



THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 4th October 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 4TH – 11TH OCTOBER 2026

Time	Venue	Gathering	Mass intention
Saturday 3rd			
3.00 pm	St Sophia's	I Belong Meeting (for P4 Sacramental Children (in the Hall))	
4.30 pm	St Sophia's	Vigil Mass (I Belong Mass)	Gerry Coyle (RIP)
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Sydney Faulds (RIP)
Sunday 4th			
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	People of the Parishes
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass followed by tea and coffee in the hall	Alistair Macivor (RIP)
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass followed by tea and coffee	Thomas Keys (RIP)
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
6.30 pm	St Joseph's	Young Adults (S5-30) Evening (in the Hall)	
Monday 5th			
9.30 am	St Matthew's	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	St Matthew's	Mass	Campbell Caldwell (RIP)
After Mass	St Matthew's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Peter Mason (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Minibus Trip to Rosslyn Chapel Departs	
10.30 – 10.45 am	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 6th			
9.30 am	St Sophia's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
10.00 am	St Sophia's	Mass	Paul Lenard (RIP)
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass (followed by Adoration until 11.00 am)	Helena Tierney (RIP)
11.00 am	St Joseph's	Community Café	
1.00 – 3.00 pm	St Paul's	SSVP Community Lunch (in the hall)	
Wednesday 7th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass (followed by the Recitation of the Rosary)	Bill Thomson (RIP)
10.00 am	St Paul's	Mass (followed by Adoration until 10.50 am)	Margaret Edwards (RIP)
Thursday 8th			
3.00 pm	St Paul's	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Divine Mercy Chaplet	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Mass	Special Intention / Sam McBride (RIP)
6.00 pm	St Paul's	Parish Meeting with Bishop Frank	
7.00 pm	St Matthew's	Month of Mission Talk: "My Kenyan Capers"	
Friday 9th			
9.30 am	OLMC	Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
10.00 am	OLMC	Mass	Rose Walker (Ann)
After Mass	OLMC	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession (until 10.50 am)	
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Mass	Winston McGarvey (RIP)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Church Cleaning (New volunteers welcome)	
11.00 am	St Paul's	Adoration and Recitation of the Holy Rosary	
Saturday 10th			
10.00 am	St Joseph's	Safeguarding Training (for all volunteers in regulated ministry)	
3.00 pm	St Sophia's	Parish Meeting with Bishop Frank	
4.30 pm	St Sophia's	Vigil Mass (with Bishop Frank)	Tommy McGhee (Ann)
After Mass	St Sophia's	Tea and Coffee in the hall with Bishop Frank	
5.30 – 5.45 pm	St Joseph's	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
6.00 pm	St Joseph's	Vigil Mass	Mhari Ferguson (RIP)
Sunday 11th			
8.50 am	St Paul's	Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet	
9.15 am	St Paul's	Mass	People of the Parishes
After Mass	St Paul's	Tea and Coffee in the hall with Bishop Frank	
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	Elizabeth Farren (Ann)
After Mass	St Joseph's	Tea and Coffee in the hall with Bishop Frank	
11.30 am	OLMC	Mass followed by tea and coffee	People of the Parishes
12.45 pm	St Matthew's	Community Lunch (All welcome)	

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

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 join the bishop.

In addition to the pastoral visit, Bishop Frank will meet with the Parish Pastoral Councils on:

- 8th October, 6.00 pm – St Paul's Hall, Hurlford
- 10th October, 3.30 pm – St Sophia's Hall, Galston (After 4.30 pm Mass, the Bishop will join parishioners for tea and coffee in the hall)
- 20th October, 6.30 pm – Deanery Pastoral Council (This meeting is open to all who are interested in a vision for the mission in our diocese at this time.)
- 27th October, 6.30 pm – Kilmarnock Parishes Joint PPC

GENERAL PARISH NOTICES

RC KILMARNOCK

St Joseph's - Our Lady of Mount Carmel - St Matthew's

Month of Mission

	8th October "My Kenyan Capers" – on the Mission in Kenya Sr Placida McCann, FSIC
	22nd October Faith, Reason and Mission – Bring your questions Dr Mark Charlesworth
	29th October Mission Impossible Fr Philip Kitchen

7.00 pm - 8.30 pm

St Matthew's Church, Kilmarnock

WWW.RCKILMARNOCK.ORG.UK @RCKILMARNOCK

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:

- **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

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: There will be a training session for all new volunteers and all current volunteers involved in regulated ministry with children and/or vulnerable

adults on Safeguarding policy and practice. This will take place in St Joseph's Hall on Saturday 10th October at 11.00 am, lasting approximately two hours.

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT: A copy of the Annual Safeguarding Statement from the Diocese can be found on the back page of your newsletter this week.

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. On arrival, there will be the opportunity to lunch (not included) in Rosslyn. After lunch, there'll be a talk about the history of Rosslyn Chapel and time to explore the beautifully restored chapel. The trip will cost £22 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.

OVER 60s 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) for over 60s 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.

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: The next DPC Meeting will take place on Tuesday 20th October at 6.30 pm in St Joseph's Hall. The bishop will address the meeting with a vision of serving the pastoral needs of the parishes now and in the future. This is an open meeting which any interested parishioner from our parishes is invited to attend.

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.

FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES: The Fellowship's next service will be held at Kay Park Parish Church on Sunday 25th October at 3 pm. The theme of this service will be *"Remembering Our Babies: a service to commemorate the babies who are in our hearts"*. Please advertise this event to your congregation with the attached poster and invite anyone else who may find the service beneficial.

GRIEF TO GRACE – A Healing Retreat for Victims of Abuse – 22nd to 27th February 2027 – Perth: Grief to Grace is a specialised 5-day programme of spiritual and psychological healing for anyone who has suffered from sexual, physical, or emotional abuse or neglect in childhood, adolescence or adulthood, including those abused by a religious / member of the clergy. If you are interested in this confidential healing retreat, please contact: **Grief to Grace (Scotland)** at margaret.clarke@griegtograceuk.org

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

CHURCH CLEANING: The next Church cleaning morning takes place on Friday (9th October) after Mass. New volunteers are welcome – please speak to Frances Donachie for details.

CHOIR PRACTICES: Choir practices for Christmas will begin in the church on Sunday 18th October, 6.15-8.15 p.m. They will continue each Sunday evening until the final practice on Sunday 20th December (inclusive). The practices will prepare the choral music to be sung during the liturgy of the Solemn Mass celebrated late on Christmas Eve.

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

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent death of our parishioner James Scott. We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to his family. The Requiem Mass will take place in Ireland. May James rest in peace.

COMMUNITY BOX: As has become the custom on the weekend of the Ecuador Walk, all funds raised through the Community Box today will be donated to the Ecuador Trust. Please give generously.

COMMUNITY LUNCH: The Community Lunch continues next Sunday, 11th October, 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.

CEILIDH AT ST MATTHEW'S: Ceilidh at St Matthew's on Saturday 7th of November starting at 6 pm with supper. Adults £5, children free. Juice/tea/coffee provided. If you want something stronger BYOB. There's a list in the porch for names and supper choices. If you would like to do a turn at the ceilidh text Margaret on 07765 715798.

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 Kentign'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

U R WELCOME: Come along and join Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Norbert Room 1.30pm – 3.30pm. All seniors most welcome. Come along and join in and have a cuppa in great company!

- **Wednesday 7th October** – Ayrshire Ukelele Clan. Always great fun, lots of laughter and sing along.
- **Wednesday 28th October** – Halloween Party. Lots of fun, cake and a good catch up.

ST SOPHIA'S PARISH

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

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: We were sorry to hear of the recent death of our parishioner Riccardo Lucchesi. We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to his family. Riccardo's Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday 16th October at 10.00 am following which he will be interred in Galston Cemetery.

BISHOP FRANK'S PASTORAL VISIT: There will be a meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council with Bishop Frank next Saturday at 3.30 pm. After Mass, all parishioners are invited to join him in the hall for Tea and Coffee.

CHURCH CLEANING: the church will be cleaned on the 1st and 3rd week of the month; the next cleaning will take place on Saturday 17th October at 9.30 am. All welcome to come along and help.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: 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.

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 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 3.00 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**

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection taken up at Mass today in aid of the Retired Priests fund. Please give generously.

ST PAUL'S PARISH

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

BISHOP FRANK'S PASTORAL VISIT: There will be a meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council with Bishop Frank on

Thursday at 6.00 pm. After Mass next Sunday, all parishioners are invited to join him in the hall for Tea and Coffee.

ST PAUL'S SSVP: Join us on Tuesday (6th October) for homemade soup, sandwich, a cuppa and a chat in the church hall from 1pm-3pm. We have our wee library if you need a book, please help yourself.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY: Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on Friday 4th December from 8pm – 11pm in the Church Hall. Music will be provided by Jackson City. Tickets cost £4.00, which includes Pie and Peas. Bring your own bottle, drinks, nibbles. Raffle tickets will be on sale throughout November and will be drawn on the night. Any donations for the raffle would be greatly appreciated.

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

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.

YOUNG ADULTS (\$5-30) EVENING: The next Young Adults evening takes place from 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock on Sunday 4th October. This month, we'll be looking at examples of different methods of prayer as well as trying some for ourselves as we explore the theme of "Talking to God: does he hear me?". Any young adults welcome to come along and take part. Can't join in person? Follow online! Register for online participation on the Youth Office website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

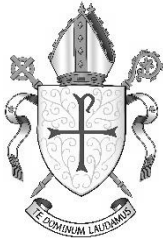
These events are open to anyone in any of the five parishes and we would encourage you to come along, get involved, and get to know other people from across our cluster.

- Scottish Themed Gathering – Friday 23rd October, 7.00 pm (St Sophia's)
- Youth Evening – Sunday 25th October, 5.00 pm (St Joseph's – Open to all)
- Parish Ceilidh – Saturday 7th November, 6.00 pm (St Matthew's – Open to all)
- Over 60s Afternoon Tea – Saturday 7th November, 1.00 pm (Our Lady of Mount Carmel – Open to all)
- Over 60s 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 Night with dinner – Friday 4th December (St Joseph's – Open to all)
- Annual Christmas Party – Friday 4th December (St Paul's)

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
				



DIOCESE OF GALLOWAY

Safeguarding Office

ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

OCTOBER 2026

Safeguarding remains the responsibility of everyone

Pope Leo during his recent visit to France met with survivors of abuse and repeated his closeness to those who suffer the “wounds of abuse.” He also spoke of the need to be courageous and determined in being committed to a culture of vigilance and safeguarding to prevent abuse in its many forms.

It is good that the Universal Church addresses the issues of safeguarding, but as a Local and a National Church we too must be active and effective in this regard.

The eight national Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors continue to work closely with the Bishops Conference of Scotland (BCoS) and are guided by Luisa Campbell, General Secretary of BCoS and Bishop Brian McGee, Safeguarding Lead for the BCoS and Bishop of Argyll and the Isles.

The national body, the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA), which is the independent agency monitoring safeguarding practice in every Scottish Catholic diocese, religious community and Catholic organisation continues to be an integral part of safeguarding nationally. The agency works with a range of organisations involved in safeguarding, both in the Catholic Church and in the secular world and seeks to discover and share best practice through collaboration with individuals, groups, and centres of excellence.

In the diocese, we continue to make safeguarding an integral part of parish life. Our Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers have embarked on a process of training for Parish Safeguarding Coordinators (PSCs), and this training is being delivered throughout the diocese. It is hoped that all the PSCs will have attended the training by the end of this calendar year. The training itself was developed at a national level by the Safeguarding Training Advisory Group (STAG) with membership drawn from individuals with a wide range of expertise and background knowledge.

Our Diocesan Safeguarding Action Plan is essential to our diocesan safeguarding strategy, and it is continually reviewed and updated by the Diocesan Risk Assessment Management Team (DRAMT), the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group (DSAG) and the Safeguarding Operational Core Team (SOCT). Each of these have an important role to play in our overall diocesan approach to safeguarding, and each make their own contribution in reviewing, assessing and enhancing our policies, procedures and practice guidelines. Examples of such involvement over the last twelve months have been our involvement in processes of Quality Assurance Framework, Awareness of GDPR/Artificial Intelligence and the development of a Volunteer Code of Conduct.

On Saturday 07 November 2026 members the Safeguarding Community from across Scotland will meet at Strathclyde University for the Annual Safeguarding Conference organised by the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA). The theme for this year is **‘Sacred Spaces - Safer Places: A call to action’**. The Conference is directed at clergy, religious, Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, volunteers, employees and all who have a role within the Catholic Church safeguarding in Scotland. In other words, it is for us all. Anyone wishing to attend should contact their local Parish Safeguarding Coordinator for more information.

As those tasked in the diocese with ensuring vigilance, attentiveness and clear and unambiguous policies and outcomes, we would like to express our thanks to all who contribute to the mission of safeguarding and so assure that our parishes and diocese are safe places for all, in particular for our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding remains the responsibility of all. We must all maintain our commitment.

Signed: *W. R. McFadden*

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Father William McFadden (Vicar General)

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Tony Fisher (Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser)

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 03 Oct St Sophia's 4.30 pm	A Craigen, M Fraser	-	-		-	-	Marie Wilkie
Saturday 03 Oct St Joseph's 6 pm	A Davidson, H Rameckers, A McCluskey	Sr Juliet, F Donachie, K McGhee, A Gorman, R Choyeta	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu			Clare, Margaret	
Sunday 04 Oct St Paul's 9.15 am	C Green, J McCormick	M McGhee	-	-		-	
Sunday 04 Oct St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Bradley, B Gilhooley, M Musilli	R: Sister, A M Gilmour L: N McKenna, F Stacey, M Thomson	Luca, David, Rebecca	-	Carron	-	
Sunday 04 Oct St Joseph's 11 am	M Cunningham, R Doak, L Hand	P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian, I Love, H Matthews	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Alice	Nina, Karen	Devlin, Eileen	
Sunday 04 Oct OLMC 11.30 am	K Jones, C Cox	Sister, Colette Lamberth, C Harper	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	Maria, John	Martin, Christine	
Saturday 10 Oct St Sophia's 4.30 pm	Z Aitken, M Parker	-	-		-	-	IHM Sisters
Saturday 10 Oct St Joseph's 6 pm	F Donachie, G McIntyre, M McGrath	C McGowan, M Steele, C Power, Sr Mabel, K McGhee	Joseph, Luca, Ryan, Antoni, Ravindu			Kathleen, Frances	
Sunday 11 Oct St Paul's 9.15 am	M Roxburgh, K McMillan	S Bain	-	-		-	
Sunday 11 Oct St Matthew's 9.30 am	M Merrick, E Allan, P Brown	R: C Brown, C Gordon L: S Duff, M Bradley, M Dempster	Luca, David, Rebecca	-	Kerry	-	
Sunday 11 Oct St Joseph's 11 am	T Murphy, P Nicholson, G Smith	R Murphy, A Neil, J Shields, F McCann, M Andrew	Ryan, Luca, Mark, Rachel, Gabo, Jason, Marilyn, Kamili, Bianca, Jude	Anne, Mike	IHM Sisters	Alan, Theresa	
Sunday 11 Oct OLMC 11.30 am	H Kennedy, C Harper	M Smith, L Shearer, G Rannochan	Jessica, Farrah, Katie, Aaron, Akunna, Raphael	Suzy	Marie, John		

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 27th September

St Joseph's	Standing orders: £902.50. Weekly collection: £1,435.28. Building Fund: £20.00. SCIAF: £65.64. Mission Sunday: £10.00. Retired Priests: £10.00.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Standing orders: £388.25. Weekly collection: £476.03. Building Fund: £20.00. Retired Priests: £40.00. Mission Appeal: £20.00. Retired Priests: £40.00 SSVP: £143.50.
St Matthew's	Standing orders: £564.50. Weekly collection: £430.58. Community Box for Ecuador: £501.30. Ecuador Trust: £4.00.
St Sophia's	Standing orders: £314.40. Weekly collection: £130.00. Spiritan Special Collection: £10.00.
St Paul's	Standing orders: £89.80. Weekly collection: £270.20. Building Fund: £74.80.

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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.