth Chaplain. He will be joining over 100 young people from across the Diocese as they take part in a 5-day summer camp, Generation Hope, which aims to give young people an opportunity to encounter Christ through times of prayer and reflection alongside an exciting programme of outdoor activities. The camp, now in its fourth year, has been transformational for many young people and we would invite you to pray for the young people as they take part this week.

Owing to Fr Kevin's absence, there will only be one Mass celebrated each day in Kilmarnock this week.

WAVERLEY MINIBUS TRIP: Thank you to everyone who has signed up to take part in this. We are now booking the tickets for the boat, information on paying for your place will be shared shortly. Please note that due to the high cost for this trip, pre-payment for all places will be required.

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.

KILMARNOCK FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES: The next Fellowship event is a Summer Songs of Praise service at 3 pm on Sunday 14th June in Irvine Valley Parish Church, Hastings Square, Darvel. It would be great if our parishes could be represented.

GALLOWAY LOURDES HOSPITALITE 70TH ANNIVERSARY MASS: The Mass will take place on Sunday 21st June at 3.30pm at St Winin's, St Winnings Lane, Kilwinning, KA13 6EP. This will be followed by refreshments in the hall.

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

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

FINAL YOUTH (P5-S4) EVENING BEFORE THE SUMMER: Join Youth from across the cluster next Sunday as they gather for their final evening before the summer in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock! They'll be reflecting on the theme of The Church: The Family of God. 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.

APPEAL FOR ALTAR SERVERS FOR ALL PARISHES: If any of the children who recently made their First Holy Communion would like to be altar servers, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin. Training will be provided.

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH: If you are able to transport someone who no longer drives or who doesn't have transport to get to Mass, please let one of the priests know. Even if you can only bring someone once a fortnight or once a month, the help would be appreciated. Thank you.

SOWNE OF ORGANE EVENT IN GALSTON: The Irvine Valley Parish Church, Galston's 1913 pipe organ built by James J Binns is one of Scotland's most significant historic organs. At 4 pm on Saturday 4th July 2026, the Sowne of Organe team will share fascinating research insights and views from inside the instrument, alongside a variety of live musical performances. An earlier workshop at 2.30 pm gives a fun, hands-on introduction to how an organ works, building one using an OrgelKids kit. For more information visit www.sowneoforgane.com. Free entry, no booking required. All are welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Congratulations to the young people of St Joseph's parish who received their First Holy Communion last Sunday. May they always know the closeness of Jesus to them through this Sacrament.

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.

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES (23rd JUNE): We welcome Aaron Hawthorne to perform the next recital on Tuesday 23rd June at 12 noon. Aaron is a versatile organist, playing theatre, church and concert instruments. His programme will be both enjoyable and entertaining. The Community Café is also open on Tuesdays from 11 am, so why not come along for some lunch and then enjoy the recital? All are welcome.




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:
AARON HAWTHORNE
(Freelance)

Tuesday 23 June
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

GIFT AID PAYMENT RECEIVED: Thank you for making the effort to update our records to fulfil the conditions to complete the Gift Aid claim. The effort has indeed been worthwhile since £13,441.64 of Gift Aid has been received from HMRC for the last three years. Clearly this is of great benefit to the parish. If you pay tax on your weekly donation to the church and haven't already completed a Gift Aid form, please speak to one of the priests.

ELECTRICAL WORKS: The core electrical works – the replacement of the main switchroom for the Church – have been completed as scheduled this week. Other works, including the renewal of the balcony lighting, have also been completed. Over the coming week some other works will continue in the Church and Convent, however these do not prevent the use of the Church/ Norbert Room. Our thanks to Millar Electrical for their work to complete these works.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

GIFT AID PAYMENT RECEIVED: Thank you for making the effort to update our records to fulfil the conditions to complete the Gift Aid claim. The effort has indeed been worthwhile since £18,097.16 of Gift Aid has been received from HMRC for the last three years. Clearly this is of great benefit to the parish. If you pay tax on your weekly donation to the church and haven't already completed a Gift Aid form, please speak to one of the priests.

COMMUNITY LUNCH: Our Community Lunch takes place today at 12.45 pm in the church hall. All are welcome to join us for a delicious 3 course meal. There is no charge to take part with the meal funded by the generosity of parishioners to the Community Fund.

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.

BISHOP FRANK DOUGAN – SILVER JUBILEE

BISHOP FRANK DOUGAN will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for his Silver Jubilee of Ordination as a priest on Friday 26th June at 7 pm in St Margaret's Cathedral. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome to gather with the bishop for this celebration of priesthood.



If you would like to contribute towards a gift for Bishop Frank, please use the envelope available from the stall and place in the collection on Sunday 14th or Sunday 21st June, or hand it to the stall or the sacristy. Thank you.

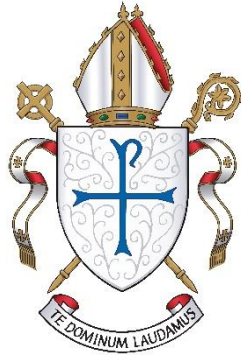
MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

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.

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.

YOUTH (P5-S4) EVENING: Join Youth from across the cluster next Sunday as they gather for their final evening before the summer in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock! They'll be reflecting on the theme of The Church: The Family of God. 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.



DIOCESE OF GALLOWAY

Pastoral Letter – 14 June 2026

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The Harvest is Plentiful, but the Labourers are Few”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A few months ago, I wrote to you and emphasised the word *“unsustainable”*. It was not easy to write and I am sure, not easy to read or hear. But it was important to communicate to you the real situation in the Diocese with regards to number of priests and their increased burdens. As I said then, we will have to make decisions in the short, medium and long term to ensure we are able to proclaim the Gospel in the Diocese as the Spirit asks.

For that reason, I now want to introduce another word: *sacrifice*. Specifically, I am asking you to be prepared to make sacrifices. And in the first instance, to be prepared to sacrifice two things (if you haven't already):

- Having a resident priest
- Having a guaranteed weekly Mass in each church

Already, parishes that have traditionally had a resident priest have had to learn to share one with a neighbouring parish (or even more). This can be a wrench, and understandably so, because the presence of the priest can mean a lot to a community. But, by necessity, this cannot always happen and, as priest numbers reduce for the moment, so will the number of parishes with resident priests.

To give context, last September there were 18 priests under the retirement age of 75 for the whole Diocese. By this September there will be 15. It simply means that fewer priests will be asked to look after more parishes. (With you I continue to be grateful for their ministry and the dedication they show to you and the Lord. I am also grateful to you for your support of all the clergy and ask you to continue to do so.)

This will inevitably lead to the second sacrifice I ask of you: to be willing to deal with Sunday Masses being offered in different places and at different times. In many cases, we have become used to Sunday Mass being celebrated at a time and place that suits us. Some of these will have to change, which might also mean a parish not having a weekly Sunday Mass.

We all understand the value of Mass as a parish community celebration and how it nourishes the parish but, at the moment, we must deal with the reality we are in. And it gives the added challenge of retaining the existence

of parishes as communities of faith without the same easy access to the Sunday Mass as in the past. It means also seeing ourselves as part of a broader Church and not just a parish.

In direct terms, this means that your attachment to the Mass might not be limited to one particular celebration but, instead, wherever and whenever you are able to attend and worship. I am therefore asking you to be prepared to sacrifice what has become your routine of Mass to accepting the inconvenience and difficulty of the places and times of Mass celebrations being changed in ways that might not suit you at first.

There is a limit to the number of Masses priests can celebrate, especially since they do not simply “go through the motions” but put great effort, energy and emotion into what is at the heart of the life of the Church. As a rule, priests should celebrate Mass once per day but, in exceptional cases, they can celebrate up to three with my permission.

For this reason, I am instructing the clergy in each deanery to make proposals to coordinate the best possible spread of Masses across each area and to engage you in these discussions. I expect this to begin in the coming months and proposals be made by the end of September. Once we have the chance to examine these proposals together in the Autumn, we can seek to find the best way to produce the best spread of Masses across the Diocese.

These sacrifices I invite you to make are ways for us to use our resources best at the service of Christ and his Church so that we can continue to reflect on how the Spirit wants us to proclaim the Gospel and celebrate the Sacraments in the years ahead. I firmly believe that the Lord will turn these sacrifices to the good and I ask you to believe the same.

At the same time, I ask you to continue to do what Christ demands in today’s Gospel:

“Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest”.

And remember that we are in God’s hands. We make these decisions and we offer these sacrifices because they are rooted in Christian Hope knowing that we do not do this alone but in the Lord.

As today’s psalm remind us: “We are **his** people, the sheep of **his** flock”.

With prayers for you all and asking your prayers for me,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Dougan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+ Francis Dougan
Bishop of Galloway

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Youth Evening – Sunday 21st June at 5.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Organ Recital by Aaron Hawthorne – Tuesday 23rd June at 12.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Minibus Trip – Monday 6th July (*Open to all*)
- Organ Recital by Alessandro Bianchi – Tuesday 7th July at 12.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Waverley Minibus Trip – Monday 3rd August (*Open to all*)

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 13 June St Joseph's 6pm	G McIntyre, H Rameckers, M Kirk	F Donachie, G Rankin, L Rankin, M Steele, M McGrath	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Kathleen, Frances	M Wilkie
Sunday 14 June St Matthew's 9.30 am	A Gillion, E Allan, D Bias	R: A M Gilmour, Sister L: M Thomson, M Bradley, M Gordon	Luca, David, Rebecca		Helen, Kenny		
Sunday 14 June St Joseph's 11 am	F McCann, L Hand, T Murphy	J Shields, H Matthews, P Dorrian, D Custodio, M Walker	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Alice Murphy	L Feeney, E O'Connell	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 14 June OLMC 11.30 am	J McCrossan, G McNeil	J Hefron, L Hefron, Sister	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Marie, Graham	B McDade, C Harper	
Saturday 20 June St Joseph's 6pm	F Donachie, A Davidson, M Kirk	Sr Mabel, K McGhee, A Gorman, C McGowan, R Chojeta	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Clare, Margaret	IHM Sisters
Sunday 21 June St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Merrick, G Coyle, C Brown	R: M Musilli, M Bradley L: M Dempster, P Brown, F Stacey	Luca, David, Rebecca		Marjorie, David		
Sunday 21 June St Joseph's 11 am	M Walker, M Cunningham, L Hand	R Murphy, F McCann, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	E Cunningham, L Heron	IHM Sisters	Paul, Libby	
Sunday 21 June OLMC 11.30 am	I Roy, D Shearer	S Hollywood, M Smith, C Harper	Jessica, Farrah, Katie	Suzy	Alice, Graham	C McQueen, I Roy	

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: <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 7th June

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,315.55. Communications: £10.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collection: £388.81. SSVP: £103.88.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £508.62. Weekly collection: £356.86. Community Box: £247.88. Ecuador Trust: £6.

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.