



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Third Sunday of Lent  
Sunday 12th March 2023

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

**Assistant Priest:** Reverend Kevin J A Rennie ([kevin.rennie@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk)). Charity number SC010576.

## LITURGY AND OUTREACH FROM SUNDAY 12th MARCH – 19th MARCH 2023

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

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 11th	10.00 am	Mass at St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Sunday 12th	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	/ For the Parish
	11.00 am	Mass	Francis Hampson (RIP) / Catherine O'Hare (RIP)
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
Monday 13th	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Choir Practice in the church	
	9.40 – 9.55 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
Tuesday 14th	10.00 am	Mass	Angela Hamill (RIP) / Helen McMahon (Ann.)
	10.30 – 11 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Wednesday 15th	10.00 am	Mass	James Lynch (RIP) / Special Intention
	11 am – 1 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
Thursday 16th	10.00 am	Mass	Special Intention / Bernadette Logue (RIP)
Friday 17th	6.00 pm	Mass	Special Intention / Special Intention
	10.00 am	Mass	Special Intention / Special Intention
Saturday 18th	After Mass	Stations of the Cross	
	10.00 am	Mass at St Matthew's Church	
Sunday 19th	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Michael McKeen (Ann) / Anne McWhinnie (Ann.)
	11.00 am	Mass	John McGill (Ann) / For the Parish

The church will be closed on weekdays outside of Mass times during the organ restoration project until the end of March. Sorry for the inconvenience.

### GENERAL

**GALLOWAY DIOCESE NEWS:** The Lent issue of the Galloway Diocese News will be distributed after Masses this weekend. There are enough copies for one per household.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 13th March at 6.30 pm in the church hall. If any parishioner has an item to be considered at the meeting, please contact Fr Stephen.

**TAKING LITURGY SERIOUSLY:** It's not too late to take a module on the Society of St Gregory Taking Liturgy Seriously 2 study course. All the details can be found here: <https://www.ssg.org.uk/taking-liturgy-seriously-2-ssg-study-course/>

Join us for Module 2, where Rev. Prof. Peter McGrail will be leading sessions on the "Word of Prayer". Each module will comprise three one-hour sessions, 7.30-8.30pm, on Thursdays via Zoom. The sessions will focus on all aspects of Eucharist offering time for discussion and comments. The course is aimed at all who wish to develop a deeper knowledge of liturgy.

**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](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or 01563 521832)

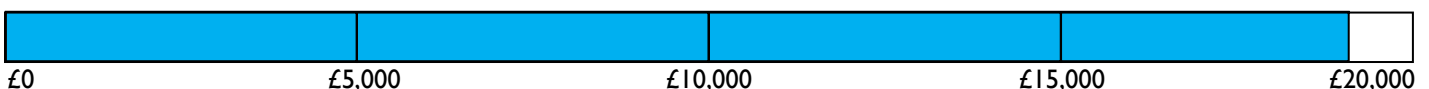
Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri ([benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:benjamin.mkeri@gallowaydiocese.org.uk) or 01655 882145)

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

**Standing orders:** £706.85 **Weekly collection:** £1,221.05

**Special Maintenance Fund (including Building Fund):** £157 (+£36.75 gift aid).

**Special Maintenance Fund total (see climbing total on the bar below):** £19,225.37



Thank you for your generous support of the parish.

**MODULE 2 – “Word of Prayer” - Reverend Professor Peter McGrail, 16, 23, 30 March 2023**

**MODULE 3 – “Word of God” - Martin Foster, 27 April, 4, 11 May 2023**

**MODULE 4 – “Symbol” - Father Paul Turner, 8, 15, 22 June 2023**

**MODULE 5 – “Music in the Mass” - Martin Barry, 21, 28 September, 5 October 2023**

**MODULE 6 – “Environment” - Ann Blackett, 16, 23, 30 November 2023**

**FELLOWSHIP OF KILMARNOCK CHURCHES:** An Ecumenical Service will take place at the New Laigh Kirk on Sunday 12th March at 3 pm. The theme will be Christian Love in Action. Please consider representing St Joseph's.

### LIVING LENT

**SCIAF:** This year's SCIAF Lent appeal focuses on communities in Zambia, where hunger is killing all hope. Right now, millions of families are suffering from devastating hunger and urgently need your help. Please continue to collect money in your WEE BOX at home or donate to SCIAF by visiting [sciaf.org.uk/donate](http://sciaf.org.uk/donate) or calling 0141 354 5555.

**Next Sunday is SCIAF Sunday** and there will be a special collection to support the irreplaceable work of SCIAF. Speakers from SCIAF will address the congregation. Even in these testing times, please consider being generous to SCIAF especially by contributing something of what you have saved from your Lenten fast.

**PENANCE SERVICE:** There will be a community opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) on Tuesday 28th March at 7 pm in St Matthew's Church – this is for all the Kilmarnock churches (and everyone else who wishes!).

### SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FOR CHILDREN IN PRIMARY 3:** This will take place on Tuesday 21st March at 7.00 pm in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Kilmarnock for the children of all the Kilmarnock parishes. If any child of that age is still to be registered to receive the Sacraments of Initiation, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin as soon as possible.

**PRE-LOVED FIRST COMMUNION DRESSES:** The Parent Council at St Andrew's have a selection of pre-loved communion dresses available. If anyone is interested then contact the school on 01563 549549 or email the parent council on [pcstandrew@aol.com](mailto:pcstandrew@aol.com).

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

**WORLD YOUTH DAY:** During the summer three young people from our parish will embark on a pilgrimage to Lisbon, Portugal to celebrate the World Youth Day with Pope Francis and young people from across the world. As well as raising our fare, they are trying to raise the fare of a young person from a mission country. In order to do this we have planned a fundraising Quiz Night and Raffle.

**World Youth Day Quiz night and raffle: Saturday 25th March** at 7.30 pm in St Joseph's Church Hall. Maximum 6 people per team. £3 entry per team member on the night. Raffle prize donations welcome. Raffle donations can be brought on the night or left in the porch after masses. Bring your own bottle. To enter your team please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church. Alternatively contact Kieran with your name and team size on 07931974095. Thank you.

**BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF THE RESTORED PIPE ORGAN:** To celebrate the restoration of the Harrison and Harrison (1903) pipe organ, the Mass of **Sunday 16th April** (a week after Easter) will be offered in thanksgiving. The choir will sing with the organ at Mass. Then, in the evening of the same day, at 6.00 pm, a Service of Blessing and Dedication followed by a recital will take place. The recitalist will be Andrew Reid, formerly Managing Director of Harrison and Harrison who also performed a recital in St Joseph's in November 2021.

**PARISH DINNER TO MARK THE 175th ANNIVERSARY YEAR:** A dinner will take place in the church hall on **Friday 28th April** at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm to celebrate the 175th anniversary year. A three-course meal will be served and there will be live music. Tables will be arranged to seat eight people and if you wish to book a full table, please indicate this when buying tickets; otherwise a seating arrangement will be in place. Tickets are on sale from the shop in the porch, cost £20.

### PILGRIMAGES

**PILGRIMAGE TO IONA:** This year Our Lady of Mount Carmel will celebrate its 60th Jubilee. To mark this occasion, we are planning a day's pilgrimage to Iona on Saturday 22nd April. Parishioners from St Joseph's are very welcome to join us. The coach will leave Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church around 6.00 am and return just after 10.00 pm. We will have approximately 5 hours on the island with Mass in the Abbey at 3.00 pm. There will be several hours free to explore the Abbey precincts, the burial place of Scottish kings and the many fine beaches on the other side of the island, all within easy walking distance. The cost will be approximately £65 which includes coach, ferry tickets and Abbey admission charges. If interested, please contact Brian Murphy on [mlarchbank@hotmail.com](mailto:mlarchbank@hotmail.com) or 07714 981255.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:** This year's pilgrimage takes place from 3rd – 10th July by air from Prestwick Airport. The cost is £949 per person Single room occupancy costs £39 per night. Travel insurance not included. To book contact Joe Walsh Tours on 0808 1890468 or [info@joewalshstours.co.uk](mailto:info@joewalshstours.co.uk) or [www.joewalshstours.co.uk](http://www.joewalshstours.co.uk). Booking forms also available from the sacristy. Pilgrims with a medical condition who wish to travel as a registered assisted pilgrim should obtain an application form from Janie Agnew on 07739 399222.

**YOUTH FOR LOURDES:** This will run from the 3rd-10th July 2023 as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, with the youth travelling by air this year. The cost per person is £650 however this is reduced through fundraising. Young parishioners (aged 16-23) are invited to sign up to join the group to help out with the assisted pilgrims in Lourdes. If you are interested please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin for more information, or email the Diocesan Youth Office at [youth@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@gallowaydiocese.org.uk).

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE – OCTOBER 2023:** Fr David Borland is putting together a small group Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 15th – 22nd 2023, flying with British Airways from Glasgow to Tel Aviv via London Heathrow. The cost of the Pilgrimage is approximately £1,850 per pilgrim (exact fare will depend on the price of the airfare at your time of booking) based on two people sharing a twin room for 7 nights on a half-board basis in three-star hotels. Single rooms are limited in number and unfortunately carry a supplement of £440. For more information on how to book please visit [www.rcayr.org.uk/pilgrimage](http://www.rcayr.org.uk/pilgrimage) or email Fr David on [david.borland@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:david.borland@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

### MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

	Readers	Minister of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
Saturday 11 March 6.00 pm	E Heron, B Shepherd, R Heron	M Steele	Joseph, Lexi, Maia, Antoni			Anne, Michael	H Matthews
Sunday 12 March 11.00 am	G McGee, R Doak, P Nicholson	A Smith	Luca, Aidan, Mark, Marilyn, Rachel	Anne & Gerry Smith	Emma Woods, Karen Cassidy	Paul, Libby	H Matthews
Saturday 18 March 6.00 pm	K McGhee, H Rameckers, M Kirk	C Power	Joseph, Lexi, Maia, Antoni			Claire, Margaret	IHM Sisters
Sunday 19 March 11.00 am	E Maxwell, H Matthews, T Murphy	M McGrath	Luca, Aidan, Mark, Marilyn, Rachel	E Cunningham, Lizzie Heron	-	Eileen, Dennis	IHM Sisters

# Scotland's Catholic Bishops issue statement on the Relationship between Conscience and Politics

On 6 March 2023, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland issued a statement on conscience and religion in the political sphere. In the statement, the conference states: "holding or expressing religious beliefs and values does not and should not debar any individual from leadership in public office". It adds: "we are particularly troubled by the increasing prevalence of political parties removing the right of conscience from their parliamentarians on votes involving contentious moral issues".

The full text of the statement is shown below together with an explanatory note on the relationship between Politics and Conscience.

## **Bishops' Conference of Scotland Statement on the Relationship between Conscience and Politics**

Although the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion are fundamental human rights and an individual's religion and belief are protected characteristics in equalities legislation, recent events have left many citizens seriously concerned over the negative characterisation of religion in civic life. These concerns focus on two interconnected issues: disqualification from political leadership and the silencing of conscience in general. We share these concerns.

Regarding leadership, it has been suggested that Kate Forbes MSP is unsuited to leading her party and to becoming First Minister because of her religious convictions. We feel obliged to restate the well-established civic principle, that holding or expressing religious beliefs and values does not and should not debar any individual from leadership in public office.

Regarding the silencing of conscience in general, we are particularly troubled by the increasing prevalence of political parties removing the right of conscience from their parliamentarians on votes involving contentious moral issues. Such actions inhibit freedom and are insidiously conformist in nature. They compromise open and honest debate and risk marginalising minority groups.

In his address to parliamentarians and civic leaders in Westminster Hall in 2010 Pope Benedict XVI lamented the "marginalisation" of religion which he described as a worrying sign of "a failure to appreciate" what he described as "the legitimate role of religion in the public square." He went on to offer a positive prospectus where "the Church and the public authorities can work together for the good of citizens" through the promotion of "dialogue and respect at every level".

We echo these sentiments and urge our civic leaders to recognise the dignity of the human person and the right of everyone to participate without discrimination in civic society according to their beliefs and conscience; without this guarantee our society cannot be free nor fair.

## **Bishops' Conference of Scotland Explanatory Note on the Relationship between Politics and Conscience**

In the course of Scotland's civic and political history, the values of freedom of thought, conscience and religion have been hard won and are now recognised as fundamental human rights. At the same time, our recent equalities' legislation accords religion and belief the status of protected characteristics because they are considered especially vulnerable to discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

In his address to parliamentarians and civic leaders in Westminster Hall in 2010, Pope Benedict XVI praised our parliamentary system for its particular vision of the respective rights and duties of the state and the individual, which he said remains an inspiration to peoples across the globe. It has raised up politicians

admired by believers and non-believers alike for the integrity with which they followed their conscience even at the cost of displeasing the powers that be. In the process, it has emerged as a pluralist democracy which places great value on freedom of speech and political affiliation with a strong sense of the individual's rights and duties, and of the equality of all citizens before the law.

Turning to the relationship of faith and politics, he proposed that the role of religion in political debate is not to impose its own view of right and wrong but to play a vital part in shared and reasonable inquiry about the sort of principles that protect human dignity and allow the common good of society to flourish. At its best, sound religious sense even protects the civic search for the good from the manipulation of ideologies or too narrow perspectives that do not give a proper account of the fullest integrity of every person in society. This is why the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief should not be afraid of ongoing dialogue with each other for the good of our civilisation. From this perspective, religion is not a problem for legislators to solve but instead makes its own vital contribution to the national conversation. In that regard he pointed to the successful collaboration of our parliaments and the Church in fostering peace, spreading democracy, caring for the poor, promoting international development and redressing climate change.

For such cooperation to continue to bear good fruit, religions need to be free to act in accordance with their own faith principles and convictions. He concluded by inviting us to remember the positive contribution that religious belief has often made to the life of our nation.

Recent events, however, have caused serious concern among many Scottish citizens over the negative characterisation of religion in civic life. This disquiet has made itself known in the light of two interconnected issues. The first is to do with who is qualified for political leadership. The second is the silencing of conscience in general. We share these concerns.

With regard to leadership, it has been suggested that Kate Forbes MSP is unsuited to leading her party and to becoming First Minister because of her religious convictions. We feel obliged to state that, as a well-established civic principle, holding or expressing religious beliefs and values does not debar any individual from leadership in public office.

With regard to the silencing of conscience in general, we would point out that, in the same address in which Pope Benedict praised our political tradition for evolving a pluralist democracy, he also lamented a new contemporary trend aimed at the marginalisation of religion even in the name of tolerance, and expressed concern at how some Christians in public roles have been expected at times to keep their convictions private or Christian parliamentarians required by their parties to act against their conscience on votes involving contentious moral issues, in order to eliminate discrimination! These developments were worrying signs of a failure to appreciate not only the rights of believers to freedom of conscience and religion, but also the legitimate role of religion in the public square.

In that context we advise that such trends inhibit freedom and introduce a blind conformity that goes as far as undermining the foundations of liberal democracy. They close off open and honest debate and risk marginalising much of Scottish public opinion. In the pursuit of diversity, they risk imposing an unnatural uniformity on our people's views and their political discourse, while reducing the wider pool of people who might stand for office, potentially denying our nation access to talent and ability.

In these times, we urge political leaders to do all they can to create the conditions that allow for open, honest and respectful debate, particularly in relation to contentious moral issues. We ask them to avoid marginalising, or even silencing, the voice of minority groups and inhibiting vital democratic debate. Only such openness and tolerance can preserve the dignity of every citizen, uphold the human rights of every person, foster the common good that is the inheritance of all Scots and advance our parliament's founding values of wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity.