

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Matthew 1:18:24

Deacon Rev. Liam Dunne

The dream

Today's Gospel recalls the central role played by Joseph in the story of Jesus. While Matthew's Gospel is very clearly an account of Jesus 'the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham', Joseph takes centre stage in the first scene of the Jesus story. He is introduced as a good man with a serious dilemma. Instead of publicly calling off his engagement to Mary – leaving her to face severe punishment or even the death penalty – he opts to 'dismiss her quietly'. This incident introduces a tension that will be seen throughout Matthew's Gospel between obedience to the letter of the law and 'righteousness'.

There is more to the story. In a dream, Joseph receives a message about the baby, whose name is given as Jesus. Matthew adds a note here that this fulfils the prophecy of the birth of *Emmanuel*, 'God is with us'. God is present – God-with-us – from the earliest moments of the Jesus' story, Joseph's response is immediate and radical. Rather than doing what is expected, or even taking the kinder option available to him, he follows the invitation of God and forges a new path. This new way is very much in the spirit of the later teachings of Jesus particularly when he counsels his followers, 'You have heard that it was said ... but I say to you ...' (5:21-48). Joseph is open and compassionate, going above and beyond for the sake of the Kingdom.

Joseph is sometimes depicted in statue form as 'Sleeping Joseph'. He shows us how God reveals God's plan in times of silence and rest. Even when we are doing the right things and living a virtuous life, God can surprise us, picking apart the lines we draw between people. We are constantly being nudged out of our comfort zone, towards others, to become even more compassionate, loving and open to God's dream for us.

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"Only in the sacredness of inward silence does the soul truly meet the secret, hiding God. The strength of resolve, which afterwards shapes life, and mixes itself into action, is the fruit of those sacred solitary moments. There is a divine depth in silence. We meet God alone. **Frederick William Robertson**

ALL MASSES AND PRAYERS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE & RADIO

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

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: Eoin Cheasty Mary Phelan Elizabeth Austin David Carton

Diocesan Director of Safeguarding: Ms Kathleen Sherry Email: safeguarding@kandle.ie

RATHVILLY KILTEGAN PARISH

NEWSLETTER

**St. Brigid's
Talbotstown**

17th & 18th December, 2022

**St. Patrick's
Rathvilly**

**The Assumption
Tynock**

4th Sunday of Advent

Recent Deaths: Larry Byrne, Tynock.

Fr Anthony Sheerin, St. Patrick's Missionaries, Kiltegan.

Joe Byrne, Bristol & Fr. Cullen Tce. Mass of Christian Burial takes place on Monday, 19th December at 12 Noon in St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly.

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Sat/Sun, 17th & 18th December

Paddy Donoghue, Kevin Barry Road

Breda & Patsy Molloy, Ricketstown

Eamonn Lawlor, Coole

Bill Gahan, 25 Collins Park

Tommy Kelly, Ballyoliver Lower

Jackie Kelly, Ballyoliver & Manchester

Denis & Mary Kelly, Haroldstown

Tom & Bridie Kehoe, Ballyoliver

James Doyle, Coole

James Doyle, Haroldstown

Joseph McGuirk, Ricketstown

Sat/Sun, 24th & 25th December

Fr. Edward Flood, former Parish Priest

Jim Dempsey, Rathvilly

Matthew & Margaret Byrne, Ballymanus

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – Thursday - 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

CONFESSION Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Confessional & during Thursday's adoration.

Church of the Assumption, Tynock

Mass on Sunday, 18th December at 9.30 a.m.

Reader: Muireann Gartland.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve – Mass in Rathvilly at 7.00 p.m. Tynock at 9.00 p.m.

Christmas Day – Mass in Talbotstown at 10 a.m. Rathvilly at 11.15 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, 19th December – Tullow & Baltinglass at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 20th December – **Rathvilly** & Ballyconnell at 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 21st December – Hacketstown at 7.30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION for the Priests of the Parish will be taken up at the Christmas Masses. Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Station.

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

Results for 14th December, 2022 Numbers: 01 – 07 – 25 – 27.

No Jackpot winner of €14,000

14 Match 3s get €72.00 No local winner this week.

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

On **Wednesday, 21st December** the **Jackpot is €15,000**. Tickets €2.

Thank you for your continued support. Full results on our website.

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS – 10th & 11th December, 2022

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

Rathvilly: Offertory €177.72

Envelopes €248.50

Kiltegan: Offertory €94.52

Envelopes €382.00

USE YOUR BRAIN NOT YOUR FISTS

An assault can wreck a victim's life, but it can also ruin your own future.

You could lose your job, your ability to travel, even your freedom, not to mention the distress it would cause your family.

A Garda initiative as part of their mission of Keeping People Safe that is aimed at reducing and preventing assaults which can have serious consequences for both victims and perpetrators.

RATHVILLY G.A.A. CLUB

Lotto Results: No Jackpot winner. Numbers drawn 15-16-17-24

Match 3 win or share €150

Lena Smith Haroldstown 9-16-17-24

On Line winner

Next draw 20 Dec. 2022 **Jackpot €7,800**

Thank you for your continued support.

SLANEY ROVERS A.F.C.

Lotto Results: No Jackpot Winner. Winning numbers were 4 – 15 – 20 – 24

Laurence Byrne, Woodgrove Avenue 4-11-15-20

Michael Kehoe

Aisling McCall, Tallaght 4-13-15-24

Declan Clarke

Breda and Jack Keogh, Parkmore, Baltinglass 1-4-15-20

Breda Keogh

Promoter's prize €20 was won by Brennan's Centra, Rathvilly.

Next draw 20 Dec 2022 **Jackpot €20,000**. Thank you for all your support

In keeping with tradition, there will be five extra lucky dips in the last draw before Christmas.

Golden Goal Fundraiser Result- Championship: Watford v's Hull -

No score draw - Winner of €60 – Zara and Lyla Darcy, Rathvilly

SHOP LOCAL – BORROW LOCAL

Support Rathvilly Credit Union and keep a vital Service in the area. There will be a Loan Officer in attendance every Thursday in Rathvilly Office to meet with you and discuss any loan requirements you may have. No appointment necessary.

For further info please phone (059) 9131994 or check their

website www.carlowcreditunion.ie

RATHVILLY NATIONAL SCHOOL

School Christmas Concert takes place on Tuesday, 20th December at 11.30 a.m. in St. Patrick's Church, Rathvilly. All Parishioners are invited to attend.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – Rathvilly/Kiltegan Conference

Thank you to all who contributed to the recent St Vincent de Paul Collection.

A total of €1037.61 was raised – Rathvilly €753.76 & Kiltegan €283.85.

GRAIGUECULLEN BINGO ON TUESDAY 20th December

St.Fiacs Hall (R93PO30) @ 8.30pm. Jackpot on 50 numbers €4990

Double number €1300 Lotto €600

FREE PINK SHEET with every book (2 free with double book)

Chocolates left & right of the winner. Great prizes, bring a friend.

PIONEER 2023 CALENDARS

The Cathedral Parish Shop now has a limited stock of Pioneer 2023 Calendars which feature full colour A4 pages – 1 month per page; Saints Feast Days; Pope's Intention for each month and one AA Twelve Steps per month. Price €5.

MARY'S MEALS – BIG FAMILY CHRISTMAS

International school feeding charity, Mary's Meals, are inviting you to join their Big Family Christmas celebrations. A range of gifts are available, which will not only provide you with a wonderful Christmas gift for a loved one, but will also provide life changing school meals for a child living in poverty.

For just €18.30 a place can be set at their virtual Big Family Christmas dinner table, which will feed a child for an entire school year! This place setting can then be printed or emailed to someone as a special gift. A range of other gift cards are also available; from providing 100 meals for €9, to funding a cooking pot and stove for €250, and everything in between! Gift cards are available to download at www.marysmeals.ie or can be sent via post by calling 01 853 5163.

ALONE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Would you be willing to provide companionship or make calls to Older People once a week? ALONE are seeking volunteers in your area. Full training and support provided. If interested please sign up here: <https://alone.ie/volunteers/>

For more information, contact Frances on volunteer@alone.ie or on 086 1085965.

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA

Special Kildare Pilgrimage to Fatima 9-14th June 2023 ex Dublin for Feast Day of Saint Anthony, Patron Saint of Portugal. Visiting Saint Anthony's Baptismal Font and the place where he was born in Lisbon. Contact James Treacy 061-921470

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