



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 23rd 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 23rd – 30th AUGUST 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
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	Myra & Tony Loughrey (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	People of the parishes
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
Monday 24th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Elspeth McNeil (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	John Arthur Maloy (Ann)
Tuesday 25th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass (followed by Adoration until 11.00 am)	Douglas Yates (RIP)
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	Community Café	
Wednesday 26th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	
After Mass	St Joseph's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Hannah Loughrey (Ann)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
Thursday 27th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Jack Harkness (RIP) / Paul Steel (RIP)
Friday 28th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Eugene Crummie (RIP)
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass (with children from Mount Carmel Primary)	Mary Carolan (Ann)
Saturday 29th			
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Confession	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Suzanne Fleming (RIP)
Sunday 30th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Joe Handley (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Tea and Coffee	
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Tom Gallagher (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass	People of the parishes
After Mass	OLMC	Tea and Coffee	
4.00 pm	Whithorn	Diocesan Pilgrimage Mass on the beach	
4.45 pm	Whithorn	Diocesan Pilgrimage Mass in St Martin & St Ninian's Church	

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

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL: This 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.

Please note the appeal in Our Lady of Mount Carmel will be made on Sunday 19th September (Fr Henry can't be in two places at once!), however, the special collection envelope can be contributed on any Sunday in the main collection.

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 rkilmarnock@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.

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!

FOR A CULTURE OF LIFE

Please contact your MP today and urge them to vote no to assisted suicide in the UK Parliament. Vulnerable people must be protected, proper care strengthened, and compassion, dignity and support prioritised over assisted suicide. Find your MP at: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>

A letter from Bishop John Keenan, President of Marriage, Family and Life Office:

Final Appeal: Urge your MP to Reject Westminster Assisted Suicide Bill

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write at a grave moment for the protection of human life. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, re-introduced by Lauren Edwards MP, seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It is expected to return to the House of Commons for debate and a vote on 11th September. I urge Catholics throughout Scotland to contact their MP without delay and ask them to vote against this deeply unsafe Bill.

Although it would not directly apply to Scotland, should the Bill pass, it would significantly increase the likelihood of MSPs revisiting the issue of assisted suicide, despite the Scottish Parliament having rejected it only recently.

Our opposition to assisted suicide is rooted in compassion. Every person, from conception until natural death, possesses an inviolable dignity as one made in the image and likeness of God. Illness, frailty, disability, dependence or fear must never lead society to conclude that some lives are no longer worth living. The proper response to suffering is care, presence, skilled palliative medicine and practical support—not the deliberate ending of life.

Changing the law would place vulnerable people, including the elderly, the disabled, the seriously ill and those who feel they are a burden, at risk of pressure. No safeguard can remove that danger completely.

Scotland and the whole United Kingdom need better palliative and hospice care, better support for carers, and a renewed commitment that no one should face terminal illness alone, afraid or without dignity. We welcome calls by the Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, for improvements to palliative and social care to be prioritised before a debate on assisted suicide.

Please act now. Contact your MP today and ask them, respectfully and urgently and, in your own words, to protect vulnerable people and support better palliative and hospice care by voting against the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill.

To find your MP, visit the UK Parliament website and enter your postcode.

I also invite every parish and Catholic organisation to encourage prayer, informed discussion and charitable witness on this matter. Let us speak with clarity, compassion and confidence in

the Gospel of Life. Let us pray for all who are seriously ill, for their families and carers, and for those in public office, that they may uphold the dignity of every human life and work to build a society that truly cares for its most vulnerable members.

With every blessing,

Bishop John Keenan
President of Marriage, Family and Life Office

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent death of our parishioner Lorna McIntosh. We offer our condolences and prayers to their family and friends. Lorna's Requiem Mass will be offered on Friday 4th September at 10 am. May she rest in peace.

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.



ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

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

**ORGAN RECITAL SERIES
2026**

**Recitalist:
STEVEN MCINTYRE
(Dunblane Cathedral)**

**Friday 11 September
12 noon**

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

www.rekilmarnock.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

NEW BOILER FOR THE CHURCH: To address necessary health and safety concerns which would soon have become more serious, a new boiler has been installed in the church. New efficiencies should reduce the monthly fuel costs. The cost of installation was £17,117.

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.

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

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.

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. 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

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 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.

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-S10) 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 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, 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	
Saturday 29 August St Joseph's 6pm			Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi				
Sunday 30 August St Matthew's 9.30 am			Luca, David, Rebecca		-	-	
Sunday 30 August St Joseph's 11 am			Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	-	-		
Sunday 30 August OLMC 11.30 am			Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	-		

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: £1,310.10. Building Fund: £200.00. Organ Recital: £248.20.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £344.50. Weekly collection: £416.70. Building Fund: £41.00. SSVP: £147.50.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £554.50. Weekly collection: £342.32. Building Fund: £15.00. Community Box: £128.05. Ecuador Trust: £10.08.

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

