Second Sunday of Christmas 5 January 2020 John 1:1-18

- 1. John opens his Gospel with a profound reflection on the meaning of creation, of life and of Jesus. Remember when you had a special awareness of the gift of life that filled you with gratitude to God for creation, and the beauty and wonder of the world: 'All things came into being through him and without him not one thing came into being.'
- 2. We often listen to a reading from the gospels. Sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Then there are occasions when it made us feel more alive, times when it helped us see the way ahead, like a light that shines in the darkness. Recall when the gospel gave you hope in the midst of anxiety or sadness and helped you to see what action would be most lifegiving for you and for others
- 3. Bring to mind people who have had a prophetic voice in the world speaking the truth for the world to hear, as a witness to testify to the light. Some of these may have been public figures. Others were ordinary people who have helped you see the 'light' by the witness of their own lives and words.
- 4. 'No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son of God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him know.' Jesus came to us to teach us about God and put a human face on God for us. For the people of his day, and for us, that was a mission of getting us to think again about how we see God, and to believe in a God of love. Recall how the life and ministry of Jesus have changed your picture of God.

John Byrne OSA Email jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

The Epiphany of the Lord 6 January 2020

The wisdom shown by the wise men is not unlimited. Evidently, they are men of good will, yet they represent the quintessentially modern phenomenon of believing without belonging. Indeed, the wise men bear a striking similarity to those who 'practice their faith at Christmas time', then disappear as quickly as they have appeared. They have been drawn, intrigued, fascinated, but they have not been captivated. Their mysterious and short-lived presence in the Gospel story offers us both a consolation and a challenge. Jesus Christ is for all. He is not the lord of the virtuous, the pious, the observant, the practicing, but the Lord of all. It is consoling indeed to reflect that God's providence and love for every human person simply does not admit to being tied down by all-too-human distinctions such as practicing or non-practicing, member or nonmember. God is a lover, not a lawyer, and admission to the manger is free. On a more challenging note, the wise men remind us that departure from the manger is also free, and that having encountered the Lord, we are at liberty to return to a life that is untouched by his presence. It is, in fact, the adult Christ that wins men and women: the Christ who spoke and healed and suffered and died, the Christ who overcame death. The best that the crib can do is revive our nostalgia, sharpen our longing for a real encounter with the risen Lord. But we remain free to pursue this encounter or not to do so; the Lord invites but never imposes.

Fr. Chris Hayden.

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

St. Brigid's St. Patrick's The Assumption Talbotstown Rathvilly Tynock 4th & 5th January 2020 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Pray for Una Brennan, Rathvilly and Ed O'Connell, Kevin Barry Road who were interred in St. Patrick's Cemetery recently and also Charlie Brophy, Mooncoin and formerly Kiltegan who was interred in Tynaclash Cemetery.

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Saturday, 4th January at 7.30 p.m.

Peter Smith, 6 St. Patrick's Park Eileen Balfe, Rahill

Saturday, 11th January at 7.30 p.m.

William Smith, Monavothe Patrick & Mary McNevin, Raheendaw

Mollie Lawlor, St. Patrick's Park

Rita Hanly, Clondalkin

Liam Lawlor, Phelan Street Kate & Jack Lawlor, Phelan Street

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Monday, 6th January – Holy Day of Obligation – The Epiphany of the Lord

Church of the Assumption, Tynock – Mass at 9.30 a.m.

St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly – Mass at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday – Communion Service at 9.30 a.m.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION will resume on Thurs & Fri, 9th/10th January.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS - Sat/Sun, 28/29 December, 2019

Offertory Collection €247.35. Envelope Collection €690.80. Many thanks. Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Station and Christmas Collection for the Priests of the Parish.

SUNDAY, 12th JANUARY – BAPTISM OF THE LORD

We invite all families who had a Baptism during 2019 to come to the 11.00 a.m. Mass where there will be a Special Blessing for their Child. Parents can collect their child's Baptismal Certificate after Mass.

ANNUAL TABLE QUIZ - Christian Unity Week

Annual Table Quiz in aid of our two Churches – St. Patrick's and St. Mary's will take place in the Harp Lounge on Saturday, 25th January 2020 at 8.30 p.m.

The Irish Catholic Newspaper is available each week at a cost of €2.

CHRISTMAS CRIB

The Crib will remain open until Sunday, 2nd February. All donations will go to the homeless.

PARISH CALENDAR 2020

There are some Parish Calendars still available in the Church. Please take one home as they give information on what's happening in the Parish for the coming year.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY – 6th January 2020

The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his Baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast of Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation (CCC, 528).

WEEKLY ENVELOPES

Boxes of Envelopes were distributed to families recently. If you did not receive a box and would like to contribute to the Parish, please contact the Parish Office. If your donation to the Parish at the end of the calendar year exceeds €250 and you pay Income Tax, the Parish can benefit from the Tax Rebate Scheme available to Charities. It will be of no extra financial cost to yourself but would be a big help to your parish. If your donations in a year have reached €250, you will receive the CHY3 form, which, when returned is treated with the utmost confidentiality.

WEEK - 5th - 12th January 2020

Altar Servers –

Emily & Lucy Canavan, Alana Curran, Róisín Corcoran.

Church Readers -

Saturday, 11th January – Peadar Doyle, Keira Reilly.

Sunday, 12th January – Brenda Byrne, Anne Marie Kehoe.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion -

Saturday, 11th January – Alex Balfe Vicic, Rita Balfe, Antoinette Kelly.

Sunday, 12th January – Sophie Kelly, Eithne Molloy, Catherine Carroll.

2020 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CONFIRMATION – St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly – Saturday, 25th April – 11am

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

St. Brigid's Church, Talbotstown – Saturday, 9th May at 11.00 a.m. for children attending Talbotstown & Tynock National School.

St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly – Sunday, 17th May at 11.00 a.m. for children attending Rathmore & Rathvilly National School.

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

GOSPEL READINGS – 5th – 12th January, 2020

Mon: Mt 2: 1-12 Tues: Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25 Sunday: Jn 1: 1-18 Wed: Mk 6: 34-44 Thurs: Mk 6: 45-52 Fri: Lk 4; 14-22

Sat: LK 5; 12-16 Sunday: Mt 3: 13-17

ACCORD CARLOW - PRE-MARRIAGE COURSES

Feb 7th & 8th, March 6th & 7th, April 3rd & 4th, 2020

Book on line at www.accord.ie or phone Mary at 059 9138738 for information.

Counselling: Accord offers Marriage & Relationship Counselling by appointment Our fully trained Counsellors are there to - Listen to you in confidence and help you find your solutions to your problems. Phone Mary 059 9138738 for further details.

WALKING TOWARDS UNITY:

You are Warmly Invited to this Walk which will start at Carlow Methodist Church, then to St. Mary's Church of Ireland and finally to the Cathedral of the Assumption. Starts at 2.30 pm in Carlow Methodist Church, Athy Rd on Sunday 19th January.

RATHVILLY G.A.A. CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 4-12-14-26

Match 3 win or share €150

Peadar Doyle Knockavagh 4-14-26-29 Peadar Doyle

Promoters Prize €20 Jenny Donegan

Next draw 7 Jan 2020 in Molloy's Bar. Jackpot €10,000

The club would like to wish all our customers and promoters a very Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn were 4 - 14 - 16 - 21.

Match three win or share €150 -

Noelle Bolger, Ard Bhaile, Rathvilly 4-10-14-21.

Promoter's prize Laura Kavanagh.

Next draw on Monday, 6th January. Jackpot €8,200.

GUITAR TUITION

Professional Private and small group Guitar Instruction for beginners and improvers of all ages. Enjoyable, relaxed teaching method for acoustic rhythm guitar, basic lead rudiments for electric and acoustic. Very affordable and competitive rates. Day and Evening hours to suit in Baltinglass or can call to you. Phone: 089 4869241.

Email: eileenceol@hotmail.com

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

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

Diocesan Website: www.kandle.ie

Local Safeguarding Representatives: Eoin Cheasty Mary Phelan

Elizabeth Austin David Carton

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person: Mr. Mick Daly - Email:dlp@kandle.ie