



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 26th 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 26th JULY – 2nd AUGUST 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
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	
Monday 27th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Gordon McGowne (Ann)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
Tuesday 28th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Eileen McGill (Ann) & Stephen McLinn (Ann)
12.00 pm	St Joseph's	Organ Recital by James Gough	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Edward Farrell (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
Wednesday 29th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Molly Mowat (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Frank Cullimore (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
Thursday 30th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Deanery Mass for Vocations	Vocations to the Priesthood
Friday 31st			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Alice Boyle (Ann)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Paul Newman (RIP)
Saturday 1st			
12.00 pm	Carfin	Mass for the Pilgrimage for Life 2026	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	James Heron (RIP)
Sunday 2nd			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Daniel Stakim (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	People of the parishes
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	Peter Hackett (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
2.30 pm	Birnieknowe	Deanery Pilgrimage to Birnieknowe	
		Mass with Bishop Frank	

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

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 deadline for ticket payments is today (Sunday 26th July) to secure your place.** The cost can be paid in cash at the stall in St Joseph's.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FR PHILIP KITCHEN: This weekend marks Fr Philip's final weekend as Parish Priest of St John's, Cumnock; Our Lady and St Patrick's, Auchinleck; and St Thomas the Apostle, Muirkirk, following his 75th birthday in March. We thank Fr Philip for his ministry in the deanery, and his friendship to both Frs Stephen and Kevin. Fr Philip will be retiring to Kilmarnock and we look forward to welcoming him to our parishes. A successor to Fr Philip will be appointed by the beginning of September. During the month of August, Sunday Masses and pastoral care will be covered by the priests of the deanery.

THANK YOU TO MARIELLA HOEKSTRA BERRY: At the end of this week Mariella leaves her role as parish secretary for a new job. She has worked in St Joseph's as parish secretary since 2013, and for the three parishes since November 2025, and we are extremely grateful to her for her commitment, knowledge and expertise in supporting the parishes in her role. She will be missed but we wish her well in her new role. The parish secretary email address rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk will continue to be monitored.

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.

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

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

REQUIESCENT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent deaths of our parishioners Elspeth McNeil and Jack Harkness. We offer our condolences and prayers to their family and friends. Jack's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 4th August at 11.00 am. Elspeth's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday 14th August at 10.00 am.

JULY ORGAN RECITAL: 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.rkilmarnock.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.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

U R WELCOME: The U R Welcome Club enjoyed a summer trip to Callendar in beautiful sunshine last Wednesday.





The next scheduled meeting of the group is Wednesday 5th August 1.30 - 3.30 Norbert Room in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Healthy Eating is the topic, come along and join in the fun, tips and ideas around good food. Looking forward to welcoming all seniors, friends and neighbours.

PILGRIMAGES

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 at St John's, Cumnock. 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 **St John's, Cumnock** with a shuttle bus running to and from the Birnieknowe. **Last shuttle leaves Auchinleck at 2 pm.**

PLEASE NOTE the change to St John's, Cumnock for parking and the reception afterwards.

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.

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

SUMMER

WITH GALLOWAY YOUTH

8TH AUGUST AFTER 6.00 PM VIGIL	YOUNG ADULTS' SUMMER BBQ		
15TH AUGUST 11.00 AM - 4.00 PM	SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING		
30TH AUGUST ALL DAY	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').

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 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	
Saturday 1 August St Joseph's 6pm	H Rameckers, A Davidson, K McGhee	K McGhee, F Donachie, M McGrath, A Gorman, C McGowan	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Kathleen, Frances	Hugh Matthews
Sunday 2 August St Matthew's 9.30 am	A Gillion, P Brown, M Musilli	R: M Gordon, C Gordon L: S Duff, M Dempster, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca		-		
Sunday 2 August St Joseph's 11 am	G McGee, M Walker, An Davidson	H Matthews, L Dorrian, I Love, F McCann, R Murphy	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Devlin, Eileen	
Sunday 2 August OLMC 11.30 am	Greta McNeil, Irene Roy	M Urquhart, M Wilkie, S Clark	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	-	Brian McDade, Martin Duffy	

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 19th July

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £861.31. Weekly collection: £1,113.21. Building Fund: £880.17.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £330.96. Weekly collection: £493.86. Building Fund: £618.37. SSVP: £133.38.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £533.08. Weekly collection: £429.92. Building Fund: £576.38. Community Box: £102.70. Ecuador Trust: £3.

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

