



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 19th July 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 19th – 26th JULY 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 18th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Carmel Anne Napier (RIP), Eunice Maduka (Ann) and Special Intention
Sunday 19th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Pat Burnett (RIP) & Celia Murphy (Ann)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Enrico Curtis (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	David Hannah (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
Monday 20th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Special Intention
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Daniel Geelan (Ann)
Tuesday 21st			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Willie O'Brien (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Special Intention
After Mass	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
Wednesday 22nd			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Noreen (Boyle) Lochtie (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Gina Doonan (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
Thursday 23rd			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
Friday 24th			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Jim Robertson (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	People of the Parishes
Saturday 25th			
11.00 am – 4.00 pm	St Joseph's	Diocesan First Communicants Celebration Day	
12.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass with the Diocesan First Communicants	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Celia Murphy (Ann)
Sunday 26th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Jean Colgan (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Alice McKeon (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	People of the Parishes
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
3.00 pm	Carfin	Mass for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly	

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

FOLLOW US ONLINE

Facebook – X – Instagram – @rckilmarnock

Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock

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

GENERAL NOTICES

BUILDING FUND: There will be a special collection for the Building Fund at Masses **this weekend**. Please use the envelope in your box if you have one to ensure gift aid is claimed.

WAVERLEY MINIBUS TRIP: Thank you to everyone who has signed up to take part in this trip which will see us join the Waverley Paddle Steamer for a trip to Girvan and Ailsa Craig on Monday 3rd August. **The tickets for this have now been booked and paid for. If you have signed up, the £55 cost – which includes transport to/ from Ayr and your ticket for the boat – is required no later than Sunday 26th July.** The cost can be paid in cash at the stall in St Joseph's.

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.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC? RCIA or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process to support and share faith and Catholic teaching with those who are preparing to join the Church. Anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church is invited to make themselves known to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin. Meetings to prepare those who wish to join the church will begin in September. Please also let anyone you may know who is interested in becoming a Catholic. And why not evangelise and ask people you think are curious whether they would come along and find out more about the Catholic faith?

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN: Parents of children in primary 4 who will prepare to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in 2027 are asked to attend a meeting in St Joseph's Church Hall on **Tuesday 1st September at 7 pm**. Attendance at this meeting is important, as is regular attendance at Sunday Mass.

DEANERY MASS FOR VOCATIONS: We are encouraged to pray regularly for those discerning their vocation, and in a particular way for those Christ is calling to be priests in his Church: that they may have the faith, trust, and confidence to give their 'yes' to the Lord. As part of our Diocesan prayer for vocations each deanery is to offer a quarterly Mass for Vocations. The next of these will be celebrated here in **St Joseph's Church on Thursday 30th July at 6.00 pm**. All are welcome.

SCIAF SHIELD: returns on Saturday 1st August 2026. Put your faith into action and take part in the SCIAF Shield – our knock-out tournament that uses football to raise money for the world's poorest people. Get ready for a day of fun, football, and fundraising. The SCIAF Shield is a 5-a-side tournament that brings together 16 teams for an exciting afternoon of community and sport - all in support of SCIAF's life-changing work overseas. This year, funds raised by the SCIAF Shield will go towards our Emergency Hunger Appeal, to provide emergency food packages and help people grow more food in places devastated by floods and droughts in Africa. Sign your parish team up here: www.sciaf.org.uk/sciafshield

SEASON OF CREATION CONFERENCE: The Bishops' Conference Care of Creation Office invites you to the Season of Creation Conference 2026 on Saturday, 5th September 2026, 10am – 3pm, in Eyre Hall, Archdiocese of Glasgow Offices, Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY. Our guest speaker will be Lorna Gold, Executive Director of Laudato Si' Movement, and there will be workshops on how to engage young people and parish groups. Please register here: bit.ly/SeasonofCreation26

CHILDREN'S SUMMER CLUBS:

St Kentigern's Church: There will be a Summer Holiday Club - Kingdom Builders - from Monday 3rd till Wednesday 5th August from 10 am - 12 noon. Primary school children are invited to explore building God's Kingdom with blocks and games! To register contact stkentigernsnfl@outlook.com or Sandy Brown 07526 490034.

New Laigh Kirk: A Summer Club with a sports theme will be held in New Laigh Kirk's Halls in John Finnie Street from 10th to 12th August from 6 to 7.45 p.m.. There will be Bible stories, games, crafts, snacks and Forum ice cream. To register contact Amy Tanner at amy_bh@hotmail.co.uk or 07980-665432.

FASLANE CHRISTIAN PEACE WITNESS VIGIL: 1st August, 11 am to 12.30 pm. Join Justice & Peace Scotland in August at Faslane Naval Base for our annual Christian Peace Witness Vigil as we pray and advocate for a world without

nuclear weapons. Organised by J&PS, the gathering – this year at the North Gate - will be a time of prayer, reflection, readings, and song led by senior Church leaders from across Scotland. Members of the Iona Community and the Quakers will also join us to call for nuclear disarmament and peace.

As Christians, we are called to be peacemakers and to uphold the dignity of every human life. Nuclear weapons are fundamentally incompatible with this call as their existence threatens indiscriminate destruction and a future built on fear and power-wielding rather than on fraternity amongst nations. A free bus service will be provided for the day, with pick-ups in Edinburgh and Glasgow. For details and to reserve places, please email: office@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

JULY ORGAN RECITALS: On Tuesday 28th July at 12 noon, we welcome James Gough, Director of Music at St John the Evangelist's Church, Upper Norwood, London, will perform a recital. It is a privilege to host such esteemed musicians at St Joseph's. Please spread the word that all are welcome.



ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

**THE RESTORED
HARRISON & HARRISON
ORGAN (1903, 2023)**

**ORGAN RECITAL SERIES
2026**

**Recitalist:
JAMES GOUGH
(St John the Evangelist,
Upper Norwood, London)**

**Tuesday 28 July
12 noon**

**St Joseph's Church,
15a Hill Street,
Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB**

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

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

PARISH FUN DAY: On **Sunday 9th August** there will be a Parish Fun Day after 11 am Mass with a bouncy castle and games for the children, face-painting, home baking, hot rolls and more. All welcome. **Donations for the bottle stall will be welcomed. Please hand into the stall in the porch. Volunteers are requested to help with the various activities on the day. Please speak to one of the priests or to Margaret McGrath.**

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.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

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.**

PILGRIMAGES

26TH JULY – WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY: The National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life invites you to join them in celebrating this day on Sunday 26th July at the Marian Shrine, Carfin, with Mass at 3pm, celebrated by Bishop John Keenan.

1ST AUGUST – PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE 2026: The annual Pilgrimage for Life will take place at Carfin Grotto on Saturday 1 August 2026. Led by Bishop John Keenan, the day offers an opportunity for prayer, reflection and witness to the dignity and sanctity of every human life.

The programme includes: 12:00 noon – Holy Mass; 2:00pm – Eucharistic Adoration; 2:15pm – Stations of the Cross; 2:45pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet; 3:30pm – Holy Rosary.

Families are especially encouraged to attend. All are welcome.

2ND AUGUST – DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO BIRNIEKNOWE: Following the success of last year's Deanery pilgrimage to the Birnieknowe, we are planning another for this year. This year it will take place on **Sunday 2nd August at 2.30 pm** to Birnieknowe, just outside Auchinleck, and be followed by a reception in the church hall. Birnieknowe was the location of the former Our Lady and St Patrick's church, school and convent until the mid 1960s. This year's Mass will also be the August Diocesan Mass to the Holy Spirit with Bishop Frank joining us.

Parking is available at Our Lady and St Patrick's, Auchinleck with a shuttle bus running to and from the Birnieknowe. **Last shuttle leaves Auchinleck at 2 pm.**

30TH AUGUST – WHITHORN PILGRIMAGE: The annual National Pilgrimage to Whithorn will take place on Sunday 30th August. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Frank Dougan on the beach at 4 pm, and at the church in Whithorn at 4.45 pm. A coach will travel from St Joseph's for those who wish to take part, although you can also travel independently if you prefer. We're keen to have as many pilgrims as possible at the beach this year and so, if you're free, please do join us – a sign-up sheet is on the noticeboard in the porch. Cost £15 for adults to pay on the day, children free. Stop for fish and chips on journey home – paid separately. Please bring a packed lunch.

6TH SEPTEMBER – NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN: The National Pilgrimage to Scotland's Marian Shrine will take place on Sunday 6th September with Mass at 3.00 pm. The principal celebrant will be Archbishop William Nolan of Glasgow. A coach will run from St Joseph's for anyone wishing to participate, leaving at 1 pm. Please add your name to the list in the porch if you wish a place on the coach. Cost £15 for adults to pay on the day, children free.

MINISTRY TO YOUNG PEOPLE

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION DAY: The Diocesan Youth Office invites all those who have made their First Communion this year to join them for a celebration at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock on Saturday 25th July from 11.00

am to 4.00 pm. The day will include a variety of fun and engaging games, a couple of short talks, Mass, and lunch: pizza and a BBQ. Interested? Scan the QR code to register. There's no charge to take part.



SUMMER

WITH GALLOWAY YOUTH

25TH JULY
11.00 AM – 4.00 PM

8TH AUGUST
AFTER 6.00 PM VIGIL

15TH AUGUST
11.00 AM – 4.00 PM

30TH AUGUST
ALL DAY

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION DAY
(ONLY OPEN TO FIRST COMMUNICANTS)

YOUNG ADULTS' SUMMER BBQ

SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING

WHITHORN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE



YOUNG ADULTS BBQ: Join Young Adults (S5-30) from across the Diocese for their annual Summer BBQ on Saturday 8th August. The evening begins with the 6.00 pm Vigil Mass in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, after which they'll continue in the garden with a BBQ – all free of charge. Interested? Scan the QR code to let us

know you're coming!

SPONSORED CYCLE AROUND MILLPORT (GREAT CUMBRAE): On Thursday 6th August, Fr Kevin, Margaret McGrath, and others from the Diocesan Youth Office will be joined by some of the young people taking part in 2027 Galloway's Seoul: a five-day residential for young people following the events of World Youth Day in Seoul, while also taking part in a range of outdoor activities, and hearing inputs (Catechesis) from local speakers. The event aims to give young people the opportunity to grow in their knowledge and love of God as well as growing in friendship with each other through the activities on offer.

For the cycle: Fr Kevin will be completing 60 miles (six circuits of the island) while Margaret and the young people will complete one circuit (10 miles).

To sponsor the group, please fill in the form in the stall, or scan the QR code to donate online.



Invitation to take part: While the event is raising funds for Galloway's Seoul, any young person (P6 and up after the summer) is welcome to come along and take part – the Youth Office will cover the ferry fare and bike hire, if you'd like to take part, please speak to Fr Kevin, Margaret, or go to the Youth Office's website and click on 'Millport Sponsored Cycle' (under 'Youth').



MILLPORT SPONSORED CYCLE

THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST



SCAN TO DONATE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Deanery Mass for Vocations – Thursday 30th July, 6.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Deanery Pilgrimage to Birnieknowe for Mass of the Holy Spirit with Bishop Frank – Sunday 2nd August, 2.30 pm
 - Waverley Minibus Trip – Monday 3rd August (*Open to all*)
- Diocesan Young Adults' (S5-30) Summer BBQ – Saturday 8th August, After 6.00 pm Vigil Mass (*St Joseph's*)
 - Parish Fun Day – Sunday 9th August from 12 noon – 2 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Summer Youth Gathering – Saturday 15th August, 11.00 am – 4.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Whithorn Pilgrimage – Sunday 30th August – Mass on the beach at 4 pm and in the town at 4.45 pm
- Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches service – Sunday 20th September at 3.00 pm (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*)
 - Ecuador Walk from Kilmarnock to Troon – Sunday 27th September (*details to follow*)

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 18 July St Joseph's 6pm	H Rameckers, F Donachie, A Davidson	Sr Juliet, Sr Mabel, C McGowan, A Gorman, K McGhee	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Kathleen, Frances	Helena Rameckers
Sunday 19 July St Matthew's 9.30 am	A Gillion, M Thomson, C Bias	R: C Gordon, M Gordon L: M Dempster	Luca, David, Rebecca		-		
Sunday 19 July St Joseph's 11 am	M Cunningham, L Hand, M Walker	R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, F McCann, M Walker	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 19 July OLMC 11.30 am	Owen Jones, Helen Kennedy	C Lamberth, J McCrossan, G Rannochan	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	-	M Wilkie, B McDade	
Saturday 25 July St Joseph's 6pm	G McIntyre, K McGhee, M Kirk	F Donachie, M Steele, G Rankin, L Rankin, R Chojeta	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Clare, Margaret	Philip Brown
Sunday 26 July St Matthew's 9.30 am	F Boyle, M Bradley, M Merrick	R: Ann Marie, Sister L: M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca		-		
Sunday 26 July St Joseph's 11 am	P Nicholson, G Smith, T Murphy	P Dorrian, D Custodio, M Walker, P Chigbo, E Cunningham	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Paul, Libby	
Sunday 26 July OLMC 11.30 am	Colette Lamberth, Josephine McCrossan	D Shearer, L Shearer, M Smith	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	-	Rita Chak, Alice Brown	

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 12th July

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £834.08. Weekly collection: £1,314.86. Peter's Pence: £20. Organ Recital: £246.50.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £261.57. Weekly collection: £462.82. SSVP: £182.45.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £508.62. Weekly collection: £317.23. Community Box: £100.04. Ecuador Trust: £10. Peter's Pence: £5.

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

