

1st Sunday of Lent – Deacon: Rev. Liam Dunne
Luke 4:1-13 Led by the Spirit

In today's Gospel, Jesus is 'led by the Spirit' in the wilderness. By definition, a wilderness is a place that is uninhabited and inhospitable. It seems a strange place for Jesus to begin. He has returned 'full of the Holy Spirit' after being baptised by John, yet immediately that same Spirit leads him in the wilderness. The use in Greek of *in* rather than *into* indicates that Jesus is not left alone to be tempted; the Spirit leads him the entire time. The period of forty days reminds us of the forty years that the people of God wandered in the wilderness before they arrived in the promised land – 'a land with flowing streams . . . a land of olive trees and honey' (Deut 8:1-10). Of course, Lent also lasts for forty days, a Spirit-led time when we undergo a process of renewal.

Luke places huge emphasis on the Holy Spirit. His is the only Gospel where Jesus returns from his wilderness interlude 'filled with the power of the Spirit'. Luke uses this expression to describe 'an emotional or spiritual fullness that overflows outwardly'. When Jesus emerges, he is ready to begin his ministry. The wilderness is not a place to be feared; it can be a place of transformation, a place where God is ultimately in control. It is a place of contemplation where we come face to face with God and with our true selves.

As we enter Lent, we hear the Spirit's call to trust. When we pause to take stock of the direction of our lives, we may encounter our own demons and temptations, but that is part of the process. Let us embrace this 'wilderness' season as a time of genuine spiritual, and Spirit-led, journeying.

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

"Our real journey in life is interior; It is a matter of growth, deepening, and of an even greater surrender to the creative action of love and grace in our hearts. Never was it more necessary to respond to that action. - *Thomas Merton*

ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE
www.rathvillykilteganparish.ie/our-parish/webcam

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

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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

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH
NEWSLETTER

St. Brigid's **St. Patrick's** **The Assumption**
Talbotstown **Rathvilly** **Tynock**
Sat/Sun, 8th & 9th March 2025 **1st Sunday of Lent**

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 8th & 9th March

James O'Toole, Bough
Nan & Jim Kennedy, St. Patrick's Park
William Smith, Coole
Paddy Doyle, Foxcover
Mick & Dan Abbott, Ballyoliver & deceased family members
Anne Byrne, Knocklishen
Joseph O'Brien, Knocklishen
Bill & Sinead Darcy, Phelan Street

Sat/Sun, 15th & 16th March

Larry Byrne, Maplestown Peter Byrne, Collins Park
Mary Ann Leonard, Rahill John Byrne, Collins Park

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 7.00 p.m.

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

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, TYNOCK

Sunday, 9th March – Mass at 9.30 a.m. Reader: Conor O'Leary.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, TALBOTSTOWN

Sunday, 16th March – Mass at 9.30 a.m. Reader – Mary Kelly.

PASTORAL VISIT FROM BISHOP DENIS NULTY

Bishop Denis will celebrate Mass this Saturday, 8th March in St. Patrick's Church at 7.30 p.m. He will meet the confirmation candidates and their families.

First Holy Communion Special Mass this Sunday –

Tynock Church at 9.30 a.m. Rathvilly Church at 11 a.m.

NOVENA TO ST PATRICK – 9th – 17th March

9 Day Novena in Honour of St. Patrick our National and Parish Patron. The Novena will be recited each day at Mass. Novena Leaflets are available in the Church.

TRÓCAIRE BOXES AVAILABLE IN EACH CHURCH – please take one home

ST PATRICK'S DAY IN RATHVILLY

Weather permitting the Parish will celebrate St Patrick's Day in a special way this year. People are invited to gather at St Patrick's Well on March 17th at **10:15am** where water will be collected. Prayers will be said at the well in honour of St Patrick. We will then process to St Patrick's Church for Mass. After this celebration all are invited for light refreshments in the parish meeting room.

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.

PRAYER Faithful God, you are with us as we set out on our pilgrim journey of hope this Lent. Help us to be attentive to your word and the hope to which it calls us as followers of your Son, Jesus Christ. May our time of prayer and reflection draw us deeper into his healing and loving presence, so that we may recognise him as our hope and our salvation. Amen.

May Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us as we pray: **Hail Mary ...**

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 1st & 2nd March

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €566.80 Envelopes €352.00

Kiltegan: Offertory €193.15 Envelopes €346.40

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

Results from 5th March, 2025 No Jackpot winner of €14,000

Numbers: 05-16-17-21. 24 Match 3 numbers get €42 each.

One local match three winner this week.

Winner – Irene Smith. Promoter – Post Office.

Next draw on Wednesday, 12th March. **Jackpot €15,000.**

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.

Pilgrims of Hope in Lent... follow and like the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese

Facebook and X accounts for daily posts on hope in Lent.

Sunday Scripture Sharing Lent 2025

See Kandle.ie to access this year's resource for reflecting on the Sunday gospels of Lent, featuring reflections from the late Fr John Cummins as well as prayer resources. If there isn't a group in your parish, why not be the person to start one!

Pioneer Lenten Challenge & Invitation

Pope Francis has invited us this Lent to "journey in hope together".

A short-term pledge is available via www.pioneerassociation.org for parishioners who wish to become a "pilgrim of hope" for people who are living under the shadow of addiction.

Graiguencullen MONSTER Bingo Tuesday 11th March St. Fiaccs Hall @ 8.30pm.

Jackpot on 50 numbers €2000 Double number €670 Lotto €500

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDUGORJE – 12th – 19th April

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

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 drawn 2-14-23-26

Match 3 win or share €150

Ryan Watchorn Tullow

On Line winner

Next draw 11 March 2025 **Jackpot €2,900** Thank you for your continued support.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 7 - 22 - 27 - 29

Mary Timmons, Graiguecullen

Brian Curran

Betty Leonard, Rahill, Rathvilly

Brian Curran

Martin Timmons, Woodgrove Avenue

Brian Curran

Bridget Byrne, Knockavagh

Jenny Donegan

Liz Nolan c/o Chrissie Deering.

Chrissie Deering

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Anthony Byrne, Woodgrove Avenue, Rathvilly.

Next draw 11th. March 2025 Jackpot €13,600. Thank you for all your support.

Top Ten Ways to Help Pollinators: Don't mow, let it grow!

Reduce mowing to allow native wildflowers like Dandelions, Clover and Birds-foot Trefoil to naturally return over time. By reducing mowing – even to once a month – you will help them to slowly return, one pocket at a time.

Where? Everywhere! Even tiny biodiversity margins are valuable.

pollinators.ie/top-ten-ways-to-help-pollinators/

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LUXEMBOURG

Honouring Carlow Trained St Willibrord. Join Fr Thomas O'Byrne and our ecumenical friends from the Diocese of Leighlin as the Diocese and the Cathedral Parish travel to Luxembourg from Sunday June 8th to Wednesday June 11th, 2025. Bookings for this unique pilgrimage through Tully's Travel, Tullow Street, Carlow Town, Tel: 059 9136100, €685.00 per person sharing.

Energy Advice Clinic at Tullow Library!

Date: Friday 21st March @ 11am to 1pm Location: Tullow Library

Six 15-minute slots available – Pre-registration is required at the library.

This is your chance to get personalized advice on home energy efficiency or upgrades! Whether you're curious about insulation, heating systems, or reducing your energy bills, we're here to help. What to bring: A recent energy bill; Photos of your home; Property details. Register today by emailing library@carlowcoco.ie or phone 059 9129705

Spots are limited, so act fast!