

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent** Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

*Luke 3:1-6* Preparing the way

Compare these two scenes. First, picture the flurry of anxiety that happens when a foreign dignitary - president, prime minister or pope – visits your country. They are welcomed with a red carpet, leaders greet them, streets are cleared to whisk them to a reception, and they are given the finest accommodation with catering to match. Now, imagine an asylum seeker arriving at a port or airport. In Ireland for example, they are brought to a reception centre, and then moved to a direct provision centre to await a decision on their application – a process that often takes years. Yes, they have shelter and food, but they have limited freedom and few opportunities for involvement in society. The system has been rightly criticised as inhumane. This is just one snapshot of the unequal world we live in. Those brought up in poverty, homelessness, war or direct provision have a difficult road ahead. The system is stacked against them.

Today we meet John the Baptist, whose task is to ‘prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight’, such a messenger might do for a queen or king or some other VIP. John’ was a radical voice, urging people to open their eyes and change their hearts. What if we changed our hearts this Advent by reaching out and removing the obstacles in front of people? What if we ‘prepared the way’ for Jesus by smoothing the path for others, tearing down the walls of prejudice in our hearts and the walls in society that keep people apart, even one brick at a time? As individuals and Church, we can be the ‘voice in the wilderness’ calling for and bringing about change.

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

“What Jesus never said: ‘Feed the hungry only if they have papers’; ‘Clothe the naked only if they’re from your country’; ‘Welcome the stranger only if there’s zero risk’; ‘Help the poor only if it’s convenient’; ‘Love your neighbour only if they look like you.’ - *James Martin SJ*

**ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE & RADIO**

**[www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam](http://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](mailto:office@rathvillykilteganparish.ie) Website: [www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie](http://www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie)**

**Registered Charity Number 20015848**

**Diocesan Website: [www.kandle.ie](http://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](mailto:safeguarding@kandle.ie)**

## RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

### NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid’s  
Talbotstown**

**St. Patrick’s  
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption  
Tynock**

**Sat/Sun, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Recent Death:** Fr Sean O’Dowd, St. Patrick’s Missionaries, Kiltegan

**Months Mind Mass:** Kathleen Faulkner, Bough this weekend, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December

#### **ANNIVERSARY MASSES**

##### **Sat/Sun, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Joe Byrne, Bristol & Sunnyside

Kathleen Balfe, Rahill

James, Marie & Ann Byrne, Sunnyside

John Balfe, Rahill

James, Mary & Ann Leonard, Monavote

James Doyle, Coole

Denis & Mary Kelly, Haroldstown

Tom & Bridie Kehoe, Ballyoliver

##### **Sat/Sun, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Gerard Cullen, Dublin

Joe McGuirk, Ricketstown

Eamon Lawlor, Coole

Bill Gahan, 25 Collins Park

Paddy Donoghue, Kevin Barry Road

#### **ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, RATHVILLY**

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.** – The Immaculate Conception of our Lady – **Mass at 11.40 a.m.**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** – Adoration on Friday 3 – 6 p.m.

#### **ST. BRIGID’S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN**

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December – Mass at 9.30 a.m. Reader: Joe O’Brien.

#### **CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK**

**Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December** – Holy Day – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December – Mass at 9.30 a.m. Reader: Fiona Kane.

**RATHVILLY SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL** New members urgently needed.

**ANNUAL COLLECTION** for SVP takes place this weekend, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE**

St. Patrick’s Church, Rathvilly on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.

Baltinglass Church on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 p.m.

#### **SACRAMENTS 2025**

First Holy Communion & Confirmation Mass next weekend.

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December - Tynock Church 9.30 a.m. Rathvilly Church 11.00 a.m.

## DECORATE RATHVILLY CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

The Flower Committee would be grateful for flowers or greenery to decorate the Church for Christmas. Please leave same in the Church between 15<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Parish Redevelopment Group-** The conversation has begun and we offer a big thank you to the people who attended the meeting on Tuesday.

This is a fresh start and we welcome everyone to become involved. We need your support. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

## **Sunday Celebrations of the Word and Communion**

The Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin has published a text to be used in all Churches, in the diocese, which will include our three Churches, Rathvilly, Tynock and Talbotstown in the case of an unavoidable and unplanned absence of the intended priest for the celebration of Sunday Eucharist.

Hopefully we do not find ourselves in that position, but it will be good to have a plan in place. Training will be provided.

If you feel you would like to be a facilitator and guide the congregation in the event that we find ourselves in that position, please contact the parish office 059 9161114.

## WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 30<sup>th</sup> November & 1<sup>st</sup> December

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €449.16

Envelopes €324.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €215.63

Envelopes €775.00

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

Results from 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 No Jackpot winner of €20,000

Numbers: 06-19-24-30. 20 Match 3 numbers and get €50 each.

No local match three winner this week.

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

On **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December the Jackpot is €20,000.** Tickets €2.

Thank you to all 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.

## THE SCHOOLHOUSE COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE CENTRE

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT – St Patrick’s Church, Rathvilly**

Starring the Celtic Brothers this Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets €30 available at the door.

## SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 5 - 10 - 11 – 14

Amanda McCabe, Fr. Cullen Terrace 5-11-14-25

Jenny Donegan

Josie Sheehan, Knockanna 4-5-10-11

Anthony Byrne

Trish Harmon, Kiltegan 5-7-10-14

Fergal Harmon

Promoter’s prize €20 was won by Gabriel Deering, Patrickswell, Rathvilly.

Next draw 10<sup>th</sup>. Dec. 2024 Jackpot €20,000. Thank you for all your support

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### A Jubilee of Peace

welcome to the celebration of the Second Sunday of Advent. We continue to wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord. At this Mass we will light the second candle on the wreath. As we move deeper into winter, the light of our Advent wreath begins to increase, dispelling the darkness of the world. This Advent we open up to Jesus all those areas of our lives and in the world where God’s peace is so badly needed.

As we reflect on PEACE this Advent Season, perhaps, instead of finding ourselves discouraged by the lack of peace in our world, we might consider how we ourselves can be ambassadors of peace. “Let it begin with me.” How can I be a peacemaker this Advent season? How can it begin with me?

### Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference Digital Advent Calendar

The Irish catholic Bishops' Conference are delighted to be bringing you our digital Advent Calendar again this year.

Advent marks the beginning of the new calendar year for Christians. The digital Advent calendar offers a distinctive and spiritually enriching way to journey through this holy season. Based on the Jubilee Year's theme of *#Hope*, the 2024 calendar offers prayers and resources designed to guide individuals, families and faith communities to reflect on the hope that Christ brings to the world, while also preparing for the upcoming Holy Jubilee Year in 2025.

To access the calendar please visit: <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar/>  
**Poster with Qr-Code available on Notice board in each Church.**

## RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Numbers drawn 10-20-28-30

Match 3 win or share €150. 5 Lucky dips

Lorraine Kelly Woodgrove Ian Curran Slaney Bank On Line winners

Peadar Doyle Knockavagh On Line winner

Mary O'Neill Slaney Bank Wm Burgess, Lisnavagh Post Office

Next draw 10 Dec. 2024 **Jackpot € 10,900**

## TULLOW DAY CARE CENTRE

Tullow Day Care Centre offers services to the elderly of Tullow, Grange, Ardattin, Kilbride, Kildavin, Myshall, Ballon, Rathoe, Rathvilly and everywhere in between.

**Services include:** Meals on Wheels, Meals in the Centre, Client pick-up and bring home as well as so much more. If you know of someone who could avail of any of our services, contact the Centre on **059 9151833**.

**Carlow County Development with Carlow Older Persons Forum** extend a warm invitation to older people to attend our annual Free Christmas Celebration.

On Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 10am-1pm in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Carlow.

Carol singing, entertainment, refreshments and information stands from local agencies. Raffle, goodie bags and KCLR will broadcast from the event.

Contact Cecilia on 0860679306.