



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 20th 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 Marilyn Juliet and Helena Maria (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 / galston.rcdg.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 19th – 27th SEPTEMBER 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 19th			
4.30 pm	St Sophia's	Vigil Mass	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Special Intention
Sunday 20th			
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	Jean Dougan (RIP)
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	Winston McGarvey (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass followed by tea and coffee	People of the Parishes
3.00 pm	OLMC	Ecumenical Service	
Monday 21st			
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)	
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Mary O'Neil and family (RIP)
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
6.00 – 6.30 pm	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	PPC Meeting (in the hall)	
Tuesday 22nd			
9.30 am	St Sophia's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	St Sophia's	Mass	Eileen Thomson (Ann)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass (followed by Adoration until 11.00 am)	Jean & Ron Campbell (Ann)
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Community Café	
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	Deanery Pastoral Council Meeting (in the hall)	
7.00 pm	OLMC	RCIA (in the Norbert Room)	
Wednesday 23rd			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass (followed by the Recitation of the Rosary)	George McCall (RIP)
10.00 am	St Paul's	Mass (followed by Adoration until 10.50 am)	Christine Duncan (Ann)
1.30 – 3.30 pm	OLMC	U R Welcome (in the Norbert Room)	
2.00 pm	St Matthew's	Ladies Spirituality Group	
Thursday 24th			
3.00 pm	St Paul's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Divine Mercy Chaplet	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Alan Latham (Ann) / Winston McGarvey (RIP)
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	RCIA (in the parish house)	
7.00 pm	St Sophia's	RCIA (in the church hall)	
Friday 25th			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Alan Craigen (RIP)
After Mass	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Tom McGrattan (RIP)
11.00 am	St Paul's	Adoration and Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
Saturday 26th – I Belong Masses for Young People preparing for First Communion (not Galston)			
10.00 am	St John's	Retirement Mass for Fr Philip Kitchen (St John's, Cumnock)	
4.00 pm	St Sophia's	Altar Server Training (New servers welcome)	
4.30 pm	St Sophia's	Vigil Mass	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Maura Prendergast (RIP)
Sunday 27th – I Belong Masses for Young People preparing for First Communion (not Galston)			
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	May Livingston (RIP)
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	Gerry Coyle (RIP)
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	People of the Parishes
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass followed by tea and coffee	People of the Parishes
5.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Young people of the diocese
5.30 – 7.00 pm	St Joseph's	Diocesan Youth Evening (in the 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 VISIT OF BISHOP FRANK DOUGAN

Following the recent clergy changes in the deanery which affect ministry in our parishes over the next six months, Bishop Frank will make pastoral visits to all of the parishes of St Joseph's Deanery.

The parish visitations for our parishes will take place on these dates:

- 10th / 11th October: St Sophia's, St Paul's, and St Joseph's (11.00 am).
- 24th / 25th October: St Joseph's (6.00 pm), St Matthew's, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

We encourage you to attend Mass in your usual church on these weekends to hear from the bishop.

The pastoral visits will be followed by the Bishop's participation in both the Joint Parish Pastoral Councils in Kilmarnock and Galston and Hurlford, as well as in the Deanery Pastoral Council. Dates for these meetings have still to be confirmed.

GENERAL PARISH NOTICES

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL: This weekend, (19th/20th September), the communities of **Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St Sophia's, and St Paul's**, 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 marginalised. *"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.

MONTH OF THE 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
"My Kenyan Capers" – on the Mission in Kenya
- **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.

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.

ROSSLYN CHAPEL MINIBUS TRIP: The final minibus trip of the year takes place on Monday 5th October to Rosslyn Chapel outside of Edinburgh. The minibus will depart from St Joseph's after morning Mass, stopping on route for lunch at Mortonhall Garden Centre. Afterwards, the group will continue to Rosslyn Chapel where they'll hear a talk about the history of Rosslyn Chapel and have a chance to explore the beautifully restored chapel. The cost of the trip is £22.00 per person, payable on the day. Sign up in the porch in St Joseph's, or by emailing rckilmarnock@rcdg.org.uk.

These trips are open to anyone in the five parishes who wishes to take part.

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 have now begun. 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?

Regular RCIA meetings take place in our parishes at:

- St Joseph's – Thursday evenings at 6.30 pm in the Presbytery.
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Tuesday evenings at 7.00 pm in the Norbert Room.
- St Sophia's – Thursday evenings at 7.00 pm in the church hall.

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). The walk will depart after 9.30 am Mass. 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 walk will depart at 2.30 pm. Once the walk is complete there are some fun activities in the playground at St Patrick's School from 3 - 5pm. 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 the details are in the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/martinchambers>

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

St Joseph's Church
Hill Street, Kilmarnock

proudly presents the

Aeolian Male Voice Choir

in concert, on

Tuesday 29th September at 7:00pm
(doors open at 6:30pm)

In support of the Martin Chambers' Ecuador Trust and local charities, helping those in need. Admission will be by donation.

There will be tea in the hall and a retiral collection.



AFTERNOON TEA AT OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL: Our Lady of Mount Carmel SSVP will be running two afternoon teas this autumn (which are entirely free of charge) on Saturday 7th and 28th November from 1pm to 3pm within the Norbert Room at OLMC. Parishioners from all 5 parishes are invited.

Because of restrictions on accommodation, the numbers are restricted to 45 people each day and therefore people will be accommodated on a first come first served basis. You can either sign up on the forms in the Norbert Room at OLMC or email Charlie Harper at: olmc_ssvp@icloud.com.

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of good food and company.

ALTAR SERVERS' CHRISTMAS PANTO: Every year Altar Servers new and old are invited to the Kilmarnock Christmas Panto as a thank you for their ministry in our parishes. This year the trip will take place on **Sunday 27th December** to the 3.00 pm performance of "Beauty and the Beastie". Servers are invited to gather in St Joseph's Hall from 12.00 pm onwards for pizza and games. They'll then be walked down to the Galleon for the 3.00 pm performance. Any altar servers who wish to take part, please sign up in the sacristy. There is no charge.

RETIREMENT MASS FOR FR PHILIP KITCHEN: On Saturday 26th September, the Cumnock cluster invites you to gather with them in celebrating the ministry (and retirement) of Fr Philip Kitchen. Mass will be celebrated in St John's, Cumnock, at 10.00 am, following which there will be a presentation in Our Lady and St Patrick's, Auchinleck, at approximately 11.15 am.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: The next DPC Meeting will take place on Tuesday 22nd September at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's Hall. Each parish has up to three representatives on the DPC.

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.

SPRED: The new session of SPRED commenced on Tuesday 8th September. There are vacancies for a few adults with special needs to join the group. In the first instance, please contact Kathleen on 07513 048722. There are information leaflets in the porches of all the churches.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: St. Margaret's Cathedral will celebrate the 200th Anniversary of its opening in 2027. As part of the celebrations a Pilgrimage to Rome is being organised from September 16th-23rd 2027 and a few places are still available. The cost of the Pilgrimage is £1,800 (based on two people sharing a twin room on a half-board basis) and includes all transfers. Travel Insurance is not included. A deposit of £300 per pilgrim is required at the time of booking. If you would like to be part of the Pilgrimage, or would like more information, please email Fr David Borland at david.borland@rcdg.org.uk and he will send you a Booking Form.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION OF CHILDREN

The Sacramental Preparation programme for children currently in Primary 4 has now begun. Thank you to all of the young people who took part in last weekend's Retreat Day, the young people who took part enjoyed starting their preparations and learning about the themes of baptism and reconciliation.

Attendance at these meetings, as well as weekly Sunday Mass, is an essential part of the programme and, if you are unable to attend for any reason, you should advise Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin.

The next I Belong Sunday, when the children will also be presented with their candles at Mass, takes place on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September in all parishes.

The full programme for the Kilmarnock parishes for the coming year is shown below. Please see the St Sophia's section of the newsletter for the Galston dates.

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

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent death of our parishioner Maura Prendergast. We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to her family. A Vigil Reception will take place in St Joseph's on Monday 28th September at 6.00 pm and the Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 29th September at 10.00 am.

WELCOME: Welcome to Fr Philip Kitchen who will celebrate the Saturday Vigil Mass this weekend.

RCIA GROUP: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Group for St Joseph's takes place on Thursday at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's church house.

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 monthly Organ Recital takes place on Tuesday 20th October at 12.00 pm. For this recital, we will be joined by Benjamin Saunders from Leeds Cathedral.

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH

CEILIDH AT ST MATTHEW'S: Takes place in St Matthew's hall on Saturday 7th November, beginning at 6.00 pm with supper, before clearing 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'.

For full details, and to register and make your meal choice, please see the notice in the porch. 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.

LADIES SPIRITUALITY GROUP: The Ladies Spirituality Group will meet this month on Wednesday 23rd September at 2pm in St Matthew's. Tea, coffee and biscuits available. All ladies welcome.

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.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH: in April 2027 There will be a small group formed to plan for this major time in the Parish history. If you would like to be part of this team please let us know. Some of the suggestions include Concerts, Anniversary Dinners, Special Masses, special visits and trips and evenings. If you were part of the original opening of the Church and have photographs and memorabilia, please be in touch we need to have as much information to share as possible.

We will be joined by all the other parishes in the Diocese as many of them will have been part of the momentous opening ceremony, so please if you have any ideas or suggestions, please take part and be part of the group.

COMMUNITY GROUP: The Community Lunch and the Foodbank continue to be a great success, and we help many families in our locality and East Ayrshire. The work of our churches in helping those in need and the work of the Saint Vincent de Paul society in all our parishes over decades is greatly appreciated in our community and we are experiencing greater demands but with your help we continue to help so many families, so thank you all for your help, in doing our Christian duty. We are delighted to say Howard Park church, St Kentigern's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Joseph's Academy all contribute to help and we greatly appreciate their contributions to the Foodbank. At this time of year, we are also joined by the 6th year Caritas students from St Joseph's Academy as part of their scholastic charity commitment. If you would like to help or have any ideas to improve our Christian service, please let us know.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

UR WELCOME: The next gathering takes place on Wednesday (23rd September) from 1.30 – 3.30 pm. Afternoon Tea and Quiz, with an introduction to Virtual Reality! All welcome come along and join in the fun.

KILMARNOCK FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES: Today (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.

MISSION APPEAL: This weekend the Annual Mission Appeal will take place in the parish, and we welcome Fr Henry to our parish as he celebrates Sunday Mass. A second collection will be taken up for the work of the Spiritans.

RCIA GROUP: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Group at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church takes place on Tuesdays at 6.00 pm in the Norbert Room within the church.

ST SOPHIA'S PARISH

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

MEETING WITH THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin invite those who attended the Parish Pastoral Council meetings until now to meet on Monday 28th September at 7.00 pm in the church hall.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Do you have a child at St Sophia's Primary? Would you like to get more involved? The Parent Council are looking for new members. They meet once a month on a Monday night in the church hall with the next meeting taking place on 5th October at 6.30 pm. Please feel free to come along and see how you can join in.

MISSION APPEAL: This weekend the Annual Mission Appeal will take place in the parish, and we welcome Fr Henry to our parish as he celebrates Sunday Mass. A second collection will be taken up for the work of the Spiritans.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We were delighted to welcome so many of our young people back to children's liturgy on Saturday night.

If you have children aged between preschool at nursery and have not yet made their First Holy Communion, we would like to invite them to join us at our Children's Liturgy, where we will help them understand and make learning about the Gospel of the day interesting and fun.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING: There will be a training session on Saturday 26th September at 4.00 pm for any young persons interested in becoming an Altar Server. Anyone who has celebrated their First Communion is invited to become an Altar Server.

RCIA GROUP: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Group for St Sophia's takes place on Thursdays at 7.00 pm in St Sophia's Church Hall.

SCOTTISH THEMED GATHERING: We look forward to giving everyone a warm welcome at St Sophia's on Friday 23rd October at 7.00 pm for a fun and friendly Scottish themed gathering. Come along for a relaxed evening of good company, conversation and a bit of fun.

It's a BYOB event, or simply come along, enjoy a cup of tea and have a chat - everyone is welcome. This is a free event but we will

have a small raffle. We'd love to see you there and enjoy a lovely evening together.

DONATIONS REQUEST: The Fundraising Fairies are looking for donations of wine, spirits, chocolates or boxes of biscuits, we are very grateful for your continued support of our fundraising events.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: The "I Belong" sacramental preparation meetings for children preparing to receive First Holy Communion will take place in St Sophia's church hall at 3 pm on Saturdays on the dates listed below. The children and their families would remain for Mass at 4.30 pm.

Session 1: **Saturday 3 October 2026**
Session 2: **Saturday 24 October 2026**
Session 3: **Saturday 7 November 2026**
Session 4: **Saturday 19 December 2026**

ST PAUL'S PARISH

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

ACCESS TO THE CHURCH: Due to an issue, one of the locks on the side door requires replacing. If you are a keyholder for the church, please email tagmcewen@sky.com or add your name and mobile to the list at the back of the church so we know how many new keys are needed.

ST PAUL'S SSVP: The next Tuesday lunch will take place on 7th October in the church hall.

WEEKDAY LITURGIES: On Wednesdays, 10 am Mass will be followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. On Thursdays, at 3.00 pm, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. On Fridays, at 11 am, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed, and the Holy Rosary will be prayed. The Wednesday provision may change depending on the availability of the priests, especially when there is a funeral in another parish.

MISSION APPEAL: This weekend the Annual Mission Appeal will take place in the parish, and we welcome Fr Henry to our parish as he celebrates Sunday Mass. A second collection will be taken up for the work of the Spiritans.

THANKS: The Spiritans have expressed their thanks to the parish for the sum of £342.00 raised at the collection for Persecuted Christians in Nigeria. A letter from the Spiritans, is displayed on the Church Noticeboard.

PARISHES' OUTREACH

SSVP & FOODBANK PROVISION: We are 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

RC Diocese of Galloway

Youth Office
Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise

Galloway Youth Evening (P5-S4)

CELEBRATING THE MASS

WHAT IS THE MASS?
WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?
WHAT DO I DO AT IT?

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE THE MASS AND UNDERSTAND IT MORE DEEPLY.

MASS . GAMES . TALK . ACTIVITIES . PIZZA . SOCIAL

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER **5.00 PM - 7.00 PM**

ST TERESA'S, DUMFRIES | ST PETER-IN-CHAINS, ARDROSSAN | ST MARGARET'S, AYR | ST JOSEPH'S, KILMARNOCK

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk | Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdg youth

YOUTH (P5-S4) EVENING: Our Diocesan Youth Evenings for P5-S4 start back next Sunday (27th September) from 5.00 – 7.00 pm in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock. Young people new and old are invited to come along for an evening of games, activities, pizza, sweets, and a short talk on the theme of the beginning of the Mass. The evening begins with Mass at 5.00 pm and finishes

at 7.00 pm. Coming along for the first time? Please complete a Consent Form on the Youth Office website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.

BISHOP FRANK NEEDS A NEW CHRISTMAS CARD: Is your child in P5-S4? Help Bishop Frank get ready for Christmas by designing a 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 the Bishop! Closing date for entries Friday 9th October, the winner announced mid-October.

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.

THE CHURCH AND WIDER COMMUNITY

YOUNG CARITAS SCOTLAND: SCIAF is launching Young Caritas Scotland, a new movement for young adults who want to put their faith into action, meet likeminded people from the global church, and help build a better world. This movement is about making a real difference – about solidarity and community. A space to connect with young people across in Scotland and across the world and turn frustration into something hopeful.

More information and details of how to join our movement can be found at www.sciaf.org.uk/youngcaritas

FAMILY CONFERENCE: The Agency for Marriage, Family and Life of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland have organised a Conference. Married couples and families are invited to a day at Saint Augustine's, Coatbridge on the 24th of October 2026! Come along for family adoration, Mass with Bishop John Keenan, formative talks, children's catechesis and so much more! Please book your place at <https://bcos.org.uk/NFC26> or use the QR code to sign up.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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
 - Parish Ceilidh – Saturday 7th November, 6.00 pm (*St Matthew's – Open to all*)
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Afternoon Tea – Saturday 7th November, 1.00 pm (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Open to all*)
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Afternoon Tea – Saturday 28th November, 1.00 pm (*Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Open to all*)
 - Advent Youth Retreat – Friday 27th – Sunday 29th November (*Gowanbank SU Centre*)
 - St Andrew's Dinner – Friday 7th December (*St Joseph's – Open to all*)

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

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 19 Sept St Sophia's 4.30 pm	M Gunn, C Fraser	-	Ross		-	-	Philip Brown
Saturday 19 Sept St Joseph's 6 pm	A McCluskey, M McGrath, G McIntyre	Sr Juliet, R Chojeta, C Power, K McGhee, Sr Mabel	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Clare, Margaret	
Sunday 20 Sept St Paul's 9.15 am	M McGhee, A Power	T McEwen	Ross	-		-	
Sunday 20 Sept St Matthew's 9.30 am	A Gillion, B Gilhooley, C Stacey	R: Sister, M Musilli L: N McKenna, F Stacey, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca	-	K Steel	-	
Sunday 20 Sept St Joseph's 11 am	G Smith, T Murphy, L Hand	H Matthews, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Anne, Gerry	-	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 20 Sept OLMC 11.30 am	A Starrs, M Wilkie	Sister, D Shearer, J McCrossan	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	-	Charlie, Celia	
Saturday 26 Sept St Sophia's 4.30 pm	E Leonard, M Steven	-	Ross		-	-	Helena Rameckers
Saturday 26 Sept St Joseph's 6 pm	E Heron, F Donachie, K McGhee	L Rankin, G Rankin, M Steele, C McGowan, M McGrath	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu, Lexi			Kathleen, Frances	
Sunday 27 Sept St Paul's 9.15 am	S Bain, B Kennedy	R McGhee	Ross	-		-	
Sunday 27 Sept St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Merrick, K Ainsworth, D Bias	R: A Gillion, C Gordon L: M Bradley, M Dempster, P Brown	Luca, David, Rebecca	-	H McTurk	-	
Sunday 27 Sept St Joseph's 11 am	H Matthews, L Hand, M Andrew	R Murphy, F McCann, A Neil, J Shields, M Andrew	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Eileen, Liz	L Feeney, E O'Connell	Paul, Libby	
Sunday 27 Sept OLMC 11.30 am	D Shearer, C Lamberth	M Urquhart, M Wilkie, C McQueen	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	Alice, Graham	Martin, Christine	

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: <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 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 13th September

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £902.50. Weekly collection: £1,324.00. Building Fund: £25.00. Retired Priests: £1,066.69.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £388.25. Weekly collection: £443.35. Retired Priests: £429.25. SSVP: £148.02.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £564.50. Weekly collection: £448.70. Building Fund: £40.00. Retired Priests: £528.74. Community Box: £115.95. Ecuador Trust: £8.05.
St Sophia's	Standing orders: £314.40. Weekly collection: £130.00.
St Paul's	Standing orders: £89.80. Weekly collection: £303.00. Building Fund: £89.00. Retired Priests: £216.00.

Thank you for generously supporting our parishes.

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.