



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 6th September 2026



St Joseph's – Our Lady of Mount Carmel – St Matthew's
Kilmarnock

St Sophia's – St Paul's
Galston – Hurlford

Parish Priest & Administrator: Father Stephen G. McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Father Kevin J. A. Rennie (kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk)

Pastoral Assistants (Kilmarnock Parishes): Sisters Mary Rose Confidence, Mary Mabel
and Marilyn Juliet (ihmsisters@rcdg.org.uk)

Kilmarnock Parishes Secretary: Mary Walker (rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk)

Items for the newsletter to the Parishes 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 SUNDAYS 6th – 13th SEPTEMBER 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 5th			
4.30 pm	St Sophia's	Vigil Mass	People of the Parishes
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	James Lynch (Ann)
Sunday 6th			
8.50 am	St Paul's	Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet	
9.15 am	St Paul's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	People of the Parishes
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	Archie Pryce (Ann)
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	Claire Clarke (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass followed by tea and coffee	Special Intention
1.00 pm	St Joseph's	Coach to Carfin departs	
3.00 pm	Carfin Grotto	National Pilgrimage Mass	
Monday 7th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Gerry Coyle (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	Peter Maxwell (Ann)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
After Mass	St Joseph's	Minibus Trip to Stirling Departs	
Tuesday 8th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass (followed by Adoration until 11.00 am)	Frank Cullimore (RIP)
10.00 am	St Sophia's	Mass	Special Intention
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Community Café	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Reception of Winston McGarvey, RIP	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA (in the Norbert Room)	
Wednesday 9th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Requiem Mass for Winston McGarvey, RIP	Winston McGarvey (RIP)
10.00 am	St Paul's	Mass	Jack Harkness (RIP)
Thursday 10th			
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention / Catherine O'Hare (Ann)
7.00 pm	St Sophia's	RCIA (in the church hall)	
7.00 pm	St Matthew's	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting (in the church hall)	
Friday 11th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention
		No Rosary or Mass in Our Lady of Mount Carmel today	
11.00 am	St Matthew's	Requiem Mass for Gerry Coyle, RIP	Gerry Coyle (RIP)
7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Organ Recital by Steven McIntyre	
Saturday 12th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass (this week only)	Canon Pat McSorley (RIP) / Canon Pat McSorley (RIP)
10.30 – 2.00 pm	St Joseph's	First Communicants' Retreat Day (in St Joseph's Hall)	
4.30 pm	St Sophia's	Vigil Mass	Special Intention
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Fr Martin McCluskey (Ann)
Sunday 13th			
8.50 am	St Paul's	Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet	
9.15 am	St Paul's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	Claire Clarke (RIP)
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	People of the Parishes
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	John Cassidy (Ann)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass followed by tea and coffee	Special Intention
12.45 pm	St Matthew's	Community Lunch	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	Young Adults (\$5-30) Evening (in St Joseph's Hall)	

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

PASTORAL CARE OF THE PARISHES

From Saturday 5th September, for the next six months, Fr Stephen McGrattan and Fr Kevin Rennie will have pastoral care for St Paul's, Hurlford, and St Sophia's, Galston in addition to the Kilmarnock parishes. Although we are not strangers to all of you in Galston and Hurlford, it will take time for us to get to know each other better and to learn more about the life of the communities as they are at this time. Please keep us, as well as Fr Erasmus, in your prayers as we will keep you in ours.

To allow Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin pastoral time with all of the parish communities on a Sunday, the Mass times have changed slightly: in St Sophia's, the Vigil Mass is now at 4.30 pm and in St Paul's, Sunday Mass is now at 9.15 am. The Saturday change also allows either Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin, when necessary, to celebrate both Vigil Masses. The weekday liturgy schedule will be published in the newsletter. At this stage, the regular weekday pattern will be Mass daily in St Joseph's, and one weekday Mass in the other parishes as follows:

- Monday 10 am Mass, St Matthew's
- Tuesday 10 am Mass, St Sophia's
- Wednesday 10 am Mass, St Paul's
- Friday 10 am Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel (*but not this week because of the funeral at St Matthew's*).

Weekday Recitation of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for Confession will be worked out over the next week or so. The weekday schedule is subject to change, particularly when funerals take place.

The priests will meet with those who have been represented on the Parish Pastoral Councils of St Paul's and St Sophia's in due course. Parish Pastoral Council meetings for the Kilmarnock parishes are already arranged for September, so there will be an opportunity for each parish to discuss how these changes affect the whole cluster.

The Deanery Pastoral Council meets on Tuesday 22nd September at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's Church hall, Kilmarnock, and the effects of these changes will be a main point for discussion. It is important, therefore, that all of the parishes are well represented on the Deanery Pastoral Council – each parish has a maximum representation of three people.

These changes affect all of the parishes involved, both in terms of availability of priestly pastoral care and the number of liturgies celebrated and their timings. The main reason that the parishes will share a single newsletter is to ensure the same information from each parish, the cluster of parishes, the deanery and the diocese is communicated to everyone. Each parish will have a full stake in the newsletter, and notices can be sent to rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk (by Thursday 10 am please) or in Hurlford and Galston to the local contact (listed under the St Paul's and St Sophia's sections).

Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin will be resident at St Joseph's Presbytery, and the office will be based there. Please direct telephone calls to 01563 521832. By email, Fr Stephen can be reached on stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk, Fr Kevin on kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk, and the parish office address is rkilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk.

Let us pray for one another and for the gift of hope in the future mission of the Church as we move forward.

GENERAL PARISH NOTICES

MONTH OF MISSION TALKS: The October Month of Mission talks – open to all in our parishes and beyond – take place in St Matthew's church on Thursday evenings in October. Each week, we welcome a different speaker to speak on the theme of an area of the Church's Mission. The talk begins at 7.00 pm in St Matthew's hall and lasts one hour with an opportunity for questions and discussion. The full programme is shown below:

- **1st October** – Dr Raymond McCluskey
Catholic Mission in Kilmarnock: Historical Perspectives
- **8th October** – Sr Placida McCann, FSIC
The International Mission of the Church
- **22nd October** – Dr Mark Charlesworth
Faith, Reason and Mission – Bring your questions
- **29th October** – Fr Philip Kitchen
Mission Impossible

Please note, there is no talk on Thursday 15th October due to the school holidays.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS: Fr Ben Lodge left St Joseph's, Stranraer to return to his Religious Congregation on Sunday 23rd August. In addition to his role as Parish Priest of St Peter's, Dalbeattie, St Andrew's and St Cuthbert's, Kirkcudbright, Our Lady and St Ninian's, Newton Stewart, and St Martin and St Ninian's, Whithorn (with The Sacred Heart, Wigtown), Fr William McFadden has been appointed Parish Priest of St Joseph's, Stranraer. Sunday Masses will be celebrated in Stranraer on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and in Kirkcudbright and Newton Stewart on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Vigil Masses in Dalbeattie and Whithorn will remain weekly at present.

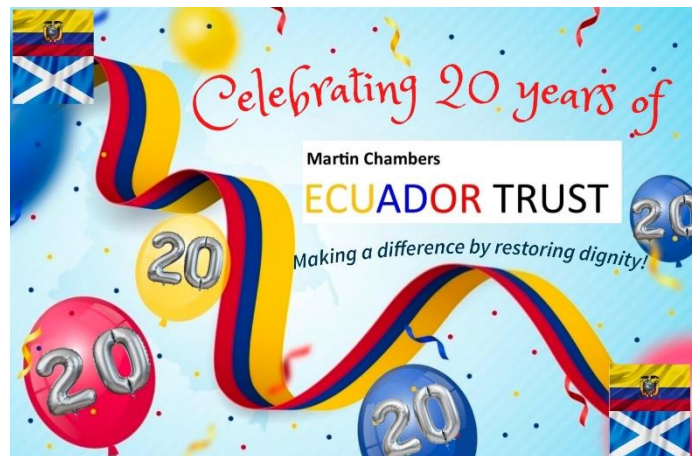
ECUADOR TRUST 20th ANNIVERSARY WALK: On Sunday 27th September the Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust will celebrate their 20th Anniversary, by walking in memory of Fr Martin from St Matthew's Kilmarnock to St Patrick's Primary School, Troon (13 miles).

In addition to the usual walk, there will be a shorter Sponsored Walk for children, from outside Marr College to St Patrick's Primary School (1 mile), which should take no longer than 25 minutes.

The timetable is as follows:

09:30 Mass in St Matthew's Kilmarnock
10:30 Leave St Matthew's for Troon
14:30 Leave Marr College
15:00 Arrive St Patrick's Primary Troon for A FUNTIME!
17:00 Ends

Once the walk is complete there are some fun activities in the playground at St Patrick's School from 3pm.



There will be an opportunity for EVERYONE to come together (whether you walk or not) to enjoy a bite to eat, have some fun and celebrate both Fr Martin's life and 20 years of the Ecuador Trust!

If you wish to do either walk, please either contact Christina on 07445 253213 or email: ecuadortrust@gmail.com

All are welcome both walkers and non-walkers!

All the details are in the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/martinchambers>

KILMARNOCK FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES: On Sunday 20th September at 3 pm, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will host the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches for the regular ecumenical service. The theme is **Fellowship, Belonging, Inclusion: a place for all in our faith communities**, and our SPRED group will take a full part in the liturgy. Please come along to reflect on how all can be made welcome when we gather to pray, as well as to welcome our Christian brothers and sisters from the local church communities.

STIRLING MINIBUS TRIP: This trip is now full. The minibus will depart after 10.00 am Mass on Monday 7th September. The cost per person, which does not include lunch or admission to the castle, is £12.00 per person, payable on the day.

AEOLIAN MALE VOICE CHOIR CHARITY CONCERT: A Charity Concert will be performed by the Aeolian Male Voice choir in St Joseph's Church on Tuesday 29th September at 7.00 pm. Please come along and enjoy the wonderful choral music. There will be a retiral collection at the end in support of the Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust, Hillhouse Care and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Your support will be

greatly appreciate. Teas and coffees will be served in St Joseph's Hall after the concert.

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 are beginning at this time. 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?

RETIRED PRIESTS FUND SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next weekend (12th/13th September) in all the parishes, there will be a special collection to support the retired priests of the diocese.

GALLOWAY DIOCESAN CHOIR: The Diocesan Choir is looking to recruit new members who enjoy singing as part of a group and are committed to the enhancement of the liturgy through music. This four-part choir has been in existence in its present form for over 25 years. They sing at diocesan events in the Cathedral at least twice a year, and the rehearsal period runs from September to March (with a break in December/January). Rehearsals take place in St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr on Wednesday evenings from 7.15 pm until about 8.45 pm. There is a particular need for men to sing tenor and bass. While being able to read music is an advantage, it is not a requirement – most members do not read music. The first rehearsal of the new season is on Wednesday 9th September at 7.15 pm. If you are interested in joining them or would like more information, please contact David Robinson at david.robinson.mj@gmail.com or on 07714 340854.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: When asking for a Mass to be offered, please indicate on the "Mass Intention" envelope, the name/intention, the preferred date and the church where you would prefer it to be offered. Mass Intention envelopes are available from the stall or the sacristy.

Every effort will be made to offer the Mass in your preferred location and on your preferred date, but this will not always be possible if a Mass intention has already been arranged. Where a Mass is offered for someone who is living, this will be listed as "Special Intention" rather than listing their name to respect the privacy of the individual.

Mass intentions are planned a week in advance: for this reason, it is hoped that you will understand that Masses requested at short notice may have to be offered on another day.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN

On Tuesday 1st September, parents of children aged primary 4 attended a meeting in St Joseph's Church Hall to be informed about the First Communion preparation programme. Thank you to all who attended, especially those who travelled a greater distance.

As well as the catechesis (or faith teaching) in the Catholic schools, the "I Belong" programme will be used in the parish with some work to complete with the family at home. Each child will receive an "I Belong" workbook and the parents will receive an "I Belong" Parent's Guide. These will be available later in September.

The first main event for the primary 4 children of our parishes is the Retreat Day on Saturday 12th September from 10 am – 2 pm in St Joseph's Church and Hall. This is for the children of all the parishes. The day begins with Mass at 10 am (parents are invited to come to the Mass). Then the children can be left with the parish children's liturgy catechists for games, activities and to begin the "I Belong" workbook.

There follows below some more information about the First Communion preparation programme.

"I Belong" expresses that as Christians we are part of a larger family of Christians who gather as a community at prayer, especially at Sunday Mass. At Mass we are fed by God's word and by the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion involves children and their parents sharing an experience of belonging to the community of the Church at prayer.

Regular attendance each Sunday at Mass in St Joseph's (Saturday Vigil 6 pm, Sunday 11 am) St Matthew's (Sunday 9.30 am), Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Sunday 11.30 am), St Paul's (Sunday 9.15 am), St Sophia's (Saturday Vigil 4.30 pm) or wherever you are on Sunday is, therefore, an essential part of preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

On Sundays, approximately once a month, there will be an "I Belong" Sunday gathering before or after Mass in the parish:

- In St Joseph's church hall from 12.30 pm (after the Sunday teas) to last 1 hour and 15 minutes. Lunch snacks will be provided. Parents are invited to join the children from 1.30 – 1.45 pm for a short prayer service.
- In St Matthew's church hall in the Community Room from 10.30 am (after Sunday Mass) until 11.30 am. Parents are invited to join the children from 11.30 – 11.45 am for a short prayer service.
- In Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Norbert Room from 10.15 – 11.15 am (before Sunday Mass). Parents are invited to join the children at 11.10 am for a short prayer service, and then to join Mass with their children.
- In St Sophia's, Galston and St Paul's, Hurlford, timings have yet to be confirmed.

The children will work through one chapter of the "I Belong" workbook during the Sunday session, although there will also be some material to complete at home. At home, after the session, parents are asked to consolidate what the children have learned using the "I Belong – Parent's Guide". At the Introductory Retreat Day on 12th September, chapters 1 and 2 of "I Belong" will be completed.

Programme Dates

Introductory Retreat Day: **Saturday 12 September, 10 am – 2 pm, St Joseph's Church and Hall**

Session 1: **Sunday 27 September 2026, in each parish**

Session 2: **Sunday 25 October 2026, in each parish**

Session 3: **Sunday 22 November 2026, in each parish**

Session 4: **Sunday 13 December 2026, in each parish**

Sacrament of Reconciliation (date to be confirmed)

Session 5: **Sunday 24 January 2027, in each parish**

Session 6: **Sunday 28 February 2027, in each parish**

Session 7: **Sunday 21 March 2027, in each parish**

Sacrament of Reconciliation (date to be confirmed)

Session 8: **Sunday 25 April 2027, in each parish**

First Communion Retreat: **Saturday 15 May 2027, 10 am – 2 pm, St Joseph's Church and Hall**

First Communion Day: **Sunday 23 May (St Matthew's and OLMC)**

First Communion Day: **Sunday 30 May (St Joseph's)**

First Communion Day: **Saturday 5 June (Galston); Sunday 6 June (Hurlford)**

I Belong Session 9: **Sunday 13 June 2027, in each parish**

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

CONFESSION: Please note that there will be no Confessions before Mass this Saturday evening for this week only as Fr Kevin will be celebrating both the St Sophia's and St Joseph's Vigils.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent death of our parishioner Winston McGarvey. We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to his family. May he rest in peace. Winston's Vigil Reception to Church will take place in St Joseph's on Tuesday 8th September, and the Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 9th September at 10 am. The interment will follow in St Conval's Cemetery, Barrhead at 11.45 am.

RCIA GROUP: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Group for St Joseph's will begin on Thursday 17th September at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's church house. The first welcome evening is about introductions and includes an explanatory tour of the church and what we do at Mass.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next PPC meeting will be on Monday 21st September at 6.30 pm in the church hall (preceded by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the church from 6 – 6.30 pm).

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 are welcome.



The poster for the Organ Recital Series 2026 features a photograph of the Harrison & Harrison organ at St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, and a circular portrait of the recitalist, Steven McIntyre. The text on the poster provides details about the event, including the date, time, and location, as well as information about admission and booking.

ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

THE RESTORED
HARRISON & HARRISON
ORGAN (1903, 2023)

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES
2026

Recitalist:
STEVEN MCINTYRE
(Dunblane Cathedral)

Friday 11 September
7.00 pm

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

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

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

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

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent death of our parishioner Gerry Coyle. We offer our sincere condolences and prayers to his family. Gerry's Requiem Mass will take place in St Matthew's on Friday 11th September at 11 am followed by the interment in Kilmarnock Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

COMMUNITY LUNCH: The Community Lunch continues next Sunday (13th September) at 12.45 pm. Join us for a delicious three course meal provided free of charge. All are welcome. The Community Lunch is funded by donations made to the Community Fund, thank you for your generosity in making this service possible.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: The next PPC meeting will take place on Thursday 10th September at 7 pm in the church hall.

CEILIDH AT ST MATTHEW'S: There is going to be a wee ceilidh in St Matthew's hall on Saturday 7th November for all our parishioners. It will be a celebration of our parish community. There is a poster in the porch with most of the details. The ceilidh will begin at 6 o'clock with supper and then we'll clear the tables to make space for dancing and 'turns'.

If you would like to sing or dance or recite a poem or play an instrument text Margaret on 07765 715798. Children are very welcome to do a 'turn'.

There will be a list in the porch for names and numbers and you will be able to choose your supper from pie or sausage roll with beans or peas.

To subsidise the ceilidh there is going to be a 50/50 raffle: you pay £1 to put your name on a square (more if you want!). 50% goes on money prizes and 50% goes on expenses for the ceilidh. The raffle squares are available in the porch.

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: The next PPC meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th September at 7 pm in the Norbert Room.

RCIA: The first RCIA meeting will be on Tuesday 8th September at 7 pm in the Norbert Room.

U.R. WELCOME: The next meeting of U.R. Welcome is 9th September 1.30 - 3.30 pm in the Norbert Room of Our Lady of Mount Carmel church. The theme is "Small Groups". Come along and join in the fun and have a cuppa. All welcome.

Date for the diary: 23rd September U.R. Welcome in the Norbert Room of Our Lady of Mount Carmel church.. Afternoon Tea and Quiz, with an introduction to Virtual Reality! All welcome come along and join in the fun.

KILMARNOCK FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES: On Sunday 20th September at 3 pm, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will host the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches for the regular ecumenical service. See details in General Notices.

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.

ST SOPHIA'S PARISH

Bulletin Co-ordinator: *Hannah Farley hfarley85@gmail.com*

ASSIST US TO LIVE: Please fill in the postcard at the back of church and follow the instruction as to how to return it. Your help is needed once more to stop this bill moving forward.

BUILDING FUND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection at Mass this weekend in aid of the Parish Building Fund.

ST PAUL'S PARISH

Bulletin Co-ordinator: *Tom McEwan tagmcewen@sky.com*

ST PAUL'S SSVP: Starting 8th September (Our Lady's Birthday) homemade soup, sandwich, cuppa and a chat will be available in the church hall from 1pm-3pm. Thereafter, it will be the 1st Tuesday each month: 7th Oct, 3rd Nov, 1st Dec. We have our wee library if you need a book, please help yourself. This is an open invitation to all parishioners.

ASSIST US TO LIVE: Please fill in the postcard at the back of church and follow the instruction as to how to return it. Your help is needed once more to stop this bill moving forward.

PILGRIMAGES

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

YOUNG ADULTS (S5-30) EVENING: The new series of Young Adults Evenings launches on Sunday 13th September when Fr Kevin Rennie will be speaking on "Life and Death: What do we believe?" – looking at Church teaching on life issues and some of the challenges faced today. The talk takes place in St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock (KA3 1HB) from 6.30 – 8.00 pm and is open to all Young Adults. There is Adoration in the Church from 6.00 pm for those who wish.

ADVENT YOUTH RETREAT: Beat the Back to School blues and sign up to join Youth (P7-S4) from across the Diocese on the Advent Youth Retreat! Taking place from 27th – 29th November, young people from across the Diocese will gather at

Gowanbank SU Centre for a weekend of outdoor activities (tree climbing, archery tag, and more), fun and games, talks, prayer and reflection, Mass, and lots of time with friends! Places are limited, for details and to register go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk and click on 'Youth – Advent Youth Retreat'. The cost per person is £140 (if you register before 15th September). Bursaries are available for children in need, or families with more than one child taking part, email youth@rcdg.org.uk for details.

BISHOP FRANK NEEDS A NEW CHRISTMAS CARD: Is your child in P5-S4? Help Bishop Frank get ready for Christmas by designing his Christmas Card! Draw your favourite Christmas-themed design and send it along with your child's name and year to christmas@rcdg.org.uk – the winning design will be Bishop Frank's Christmas Card for 2026 and available to buy from the Youth Office store, with the winner receiving printed cards, their design on a set of Christmas Baubles, and a certificate from Bishop Frank! Closing date for entries Friday 9th October, with the winner announced in mid-October.

YOUTH (P5-S4) EVENING: Save the date! Our Diocesan Youth Evenings for P5-S4 start back on Sunday 27th September from 5.00 – 7.00 pm in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock.

THE WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

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.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED VACANCIES: Could you be a voice for the suffering Church? Aid to the Church in Need is looking for Parish Appealers—passionate Catholics who can speak in parishes on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world. This is a self-employed, remunerated role with full training and support. To learn more, contact Peter Diamond at peter.diamond@acnuk.org or 07706194811 or visit acnuk.org/jobs.

Community Engagement Officer in Scotland – Full-Time Position: We are looking for a passionate and creative Community Engagement Officer to build relationships, inspire supporters and help raise awareness of persecuted and suffering Christians around the world. Visit acnuk.org/jobs for more information.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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*)
- Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting – Tuesday 22nd September, 6.30 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Youth (P5-S4) Evening – Sunday 27th September, 5.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Aeolian Choir concert – Tuesday 29th September, 7.00 pm (*St Joseph's*)
- Ecuador Walk from Kilmarnock to Troon – Sunday 27th September
- Advent Youth Retreat – Friday 27th – Sunday 29th November (*Gowanbank SU Centre*)

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	St Sophia's	St Paul's
				

FOLLOW US ONLINE

Kilmarnock Parishes

Facebook – X – Instagram – @rckilmarnock

Web: www.rckilmarnock.org.uk

YouTube: RC Kilmarnock

Irvine Valley Parishes

Facebook – St Sophia's Church, Galston

Web: galston.rcdg.org.uk

YouTube: St Sophia's, Galston

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.

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 (Kilmarnock)
Saturday 5 Sept St Sophia's 4.30 pm	F Gunn, S-C Mabon		Ross				Fran Boyle
Saturday 5 Sept St Joseph's 6 pm	F Donachie, G McIntyre, E Heron	R Chojeta, M Steele, G Rankin, L Rankin, K McGhee	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Clare, Margaret	
Sunday 6 Sept St Paul's 9.15 am	E Gallagher, I Gallacher	C Green	Ross				
Sunday 6 Sept St Matthew's 9.30 am	S Faulds, M Thomson, M Musilli	R: Sister, C Gordon L: M Gordon, F Stacey, N McKenna	Luca, David, Rebecca		-	-	
Sunday 6 Sept St Joseph's 11 am	M Andrew, L Hand, M Walker	L Dorrian, I Love, F McCann, R Murphy, A Neil	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Alice	Nina, Karen	Paul, Libby	
Sunday 6 Sept OLMC 11.30 am	C Harper, J McCrossan	Sister, A Starrs, S Hollywood	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	Maria, John	M Wilkie, I Roy	
Saturday 12 Sept St Sophia's 4.30 pm	C Rae, M Lucchesi		Ross				Helena Rameckers
Saturday 12 Sept St Joseph's 6 pm	A Davidson, K McGhee, H Rameckers	A Gorman, C McGowan, M McGrath, F Donachie, Sr Mabel	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Kathleen, Frances	
Sunday 13 Sept St Paul's 9.15 am	M Kuhn, T McEwen	C Robinson	Ross				
Sunday 13 Sept St Matthew's 9.30 am	C Brown, E Allan, S Faulds	R: A Gillion, P Brown L: M Thomson, M Bradley, C Stacey	Luca, David, Rebecca		K Steel	Devlin, Eileen	
Sunday 13 Sept St Joseph's 11 am	H Matthews, R Doak, P Nicholson	J Shields, M Andrew, M Walker, D Custodio, P Dorrian	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Anne, Mike	IHM Sisters	-	
Sunday 13 Sept OLMC 11.30 am	G McNeil, I Roy	J Hefron, L Hefron, S Clark	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	Marie, John	C Lambeth, J 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 (margaret.mcgrath@rcdg.org.uk)
St Sophia's	Hannah Farley (hfarley85@gmail.com)	Rosemary Fraser (psc.galston@rcdg.org.uk)
St Paul's	Isobel Gallacher (galliso@hotmail.com)	Tom McEwen (psc.hurlford@rcdg.org.uk)
Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals: In emergencies ask hospital staff to page the on-call priest. For regular visiting: Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk or 01563 521832) Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri (benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk or 01655 882145)		
St Andrew's Primary: 01563 549549 Mount Carmel Primary: 01563 525897 St Sophia's Primary: 01563 820521 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 30th August

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £887.25. Weekly collection: £1,304.18. Building Fund: £804.82. Mission Appeal: £20.00. August Income: £11,937.12. August Expenditure: £7,583.48.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £344.50. Weekly collection: £483.52. Building Fund: £487.90. Mission Appeal: £17.00. £. SSVP: £165.86. August Income: £4,371.00. August Expenditure: £3,429.63.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £554.50. Weekly collection: £354.27. Building Fund: £359.45. Community Box: £140.70. Ecuador Trust: £8.20. August Income: £4,988.10. August Expenditure: £2,472.62.
St Sophia's	Standing orders: £239.80. Weekly collection: £190.00. August Income: £2,448.45. August Expenditure: £66,588.11.
St Paul's	Standing orders: £89.80. Weekly collection: £252.15. Building Fund: £102.00. August Income: £3,091.90. August Expenditure: £1,484.24.
Income & Expenditure Notes: St Sophia's – £62,028.67 of expenditure was extraordinary and covered through insurance for repairs to the church.	

Thank you for generously supporting our parishes.