

2nd Sunday after Christmas Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

John 1:1-18 Taking root

We talk about having roots to describe a connection we have with a place or people. “Being rooted” or “putting down roots” means that we are part of something. It’s a powerful metaphor from the plant world. The roots of a plant remind us of its relationship with the environment, and how it becomes part of the place where it is planted. We sometimes refer to an idea “taking root” when some thought becomes embedded in us, inseparable from our very selves.

The image of taking root is drawn from today’s First Reading, as is the image of making a dwelling (Sir 24:8-12). These offer us a key to understanding some of the complex language of today’s Gospel, which is the Prologue to John’s Gospel. In its beautiful meditation on the Incarnation, we hear that “the Word became flesh and lived among us”. The Greek word *Logos* has a much richer meaning than is captured in its English translation, “Word”. It refers to all-knowledge, all-being, that which is forever, the Divine energy, Creator of the universe. Being, Father-and-Mother of all things, God. He is at work in creation at every stage, then, now and forever. It is a connection that cannot be severed, for the roots are too deep – we in God and God in us. God is not “somewhere out there” but right here, right now: our light, our joy, our energy and our comfort.

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“God loves things by becoming them, God did so in the creation of the universe and of Jesus, and continues to do so in the ongoing human Body of Christ”
Richard Rohr.

ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE & RADIO
www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam Radio 104.3 fm

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

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

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

St. Brigid’s	St. Patrick’s	The Assumption
Talbotstown	Rathvilly	Tynock
Sat/Sun, 4th & 5th January 2025	2nd Sunday after Christmas	

Recent Death: Violet Gavin, Slaney Meadows

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 4th & 5th January

James, Teresa & Johnny McGuire & deceased family members
Paddy & Elizabeth Kelly, Ricketstown & deceased family members
John (Jack) Farrell & his daughter Myra, Maynooth
Mary Plant, Rahill
Ann O’Connor nee Plant, Rahill
Alice Kelly, Ballyhackett

Months Mind Mass: Theresa Curran, Collins Park on Saturday, 11th January.

Sat/Sun, 11th & 12th January

Kathleen Doyle, Bough
Michael Kane, Bough
Peter Smith, 6 St. Patrick’s Park
Patrick & Mary McNevin, Raheendaw
William Smith, Monavothe
Deceased members of Rathvilly GAA Club

ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH, RATHVILLY

Monday, 6th January – The Epiphany of the Lord – **Mass at 11.40 a.m.**
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – Adoration resumes on Friday, 10th Jan. 3 – 6 p.m.

ST. BRIGID’S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Sunday, 5th January – Mass at 9.30 a.m. Reader – Breedh Murphy.
Monday, 6th January – Holy Day – The Epiphany of the Lord - **Mass at 9.45 a.m.**

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Saturday, 11th January – Mass at 6.00 p.m. Reader: Conor O’Leary.

PARISH HOUSEBOUND VISIT FOR JANUARY

Kiltegan Area on Wednesday, 8th January from 2 – 5 p.m.
Rathvilly Area on Friday, 10th January from 2 – 4 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CRIB

The Crib will remain open until 2nd February, The Presentation of the Lord.
We welcome donations for Homeless Charities.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday, 12th January is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. At Mass we will remember all the children baptised during 2024. Families are invited to attend Mass in Tynock Church on Saturday, 11th January at 6 p.m. & Rathvilly Church on Sunday, 12th January at 11 am. There will be a special blessing for the children. Baptismal Certificates will be available after Mass.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 28th & 29th December

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €276.46

Envelopes €1300.05

Kiltegan: Offertory €283.54

Envelopes €396.40

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Station and Christmas Collection. It is very much appreciated.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES 2025

Weekly Envelopes Boxes have been distributed to families in the Parish. If you do not receive a box and would like to contribute to our Parish, there are boxes available in the Church or contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your support.

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

The first draw for 2025 takes place on Wednesday, 8th January at 4 p.m. in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise. 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.

MARRIAGE AND THE JUBILEE OF HOPE

Bishop Denis and Accord will mark the Jubilee of Hope, celebrating with engaged and married couples on the Feast of the Epiphany, 6th January in the Cathedral of the Assumption Carlow at 7pm.

All are invited; those preparing for marriage, all married couples – particularly those celebrating Jubilees, and those remembering the love of their departed spouses, who are with God in heaven. Come along, pray, celebrate and give thanks. After Mass all are invited to refreshments in the Cathedral Parish Centre.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

A huge congratulations to online winner Brenda Mc Sweeney of Baltinglass on winning our jackpot of €20,000.

Brenda had all 4 of our jackpot numbers (4-6-12-24)

Slaney Rovers would like to wish Brenda and her family the best of luck spending the winnings. Jackpot for Tuesday 7th January 2025 is €12,700.

JUBILEE 2025 – Prayer Cards available in each Church.

RATHVILLY GAA CLUB

Lotto Results – No jackpot winner. Numbers drawn were 11 – 18 – 21 – 30.

No match three winners – 5 Lucky Dip Winners were –

Martha Keogh, Talbotstown Online

Declan Clarke, Waterstown Online

Tina Smith, Tullow Online

Jim Byrne, Rathoe

Alan Brennan, New Road, Ballyoliver

Next draw on Tuesday, 7th January. Jackpot €11,300.

The Club would like to wish all our players, coaches and volunteers a Happy New Year and warm wishes for 2025 and a big thank you to all who play our lotto.

Epiphany Matthew 2:1-12

Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne

We observed his star at his rising

The Wise men probably astronomers and philosophers from the region of Persia, but most importantly of all they were seekers. They looked to the skies for astronomical signs which would foretell the birth of a powerful leader. They were awake to the signs of the times. One must admire these Wise Men for the way they set out faithfully on this determined journey, a journey which involved many risks. We don't know details of their religious affiliations and it really does not matter, for this story of the Wise Men is the story of people of all cultures, all countries and all faiths who make a journey in search of God.

Matthew sets their story in stark contrast to that of Herod. Herod is 'greatly troubled' when he hears of a possible threat to his power. Rumours of a new king could potentially upset political and religious structures. Herod is an example of a narcissistic leader consumed by his own ego. In contrast, the Wise Men are humble and genuine in their quest to find this child who has been born.

The arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem is a moment of great joy and grace, as 'on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage'. God is found in the simple spaces. Let us have the courage to take the risk and move out of our comfort zones in search of Jesus, just as the Wise Men did. They have no idea of what awaited them, but the Gospel speaks of their delight and joy when they arrived at the place.

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"We often make do with looking at the ground ... I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky? Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind? - *Pope Francis*
