



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Solemnity of the Assumption

Sunday 16th 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 16th – 23rd AUGUST 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 15th			
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Diocesan Youth (P5-S4) Summer Gathering	
12.30 pm	St Joseph's	Mass with the Diocesan Youth	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption....	Frank Cullimore (RIP)
Sunday 16th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption.....	People of the Parishes
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption.....	Maggie Kucinski (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption.....	Rosemary Cree (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
Monday 17th			
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	
Tuesday 18th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for Susan Wright, RIP.....	Susan Wright (RIP)
No Mass, Adoration or Confession in Our Lady of Mount Carmel today.			
Wednesday 19th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
No Mass, Adoration or Confession in St Matthew's today.			
1.30 – 3.30 pm	OLMC	U R Welcome (in the Norbert Room)	
Thursday 20th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
Friday 21st			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	
After Mass	St Joseph's	Church Cleaning (New volunteers welcome)	
10.00 am	OLMC	Requiem Mass for Christine McDonald, RIP.....	Christine McDonald (RIP)
Saturday 22nd			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Jennifer Scott (RIP)
Sunday 23rd			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	People of the Parishes
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

CLERGY ANNUAL LEAVE: Fr Kevin is currently on Annual Leave. Please note the changes to the weekday Mass schedule.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL: Next weekend, 22nd/ 23rd August, we will be joined by the Spiritans, priests of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, as they make the annual Mission Appeal in our parishes. The Spiritans minister in over 60 countries throughout the world, including in Scotland – in our own Diocese, four Spiritan missionaries currently minister in parishes of the Diocese.

The Spiritans describe their mission as the evangelisation of the “poor” (Lk 4:18). Therefore, Spiritans go especially:

- to peoples, groups and individuals who have not yet heard the message of the Gospel or who have scarcely heard it.
- to those whose needs are the greatest, and to the oppressed.
- We willingly accept tasks for which the Church has difficulty in finding workers.

The Spiritan option for the poor involves a solidarity which brings them to share in the world of the marginalized. *“When we opt for the poor, we opt not for poverty as such, but for people who are unjustly poor.”*

The Spiritan Rule of Life (14) asks them to make themselves *“the advocates, the supporters and defenders of the weak and the little ones against all who oppress them.”*

Please give generously in support of their ministry.

STIRLING MINIBUS TRIP: The next minibus trip will take place on Monday 7th September, this month travelling to Stirling Castle. The group will depart after 10.00 am Mass and travel to Stirling where there'll be the option of spending some time exploring the city or visiting the castle. The cost per person, which does not include lunch or admission to the castle, is £12.00 per person. Sign up in St Joseph's porch or by emailing rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk. These trips are open to anyone in the three parishes.

Castle Admission: Admission to the castle is £15.00 for persons aged over 65, or free for Historic Scotland members.

THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH OFFICE: The Youth Office is very grateful to all those parishioners who donated salads/ baking in support of the Young Adults BBQ and Summer Youth Gathering. Thank you for your generous support of their ministry in sharing the joy of the Gospel with young people and helping them to come to a personal and lived encounter with Christ.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: One of our parishioners is moving into a nursing home and is offering a Riser Recliner in good condition and a large Electric Scooter in good condition free to a good home. If you would be interested in either of these items, please contact Tricia Nelson (mailto:lsanelson@hotmail.com).

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.

USED STAMPS FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: Thanks to those who continue to bring used postage stamps to the boxes in St Matthew's and in OLMC to be forwarded to the MS Society as part of their fundraising to support research into this debilitating illness.

SPRED: The new session of SPRED commences on Tuesday 8 September. There are vacancies for a few adults with special needs to join the group. In the first instance, please contact Kathleen on 07513048722. There are information leaflets in the porches of all the churches.

FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES: Warmly invites you to join them at Fenwick Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday 23rd August for the first of the new session of ecumenical services. The service will reflect on the theme of All Creatures Great and Small and will feature animals which assist people. These will include a guide dog for people with sensory loss, a shepherd's dog, bees and even horses from Police Scotland's Mounted Unit which are stabled at Stewarton. Children and young people are especially welcome to come and meet these animals – and their human companions.

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 of August, or £30 per person thereafter.

HILLHOUSE LADIES' AFTERNOON TEA: Hillhouse are having a Ladies Afternoon Tea on Saturday 5th September in the Kay Park Parish Church Hall from 2pm-6pm. All tickets are £15.00 and the price includes an afternoon tea and glass of fizz on arrival. All drinks are £3.50. There will be a fashion show, ladies quiz and lots of fun! For tickets, please call 01563 523362 or email eileen@hillhousehelps.co.uk. Any donations of home baking would also be gratefully received. Thank you!

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent death of our parishioners Susan Wright and Lorna McIntosh. We offer our condolences and prayers to their family and friends. Susan's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 18th August at 10.00 am. Lorna's Requiem arrangements will be announced in due course.

ORGAN RECITAL: The next Organ Recital takes place on Friday 11th September at 7.00 pm when Steven McIntyre (Dunblane Cathedral) will be playing. All welcome.

CHURCH CLEANING: The next Church cleaning morning takes place on Friday (21st August) after Mass. New volunteers are welcome – please speak to Frances Donachie for details. Please note the later date this month due to the funeral this Friday.

PARISH FUN DAY: Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Fun Day on Sunday. A total of £254 was raised for parish funds.

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

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.

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.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent death of our parishioner Christine McDonald. We offer our condolences and prayers to her family and friends. Christine's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday 21st August at 10.00 am.

U R WELCOME: The next meeting, Eyes down for Bingo, is on Wednesday (19th August) from 1.30 – 3.30 pm. All welcome.

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.

UMBRELLAS: A number of umbrellas have been left in the porch. If you are missing your umbrella, please check in the porch and reclaim yours.

PILGRIMAGES

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.

Youth Pilgrimage to Whithorn: Alongside the National Pilgrimage, the Diocesan Youth Office will be running a event for young people in P5-S4. For more details and to register see their August newsletter overleaf.

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



WHITHORN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE:

As part of the annual National Pilgrimage to Whithorn on Sunday 30th August the Youth Office will be running a Youth Pilgrimage. Join with young people (P5-S4) from across the Diocese as we gather to learn more about the life and witness of St Ninian. In the morning we'll have games, activities, lunch and a talk on St Ninian, before walking to the beach for Mass with Bishop Frank. After Mass, we'll enjoy a packed supper before heading home. Free transport is available from: Saltcoats, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Maybole, Girvan, Dumfries, and Kirkcudbright. Please register by scanning the QR code or going to the Youth Office website: youth.rcdg.org.uk. There is no charge, but please bring a packed supper.

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 £100.00 with the final £60 payment due closer to the time.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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*)
 - Minibus Trip – Monday 7th September (*Open to all*)
 - Organ Recital by Steven McIntyre – Friday 11th September, 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Young Adults (S5-30) Evening – Sunday 13th September, 6.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches service – Sunday 20th September at 3.00 pm (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel*)
 - PPC Meeting (*St Joseph's*) – Monday 21st September, 6.30 pm (*St Joseph's*)
 - Youth (P5-S4) Evening – Sunday 27th September, 5.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- 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 15 August St Joseph's 6pm	K McGhee, H Ramecker, A Davidson	M Steele, F Donachie, M McGrath, A Gorman, C McGowan	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Kathleen, Frances	Sisters of the Immaculate Heart
Sunday 16 August St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Merrick, K Ainsworth, A Gillion	R: A M Gilmour, M Gordon L: M Bradley, C Stacey, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca		-	-	
Sunday 16 August St Joseph's 11 am	R Doak, M Cunningham, T Murphy	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, H Matthews, L Dorrian, I Love	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Paul, Libby	
Sunday 16 August OLMC 11.30 am	M Smith, M Wilkie	S Hollywood, C Lamberth, J McCrossan	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	-	Charlie Harper, Marie Wilkie	
Saturday 22 August St Joseph's 6pm	G McIntyre, M Kirk, M McGrath	Sr Mabel, R Chojeta, K McGhee, G Rankin, I Rankin	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Clare, Margaret	Eric Allan
Sunday 23 August St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Bradley, B Gilhooley, D Bias	R: Sister, C Gordon L: M Dempster, S Duff, N McKenna	Luca, David, Rebecca		-	-	
Sunday 23 August St Joseph's 11 am	P Nicholson, G Smith, H Matthews	F McCann, R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, M Walker	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-	Devlin, Eileen	
Sunday 23 August OLMC 11.30 am	C Cox, K Jones	C McQueen, C Lamberth, C Harper	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	-	C Lamberth, John Boyle	

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)	Margaret McGrath (<i>Interim</i>) (margaret.mcgrath@rcdg.org.uk)
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 2nd August

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £887.25. Weekly collection: £1,393.28. Building Fund: £757.81. Ecuador Trust: £200.00. SCIAF: £40.00.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £344.50. Weekly collection: £491.63. Building Fund: £571.52. SSVP: £119.95.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £554.50. Weekly collection: £389.15. Building Fund: £516.69. Community Box: £117.80. Ecuador Trust: £8.00.

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

