



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday 11th December 2022

Parish Priest: Reverend Stephen G McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Reverend Kevin J A Rennie (kevin.rennie@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

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Pastoral Assistants: Sister Mary Rose Confidence, Sister Mary Mabel, Sister Marilyn Juliet

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A parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway (www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk). Charity number SC010576.

LITURGY AND OUTREACH FROM SUNDAY 11th – 18th DECEMBER 2022

Mass is livestreamed on the "St Joseph's, Kilmarnock" YouTube channel.

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 10th	5.30 – 5.45 pm....	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm.....	Vigil Mass	John McCulloch (Ann)
Sunday 11th	11.00 am.....	Mass	Susan Quinn (Ann) / For the Parish
	2.00 – 3.30 pm....	Children's Christmas Party in St Joseph's Church Hall	
Monday 12th	10.00 am.....	Mass	Annie Quinn (Ann) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 13th	10.00 am.....	Mass	Charlie Quinn (RIP) / Special Intention
	11 am – 1 pm.....	Community Café in St Joseph's Church Hall	
Wednesday 14th	10.00 am.....	Mass	Peter Kapszuk (Ann) / Fr Donald Campbell (RIP)
	After Mass.....	Recitation of the Rosary	
	2.00 pm.....	Carol Service in the church with tea, coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards	
Thursday 15th	6.00 pm.....	Mass	Brian Wood (RIP) / Special Intention
Friday 16th	10.00 am.....	Requiem Mass for Patricia Koop, RIP	Patricia Koop (RIP) / Special Intention
Saturday 17th	10.00 am.....	Mass at St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm....	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm.....	Vigil Mass	Spec Int / Hugh & Moira McCluskey (Ann)
Sunday 18th	11.00 am.....	Mass	Rose Dorrans (Ann) / For the Parish

The church will be open for prayer Monday to Friday from 10 am until 4 pm. Enter through small side door.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: Advent should not be turned into an anticipated Christmas. It runs into Christmas, certainly, and finds its resolution in that feast, and then in the octave and season that follow, in the feasts of Mary, Mother of God, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord.

Advent is a penitential season, in the sense of being a call to conversion. It necessarily incorporates pain and a sense of lack, the whole of our insufficiency. Advent converts and enlarges us, and does so with our hope. Advent delivers the surprise of the Child in whom all things hold together and God is with us.

There are several opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Confession or Reconciliation during Advent: on Mondays after 10 am Mass, on Saturday at 5.30 pm before the Vigil Mass of Sunday, and at the **Kilmarnock Parishes Penitential Service on Tuesday 13th December at 7.00 pm in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**. Please take seriously the invitation to the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for Christmas.

The children who made the sacrament of reconciliation for the first time in Spring 2022 are invited to return to the sacrament at this service on Tuesday 13th December.

Hall bookings: Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)

Safeguarding co-ordinator: Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)

Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals: In emergencies ask hospital staff to page on-call priest chaplain. For regular visiting:

Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan (stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or 01563 521832)

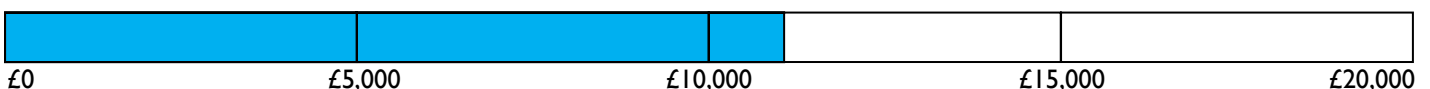
Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri (benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or 01655 882145)

St Andrew's Primary: 01563 549549 **Mount Carmel Primary:** 01563 525897 **St Joseph's Academy:** 01563 526144

Standing orders: £704.62. **Weekly collection:** £849.79. **SCIAF:** £120. **Scottish Catholic Education Service:** £35.

Food bags: £500. **Special Maintenance Fund (including Building Fund):** £1,087.20 (+ £204.73 gift aid).

Special Maintenance Fund total (see climbing total on the bar below): £10,989.18.



Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: Mass on Christmas Eve will be at 9 pm (there will be no 6 pm Mass), and Mass on Christmas Day will be at 11 am.

DO THIS IN MEMORY: This weekend is another of the special "Do this in Memory" Sundays for the children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Children, please bring your candles and gather in the sacristy a few minutes before Mass to walk in the procession. The children are also invited to bring a figure of the baby Jesus from the crib to be blessed if they wish.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: We pray for the eternal repose of our parishioners Jean Wylie and Patricia Koop who died this week, and we extend our prayers and condolences to their families. The Requiem Mass for Patricia Koop will take place on Friday 16th December at 10 am, and for Jean Wylie on Tuesday 20th December at 10 am.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY: The children's party will take place today, Sunday 11th December from 2.00 – 3.30 pm. Santa will take time out of his busy schedule to be there.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: The parish carol service will take place in the church on Wednesday 14th December at 2.00 pm and all are welcome. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards in the hall.

ALTAR SERVERS' CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME: On Friday 30th December the altar servers are invited to gather in the church hall at 12 noon for a Christmas lunch, followed by the pantomime "Snow White" in the Palace Theatre. We will walk to the Palace Theatre.

HALL QUIZ: A quiz to raise funds towards hall roof repairs is included in this week's newsletter. If you wish to enter the prize draw, please return the quiz with your name and phone number or email and £2 to the stall in the porch. Closing date is 4th January 2023. Winners will be announced on Sunday 8th January 2023. Why not get your family involved in answering the questions during the Christmas gatherings?

CHOIR ADVANCE NOTICE: In the New Year, in anticipation of the return of the restored pipe organ, the Church Choir will commence again with the first practice on **Sunday 19th February**, 6-8 pm, in the church. The Choir will prepare music for Easter 2023 and other significant liturgies, including the Blessing and Inauguration of the restored pipe organ.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ: The Community Café has happily become better attended in recent weeks. Come along for homemade soup, sandwich and cakes on Tuesdays between 11 am and 1 pm. **With a busier Café, we appeal for some more home baking to be donated – no need to bake every week, a donation every few weeks would be much appreciated.** If anyone can help please contact Margaret McGrath on 01563 542130.

HILLHOUSE CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL FOR CHILDREN: Last year Hillhouse supported 1,722 young people in East Ayrshire aged 16 and under by providing Christmas gifts to those most in need. When you are buying Christmas presents, can you please remember the Hillhouse outreach? Most needed are:

- toys for children aged 7-16 years,
- pyjamas for 14-16 year olds,
- boxer shorts and socks for teenage boys,

- toiletries for teenage girls (e.g. perfume and make up)
- toiletries for teenage boys (e.g. shower gel, after shave, deodorant).

Gifts (unwrapped please) can be left in the box in the porch of St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock. **Please donate soon if you can and before Thursday 15th December.**

SVDP COLLECTION FOR FR MARTIN CHAMBERS ECUADOR TRUST: Thank you for the very generous response to this appeal which raised £700.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI: As part of the 175th anniversary celebrations, a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi was proposed. Details are as follows: return flights from Glasgow to Fiumicino, departing Monday 19th June and returning on Monday 26th June, 3 nights in Assisi and 4 nights in Rome in 3* hotels, visits to the Assisi Basilicas, the Papal Basilicas in Rome, day trip to Perugia, Rome by night tour by coach, audience with Pope Francis, walking tour of Ancient Rome, full spiritual programme with Mass celebrated in the Vatican and other churches, breakfast and evening meal included. The cost would be around £1,350 based on two people sharing. A limited number of single rooms are available at around £1,530. Insurance is not included.

The cost of the pilgrimage is significant and reflects the circumstances in which we are living at this time. To determine whether a 2023 pilgrimage is viable, please let Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin know if you would be interested before Sunday 17th December. Thank you.

CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF ADVENT READINGS AND CAROLS: A Service of Advent Readings and Carols will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday 21 December at 7.30 pm. This traditional service of many years in the Cathedral has suffered over the last two years due to the pandemic. The 2022 service provides an opportunity to come together once again as a diocesan family to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

SPECIAL MAINTENANCE FUND: A Special Maintenance Fund has been launched with the target of raising £20,000 by Easter 2023. We will be grateful for all donations, small or large, from those are in a position to contribute to this fund. If you have paid tax on your donation, please ask us to reclaim this tax for the church using the gift aid scheme. Perhaps some parishioners can also organise a fundraising activity.

I am keenly aware of the cost-of-living crisis hitting many particularly hard at this time, and this request is not made to those who have to prioritise their spending for their own wellbeing and that of their family. Thank you for your ongoing generosity, Fr Stephen.

91ST AYRSHIRE ST JOSEPH'S SCOUT GROUP CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY: The 91st Ayrshire (St Joseph's) Scout Group will be delivering Christmas cards again this year. Delivery is for within the Kilmarnock town area, Hurlford and Crookedholm only. All cards must be correctly addressed to ensure delivery. The cost is 30 pence per card. Drop off points are: Cubs on 7th and Beavers and Scouts on 8th December at St Joseph's church hall. Drop off also at all weekend Masses in St Joseph's, St Matthew's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel **this weekend, 10th and 11th December.** Deliveries will take place over the weekend of 16th/17th/18th December. This fundraising effort is very important for the success of our Scout Group throughout the year.

MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Minister of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 10 Dec 6.00 pm	F Donachie, B Shepherd, K McGhee	M Steele	Joseph, Ben, Sofie, Lexi, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Rameckers
Sunday 11 Dec 11.00 am	E Maxwell, E Gallagher, L Hand	G McGee	Luca, Aidan, Mark, Marilyn, Rachel	Anne & Mike Timmons	Anne & Lucie Dorrian	Theresa, Alan	H Rameckers
Saturday 17 Dec 6.00 pm	A Davidson, H Rameckers, G McIntyre	C McGowan	Joseph, Ben, Sofie, Lexi, Maia			Anne, Michael	M McGrath
Sunday 18 Dec 11.00 am	E Bohan, G Smith, P Nicholson	A Smith	Luca, Aidan, Mark, Marilyn, Rachel	E Cunningham, L Heron	IHM Sisters, Emma King	Paul, Libby	M McGrath