



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Nativity of the Lord
Sunday 25th 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)

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

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

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mount Carmel Convent, 14 Kirkton Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 2DF

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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 25th DECEMBER 2022 – 1st JANUARY 2023

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 24th	9.00 pm	Christmas Mass During the Night	Tom & Dorothy Mathieson (Ann) / John Brady (Ann)
Sunday 25th	11.00 am	Christmas Dawn Mass	Mary Wynne (Ann), Muriel Hart (RIP) / For the Parish
Monday 26th	10.00 am	Mass	James Dourish (Ann) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 27th	10.00 am	Mass	Peter Dourish (Ann) / Special Intention
	10.30 – 11 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 28th	10.00 am	Mass	/ Most Rev Mario Conti (RIP)
	After Mass	Recitation of the Rosary	
Thursday 29th	6.00 pm	Mass	/ Special Intention
Friday 30th	10.00 am	Mass	Cathie Harkin (RIP) / Alan Curran
Saturday 31st	10.00 am	Mass at St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ For the Parish
Sunday 1st	11.00 am	Mass	/ Peter & Janette Campbell (Ann)

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



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FATHER McGRATTAN:

At Christmas we acknowledge the greatest sign given to humanity, the mystery of a God made flesh. God's sign is simplicity, God's sign is the baby. God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. He doesn't overwhelm us with strength or frighten us with greatness. He asks us for his love: so he makes himself a child. By making himself small, God made it easy for us to understand him, welcome him and love him.

As we respond to the Christmas invitation to share God's life, I invite you, in a renewed way, to engage regularly with the parish.

By staying close to the parish we help each other remain close to Jesus. We become like Jesus.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to make our Christmas celebrations beautiful and inspiring, and I thank God for the most precious gift of yourselves shared for the good of others. May God bless you and your families.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME FOR TEENAGERS: If you are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and are aged 12 and over, we will be running a series of preparation classes in the New Year. Please let Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin know if you are interested.

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)

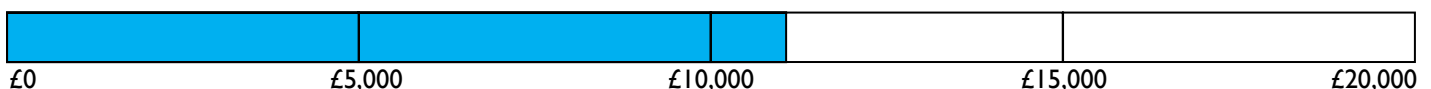
Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri (benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or 01655 882145)

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

Standing orders: £704.62. **Weekly collection:** £1,132.59. **Crib:** £41.40.

Special Maintenance Fund (including Building Fund): £30 (+ £2.50 gift aid).

Special Maintenance Fund total (see climbing total on the bar below): £11,619.18.



Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

THANK YOU: Fr Stephen and Fr Kevin thank you for the cards and gifts received at Christmas.

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 from the church.

ST JOSEPH'S ACADEMY FOOD PARCEL APPEAL: The pupils and staff of St Joseph's Academy have gathered food for over 100 substantial food parcels for distribution to those in need. They have been shared between the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and Foodbanks of the Kilmarnock parishes. Thank you to the pupils and staff for your thoughtful kindness and for reaching out with Christmas spirit.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH FOR SENIOR PARISHIONERS: A Christmas lunch will take place for the senior parishioners on Sunday 8th January gathering at 12 noon for a 12.30 pm start. Please sign up using the list in the porch and making your choice of food.

CRIB APPEAL: The Crib Appeal supports the St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society. The pressure of the pandemic led to an increase in need for their services and, at the same time, the restrictions left them facing major funding gaps which threaten their ability to continue to offer these much-needed services. Donations may be left at the crib.

APPEAL FOR FOOD PARCELS: We appeal again for food parcels to be delivered to the church to maintain supply. The contents of the food parcel are specific and are to be delivered in a strong plastic or paper bag:

- 2 cans of soup
- 1 canned meal, e.g. beef bolognese, chilli con carne, chicken supreme, Fray Bentos style pie
- 1 pack of either pasta, tinned potatoes, rice
- 1 tin of fruit
- 1 tin of vegetables
- 1 tin of beans
- 1 carton of long-life milk (UHT)
- 1 tin of hotdog sausages
- 1 tin of sardines/mackerel fillets/tuna
- 1 packet of biscuits
- 1 toilet roll and 1 bar of soap.

Please ensure canned foods **have a ring pull** for opening. Please also note that tea, coffee and sugar are **not required**. Please deliver the parcels to the church hall on **Wednesday between 11 am and 12 noon**. Alternatively, they can be brought to Mass or left in the front porch of the church house. Thank you for your support.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY: The hospital chaplains of Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals are pleased to visit patients on request. Chaplains are not automatically notified when a Catholic patient is admitted so self-referral is required. For general visiting in Crosshouse Hospital please contact Fr Stephen McGrattan at stephenmcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or on 01563 521832. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or on 01655 882145. For the urgent or emergency assistance of a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

SPECIAL MAINTENANCE FUND: A Special Maintenance Fund has been launched with hoping to raise £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.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ: The Community Café will take a two-week break during the Christmas holidays, to resume on Tuesday 10th January from 11 am – 1 pm.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI: While some people have showed interest in the proposed pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi in June 2023, the numbers have not been sufficient to make the pilgrimage viable at this time. Consideration will be given to organising an alternative pilgrimage in 2024.

THE SCOTTISH CATHOLIC fortnightly magazine is on sale this week. It is the Christmas edition, costing £3 rather than the usual £2. From January, it is changing to becoming a monthly production, costing £3.



MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Minister of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 24 Dec 9.00 pm	G Smith, E Heron, H Matthews, M Kirk, P Nicholson, E Bohan, K McGhee	F Donachie	Joseph, Ben, Sofie, Lexi, Maia, Luca			Claire, Margaret	H Matthews
Sunday 25 Dec 11.00 am	T Murphy, E Maxwell, E Gallagher	J Shields	Luca, Aidan, Mark, Marilyn, Rachel			Eileen, Dennis	H Matthews
Saturday 31 Dec 6.00 pm	H Rameckers, F Donachie, A Davidson	J Lennon	Joseph, Ben, Sofie, Lexi, Maia			Anne, Michael	IHM Sisters
Sunday 1 Jan 11.00 am	H Matthews, P Nicholson, G McGee	R Murphy	Luca, Aidan, Mark, Marilyn, Rachel			Theresa, Alan	IHM Sisters