

3rd Sunday of Lent – Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

Luke 13:1-9 *Gardening tips*

It is an age-old question: “Why do bad things happen to good people?” We hear of two tragedies in the Gospel today. The first is where a number of Galileans were killed by the Romans as they made sacrifices to God in the Temple. Some Jewish leaders at the time viewed the Galileans as second-class Jews, and so the question raised here is about more suffering. They want to know if the Galileans suffered because they were not really ‘Jewish enough’. Jesus responds with a sharp question about another recent tragedy, when eighteen people were killed by the collapsing tower of Siloam. Were these people worse offenders than others in Jerusalem? Is this really how God works in our world?

Jesus then tells his hearers the parable of the fig tree. It is an appropriate parable for Lent, because it makes us a little uncomfortable by challenging us. Jesus invites his listeners to focus on living a full life themselves, rather than spending time wondering whether others deserve their misfortune. When we hear of tragedies it is often an opportunity for us to reflect on the big questions of life. It is also an invitation to ask ourselves, ‘how am I doing?’, because we realise that death can come at any moment.

In my life, am I bearing the fruit of which I am capable? The intent is not to beat ourselves over the head with a branch of the fig tree, rather it is to help us live our best lives and to make the most of the time that has been given to us. If we are not bearing fruit, then we might take the opportunity of looking more closely at our lives to see what needs attention. Maybe some extra pruning or nourishment is required? The parable concerns the unfruitfulness of the tree, but it also suggests that there is the opportunity for change. Jesus invites us to the fullness of life.

© Triona Doherty & Jane Mellet, 2021. *The Deep End: A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Luke*. (Dublin: Messenger Publications 2021).

“I wish the need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” - *J.R.R. Tolkien*

ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam Radio 104.3 fm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, Rathvilly/Kiltegan - 083 1494412

Parish Office – Mon-Fri: 10 am – 1 pm - 059 9161114

Email: office@rathvillykilteganparish.ie Website: www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie

Registered Charity Number 20015848

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie Parish Radio 104.3 fm

Local Safeguarding Reps: Mary Phelan Elizabeth Austin David Carton

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding: Ms Ailish Higgins Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

RADIO MARIA IRELAND – Streaming on our Website: www.radiomaria.ie

TRÓCAIRE BOXES AVAILABLE IN EACH CHURCH – please take one home

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

St. Brigid’s

Talbotstown

Sat/Sun, 22nd & 23rd March 2025

St. Patrick’s

Rathvilly

Sat/Sun, 22nd & 23rd March 2025

The Assumption

Tynock

3rd Sunday of Lent

Recent Deaths: Joe Cummins, Ballon, brother of Rosaleen Nolan, Kevin Barry Road
Colette Maher, Bunclody mother of Martina Cole, Rathdaniel

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 22nd & 23rd March

Paddy Deering, Ballybit Big – 1st Anniversary

Kathleen Curry, Ballybit

John Foley, Bough

Michael & Madeline Curran, St. Patrick’s Park

Martin & Mary Curran, Ballybit

Christine Donovan, Rathdangan

Frank Donovan, Tallaght

Esther O’Brien, Garretstown

Eileen Doyle nee Smith, Lisnavagh

Shaun Leonard, Rahill

James & Elizabeth Dowling, Knocklishen

Kathleen Lawlor, Phelan Street

Sat/Sun, 29th & 30th March

Don Heenan, Williamstown – 1st Anniversary

Rita Conway, Straboe

Daniel Lawlor, Fr. Cullen Tce

Alan (Stick) Keogh, Fr. Cullen Tce – 20th Anniversary

ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, RATHVILLY

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – each Friday of Lent at 6.00 p.m.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – Adoration each Friday 3 – 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Saturday, 22nd March – Mass at 6.00 p.m.

Reader – Lucilla Brophy.

ST. BRIGID’S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Sunday, 30th March – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Reader – Siobhan Doyle.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 15th & 16th & 17th March

We thank all our parishioners who contribute to the weekly Collections.

Rathvilly: Offertory €537.31

Envelopes €561.79

Kiltegan: Offertory €275.09

Envelopes €260.20

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDUGORJE – 12th – 19th April

Further details from Duffy’s Coach Hire 087 2543235 or 059 6471681

3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

Ilma, the mother of the family on our Trócaire box this year, says: 'We have noticed the weather changing in the last few years. It is now hotter and we have more droughts. Then it starts to rain, and it won't stop raining. A more intense rain, more frequently.' Find out more about Ilma and the Climate Crisis at trocaire.org

PARISH LOTTO (Kildare & Leighlin Co-Op Lotto Draw)

Results from 19th March, 2025 No Jackpot winner of €10,000

Numbers: 01-02-210-31. 17 Match 3 numbers get €59 each.

Two local match three winners this week.

Winners - Liz Austin & Liz Sibbald. Promoter – Breda Reilly.

Next draw on Wednesday, 26th March. **Jackpot €11,000.**

The draw takes place each Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise.

Thank you to our parishioners for supporting the Lotto.

Tickets available in the Post Office, Parish Office, Lotto promoters and also in Rathvilly, Tynock & Talbotstown Churches after Mass in the Sacristy.

JUBILEE 24 HOURS FOR THE LORD – 28th & 29th March

A Jubilee 24 Hours for the Lord takes place in Cathedral Assumption Carlow -

Friday 28th Opening Mass at 7pm Stations of the Cross 9pm

Saturday 29th 10am Mass 12 noon Directed Prayer – Sorrowful Mysteries

3 pm Directed Prayer – Divine Mercy 6.15pm Evening Mass/Closing Liturgy

Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the 24 hours except during Mass and hours of Directed Prayer.

ST PATRICKS DAY – Thank you

A sincere thank you to everyone involved in making our St Patrick's day procession a very enjoyable experience. We would like to acknowledge the commitment of many, those who cleaned up the area around St Patrick's Well stewarding on road, the volunteers included in the procession, members of Rathvilly Foroige Club and their leaders, our choir members, soccer club for opening their car park for easy access and parking, and to all the people who came along to join in the procession, attended Mass and socialised afterwards for a cuppa. With your support we may expand on this activity next year

PARISH PASTORAL REDEVELOPMENT – up-date

Thanks to everyone who completed the recent survey. There is ongoing work regarding setting up a new Parish Pastoral Council, who once formed will use the survey findings in their plan for the future.

MAKING A WOODEN CROSS FOR YOUR HOME The parish are organising a cross making work-shop for Thursday 3rd and Thursday 10th April at 8 pm in St. Tegan's Hall, Kiltegan. All materials for making the cross will be supplied, it is essential to book a place with Parish office 059 9161114 before 31st March.

Graigucullen MONSTER Bingo Tuesday 25th March St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €2260 Double number €810 Lotto €600

The Schoolhouse Community & Enterprise Centre

Over the next couple of weeks, members of the **Schoolhouse Committee** will be calling to houses in the area to give you the opportunity to sign up for our "Buy a Brick" fundraiser in support of the **Schoolhouse Building Project**.

Our team will be happy to answer any questions and guide you through the different options available.

Thank you for your support – together, we can make this project a reality!

RATHVILLY TENNIS CLUB

Having carried out refurbishment works to the courts last year, the Club is looking forward to a good season in the coming months. An invitation is extended to everyone who would like to play or help out in any way. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2nd April, 2025 at 8p.m. in the Harp Function Room. All welcome.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Priest's house of Baltinglass Parish is seeking to employ any interested and responsible person for cooking and some light housework at the parish house. The work time would be 20 hours a week, 4 hours per day from Monday to Friday. Interested persons should send their CV to the Parish Office: Parkmore, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, W91 V4P9. The deadline for submission is Friday, 4th April 2025

DAFFODIL DAY – Friday, 28th March

There will be an opportunity to support this worthy cause at Rathvilly Pharmacy and Brennan's Centra on 28th March. Hoping for fine weather and good support from the community again this year.

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers 1-3-5-26. Match 3 win or share €150

Andy Byrne Slaney Bank

On line winner

Lorraine Kelly Woodgrove,

On line winner

Mary Byrne Knocklishen

On Line winner

Antoinette Kelly Fr. Cullen Tce.

Paul Kelly

A J Doyle c/o T. Whyte

Tom Whyte

Next draw 25 March 2025 **Jackpot €3,100**

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 5 - 9 - 10 - 14

Trish Harmon, Kiltegan 5-7-10-14

Fergal Harmon

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Joe Curran, Woodgrove Avenue, Rathvilly.

Next draw 25th. March 2025 Jackpot €13,800. Thank you for all your support.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LUXEMBOURG

Honouring Carlow Trained St Willibrord - The Diocese and the Cathedral Parish travel to Luxembourg from Sunday June 8th to Wednesday June 11th, 2025.

Contact Tully's Travel, Carlow Tel: 059 9136100, €685.00 per person sharing.