



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 2nd August 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: Mary Walker (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 2nd – 9th AUGUST 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 1st			
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	
Monday 3rd			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Martin Gaffney (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Minibus Departs for the Waverley Trip.	
Tuesday 4th			
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Special Intention
After Mass	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for Jack Harkness, RIP	Jack Harkness (RIP)
Wednesday 5th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Jim Fowler (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Ian McTurk (Ann)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
Thursday 6th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
Friday 7th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Kevin Kennedy (RIP)
		No Rosary or Mass in Our Lady of Mount Carmel today.	
Saturday 8th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Diocesan Young Adults' Summer BBQ	
		Scan the QR code to sign up.	
Sunday 9th			
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	Romao Zambucci (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Parish Fun Day (All welcome)	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	
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.

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

AYR RECITAL: Ayr Town Hall (New Bridge Street, KA7 1JX) has weekly recitals, featuring its 1904 Lewis organ, at 12 noon on Mondays from June to November each year. St Joseph's organist, Raymond McCluskey, is the recitalist on Monday 3rd August. There will be music by Bach, Mendelssohn and others. All welcome. Admission £6, payable at the door.

CLERGY ANNUAL LEAVE: Fr Stephen will be on annual leave in the first half of August, followed by Fr Kevin in the second half of August. Please note the changes to the weekday Mass schedule.

WAVERLEY MINIBUS TRIP: The tickets have now been confirmed for this. **The minibus will leave from St Joseph's on Monday at 11.00 am** for the 1.00 pm sailing from Ayr. The Waverley will return to Ayr for 6.30 pm, and so we anticipate being back in St Joseph's for 7.15/30 pm.

Please note that, even in the summer, the temperature on the water will be lower than at home. Please ensure that you dress appropriately for the cooler temperatures.

YOUTH EVENTS: St Joseph's will be hosting the annual Diocesan Young Adults' BBQ and Summer Youth Gathering on Saturday 8th and Saturday 15th August, welcoming youth and young adults from across the Diocese.

Additional Mass on Saturday 15th August

As part of the days celebrations, the Youth Office will celebrate Mass, preceded by a short talk from some of their Junior Leaders on the theme of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, at 12.30 pm. This Mass is open to all who would like to come along and pray with the young people of our Diocese.

Help Needed –

Could you make a salad or some home baking?

Could you donate a salad or home baking for either of these events? If you are able to help, please speak to Fr Kevin or email youth@rcdg.org.uk. Any donations of home baking or salads can be dropped off in the sacristy or Church House on Friday 7th August and Friday 14th August.

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 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.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION: This year the Solemnity of the Assumption falls on a Saturday and so is transferred to the Sunday. As a result, Saturday 15th August is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

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

SPUC DAY CONFERENCE: Takes place in Glasgow on Saturday 19th September. For more information, and to book tickets, please see their website: spuc.org.uk/spuc-national-conference/. Tickets are £25 per person if purchased before the 12th August, or £30 per person thereafter.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

REQUIESCANT 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.

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 are welcome for the:

- **Bottle Stall** – these can be handed in at the stall or to the Parish House.
- **Home Baking** – these can be handed in at the stall or to the Parish House from Friday onwards.

Volunteers are requested to help with the various activities on the day. Please speak to one of the priests or to Margaret McGrath.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

ST MATTHEW'S FOODBANK: has changed and increased to providing emergency food to families who drop into the Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays 15.30 till 17.00 hrs. This is a continuation of the service we have provided for callers at the church for over 20 years in supporting those in need. This increase in our help to the needy is supported by our Parishioners and your help is greatly appreciated, we are also regularly supported by SVdP, St Joseph's Academy, St Kentigern's and Kay Park church. If you know of anyone who is struggling, please let us know and with your help we could assist them. We are also considering other ways we can help our communities, schools and families. If you would like to help us please let us know.

Please continue to support through the Community box and also by donating food etc in the box in the foyer of the church as we continue to help and make a difference to families.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

CAR PARKING: As far as possible, in addition to using the church car park, please use the car park between the church and Onthank Primary to reduce street and pavement parking around the church.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS: Please note that these will not take place this week as the sisters are away on retreat. We wish the sisters well on their retreat and assure them of our prayers.

PILGRIMAGES

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-S30) 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!



SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING: Join Youth (P5-S4) from across the Diocese as they gather for their Summer Gathering on Saturday 15th August from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm. The day will include a wide range of fun games, including old favourites and a few new ones, two short talks on the theme of the gathering: St Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint of young people, Mass, and lunch (pizza and BBQ). There's no charge to take part, but if you're coming, please scan the QR code to register!

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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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
- P4 Parents' Meeting for First Communion – Tuesday 1st September – 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's – for all parishes*)
- 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 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	
Saturday 8 August St Joseph's 6pm	M Kirk, A McCluskey, F Donachie	L Rankin, G Rankin, Sr Mabel, Sr Juliet, R Chojeta	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Clare, Margaret	Marie Wilkie
Sunday 9 August St Matthew's 9.30 am	F Boyle, G Coyle, C Brown	R: Sister, A Gillion L: N McKenna, F Stacey, P Brown	Luca, David, Rebecca		-		
Sunday 9 August St Joseph's 11 am	H Matthews, F McCann, L Hand	A Neil, J Shields, M Walker, D Custodio, P Dorrian	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 9 August OLMC 11.30 am	Donna Shearer, Agnes Starrs	C Harper, J Hefron, L Hefron	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	-	G Rannochan, C McGuire	

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 26th July

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £861.31. Weekly collection: £1,463.24. Building Fund: £175.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £330.96. Weekly collection: £423.13. Building Fund: £55.00. Peter's Pence: £35.00. SSVP: £152.20.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £533.08. Weekly collection: £344.09. Building Fund: £20. Community Box: £142.30. Ecuador Trust: £30.01.

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

